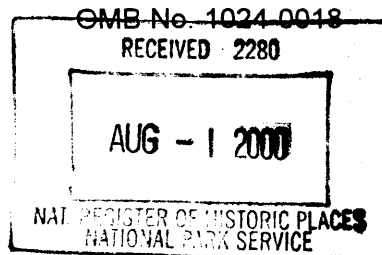


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1030

1. Name of Property

historic name Avondale Mill Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet not for publication N/A  
city or town Pell City vicinity N/A  
state Alabama code AL county St. Clair code 115 zip code 35125

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

[Signature] July 28, 2000  
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
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
- other (explain):

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action  
Signature of the Keeper  
Edson H. Beall 8/31/00

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action  
Signature of the Keeper

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Avondale Mill Historic District  
County and State St. Clair County, Alabama

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 in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>137</u>	<u>17</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>140</u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>17</u> Total

<b>Name of related multiple property listing</b> (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  <u>N/A</u>	<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</b>  <u>0</u>
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6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>institutional housing</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>manufacturing facility</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>waterworks</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>industrial storage</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>office building</u>
<u>RECREATION/CULTURE</u>	<u>work of art</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>manufacturing facility</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>waterworks</u>
<u>INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>industrial storage</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>office building</u>
<u>RECREATION/CULTURE</u>	<u>work of art</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: pyramidal

Other: side gable roof cottage

Other: L-cottage

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

roof ASPHALT

walls BRICK

WOOD: WEATHERBOARD

other GLASS

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

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)

- X 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.
X 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.) N/A

- 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)

- INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance 1902 - 1950

Significant Dates 1902

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Sheldon, F. P.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain 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) N/A

- 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: N/A

- [ ] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other state agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[ ] Other
Name of repository

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

Acreage of Property 150 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1 16 567950	3717590	3 16 567220	3716590	5 16 556530	3716930
2 16 567230	3717330	4 16 566760	3716590		

     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 Jeff Mansell, consultant, and Trina Binkley, N R Reviewer  
organization Mansell and Company date March 31, 2000  
street & number Post Office Box 1112 telephone (843) 524-6334  
city or town Beaufort state SC zip code 29901

=====  
**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 Multiple  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 2/7 Page 1 Name of Property: Avondale Mill Historic District  
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**2. Location**

The district includes the following street addresses:

2705 - 2809 Fifth Avenue, North  
2800 - 2806 Sixth Avenue, North  
400 - 412 Twenty-Fifth Avenue, North  
400 - 506 Twenty-Sixth Avenue, North  
310 - 611 Twenty-Seventh Avenue, North  
501- 618 Twenty-Eighth Avenue, North  
310 - 610 Twenty-Ninth Avenue, North  
315 - 611 Thirtieth Avenue, North

**7. Description (cont'd)**

Bungalow  
Other: No Style

**Narrative Description**  
**Avondale Mill Historic District**

The Avondale Mill Historic District contains the original Avondale textile mill complex and the adjacent mill village. The district is located to the north/northeast of the downtown commercial district of Pell City, the county seat of St. Clair County, Alabama in what was a former cotton field. In 1904, when the announcement was made that the cotton mill was to be constructed, a reporter for the *Birmingham Ledger*, wrote "the location of the mill is in the edge of the town of Pell City, and literally in the cotton field, the old stalks of last year's crop having actually to be cleared away to make room for some of the buildings." The site of the cotton mill and mill village was ideally situated along both sides of the former Seaboard Air Line Railway, which ran diagonally through the area and connected with the Southern Railway at the southwest corner of the mill property.

The mill complex, mill school, community house, and company office were located at the southern edge of the village along what was formerly known as Chestnut Street; today, this street is the entrance drive to the mill office. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, the Avondale Mills Cotton Gin (destroyed) was located immediately south of the mill complex, across Howard Avenue, a major city street that ran along the southern property line of the mills. After the Avondale Mills purchased the Pell City Manufacturing Company in 1919, the new management constructed the Gertrude Comer Hospital at the corner of Grove and Mulberry Streets. Named for the wife of Gov. B. B. Comer, the owner of the Avondale Mill Company, the Comer Hospital was a two-story Colonial Revival building. The hospital was torn down in the 1960s and a modern ranch house occupies the site today. The mill school and community house were also demolished in the 1960s but the majority of buildings and structures within the extensive mill complex survive.

The district contains a total of resources with 137 contributing buildings, two contributing structures, one contributing object and 17 non-contributing buildings, creating an industrial mill complex and its associated village.

**Avondale Mill Complex**

In 1902, *The Coosa Valleyan* announced that "the Pell City Manufacturing Company has commenced its first new mill building, and they will build three other buildings of the same size." According to this and subsequent articles, the stockholders and management of the Pell City Manufacturing Company boasted that this mill was "unlike any other in the southern states," a reference to the unique "sawtooth" design of the mill. The sawtooth design features clerestory windows placed at regular intervals along the roof of the mill to provide light into the main building. From the side, these regularly spaced clerestory windows resembled the teeth of a saw blade. The Pell City mill was the first example of a sawtooth cotton mill building in Alabama.

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Name of Property: Avondale Mill Historic District

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The mill complex consisted of the main mill building, an engine and boiler room, a circular concrete reservoir, a chimney stack, the cotton warehouse, a carpenter shop, laundry, ice plant, oil house, and the mill office. Constructed on a site just east of the railroad, the mill building faces north. The reservoir, chimneystack, engine room, and cotton warehouse are aligned north to south, respectively, along the western elevation of the main building. The ice plant and laundry were located on the western side of the warehouse while the carpenter shop was located at the southwest corner of the main mill building. A small oil house was located due west of the warehouse. The ice plant, laundry, oil house, and carpenter shop have been demolished.

Originally, a railroad spur ran along the western elevation of the cotton warehouse. The façade of the main mill building is adjacent to what was originally called Chestnut Street, which today, is no longer a through street. Across Chestnut Street, the stockholders of the Pell City Manufacturing Company constructed the mill office, a community center, and the mill school. Today, only the office building is extant.

Overall, the mill complex retains a high degree of integrity in regard to craftsmanship, feeling, association, design, materials, and sense of place. All of the buildings and structures appear very much as they did when first constructed in 1905. The renovation to accommodate upgraded utilities and machinery has been accomplished with a great deal of sensitivity in regard to maintaining the architectural integrity of the complex. Except for the enclosure of some windows, the exterior of the various buildings and structures located within the mill complex appear almost unaltered from their original appearance.

#### Avondale Mill Village

Located adjacent to and lying immediately to the north and east of the mill property, the mill village was laid out on a grid pattern with main streets running north and south and cross streets running east and west. The village comprises approximately 9 to 10 full city blocks. Due to the northeast to northwest diagonal path of the railroad, which cuts through the village, a number of the blocks are irregular in shape. Originally the streets were named for varieties of trees such as chestnut, mulberry, orange, walnut, beech, etc. In an article entitled "Pell City Manufacturing Company Operating the Pell City Cotton Mills: Largest of Its Kind in the South," *The Birmingham Ledger*, March 24, 1903, the reporter notes that the company owned "a village of 115 houses, three, four, and six-rooms each which they have erected and fitted up for their employees." Lots were and remain a standard size and the setbacks from the street are the same, creating a pleasant unbroken vista of uniform company housing. Mature trees and plantings, as well as sidewalks, are found throughout the village. The topography is slightly undulating, although a steep hill is located on the northern most edge of the village. Typically, houses located on the side of the hill rest on tall brick piers and therefore, are higher off of the ground than the other mill houses. The newspaper article also noted that the houses would be lighted with electricity, and each house would be supplied with an abundance of spring water piped into the house. "In no other mill village in the south do the employees enjoy such luxuries," noted the reporter. Overall, the mill village retains a high degree of integrity in regard to association, place, materials, craftsmanship, and feeling. Many of the dwellings have had minor changes, including the enclosure of the rear porches for additional rooms, the alteration of the front porch, and the application of asbestos shingles or aluminum siding as exterior wall material. The original company houses fall into four distinct categories.

#### Form A – Pyramidal Massed-Plan Four-Room House

Basically square in shape with a hipped roof, these dwellings (originally constructed as a duplex) feature a massed plan, of four rooms. Originally, the front two rooms shared a common chimney flue and on some houses, the chimneystack still remains. The majority of houses built according to this plan had either simple full width shed roofed or three-quarter-width gable roofed porches. Some examples do have decorative gable roofed dormers centrally located on the façade. Originally, all of dwellings of this type had a four-bay façade, consisting of two windows located in the outer bays and two single-leaf entrances located in the middle two bays. The foundations are consistently brick piers and the exterior wall material is simple overlapping weatherboard, except where modern aluminum siding has been applied. Typically, the original rear shed roofed porch has been enclosed.

#### Form B – Side Gable Three-Room House

The simplest of the various housing forms, the three-room house has a side gable roof with a central interior chimney. The three-bay façade consisted of a single-leaf entrance, which is off-centered, and two single double-hung-sash windows. The floorplan consisted of two equal sized rooms with a rear, shed room and partial-width shed roof porch. Due to their small size, this house type is the one that has been altered

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the most with the addition of rear ells and additional shed rooms (typically by enclosing the partial-width shed roof porch). Almost all of these side-gable roofed houses have some type of rear addition. Porch types are either small gable-front or more typically, a full-width shed roof.

**Form C – Hipped Roof Three-Room House**

These small houses feature a three bay façade with a central single-leaf entrance flanked by single double-hung-sash windows. Their floor plan is somewhat different than the other three-room form house in that the door opens into a small vestibule with doors immediately to the left and right. A central chimney divides the two main rooms. Originally, all of these houses had shed-roof porches on the front and a partial-width shed-roof porch on the rear. Today, most of these dwellings have rear, shed rooms or ells.

**Form D - Cross Gable Six-Room House**

Designed for and occupied by managers and plant foremen, these dwellings are the most spacious and comfortable. They have brick pier foundations and weatherboard exterior wall material. The main hipped-roof has a centrally placed hipped-roof dormer/vent flanked by two front facing hipped-roof ells. These dwellings featured a central room; acting almost like a central hall, with two rooms to either side and one rear-shed room at the end of the partial width shed roof porch. The facades differ only slightly; most have a four bay façade composed of paired and single double-hung-sash windows and a single leaf entrance. Paired double-hung-sash windows are found in the front-facing hipped roof ells while a single double-hung-sash window is located to one side of the entrance door. All of these houses had, at one time, a full-width shed roof porch across the façade. Today, each of these houses has a different type of porch.

In addition to the four distinct housing types listed above, there are examples of other house types that are found within the defined boundaries of the mill village. These examples of L-cottages, bungalows, and side gable roof dwellings were not built as company housing but were constructed within the boundaries of the mill village sometime after 1903. Since the mill village is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A: Architecture, these structures may be considered contributing resources if they are at least 50 years old and retain a high degree of integrity in regard to design, materials, feeling, and association.

The majority of resources located within the boundaries of the mill village retain a high degree of integrity, particularly in regard to feeling and association. In determining contributing and non-contributing resources, the consultant examined each structure and analyzed whether or not the resource retained its overall original form according to the four categories outlined and described in the previous paragraphs. Naturally, minor changes have been made to the structures since their erection in 1903. The most common alterations have been the reconfiguration of the front porch, the addition of shed rooms or ells to the rear of the property, and the application of man-made exterior wall materials. A common alteration of those houses that once featured two single-leaf entrances has been the enclosure of one entrance to create a single or primary front door. Minor alterations such as the reconfiguration of the porch, the addition of rear rooms or ells, the application of asbestos or aluminum siding, and the replacement of original windows and doors were not considered to lessen or detract from the overall form of the building. Non-contributing resources, however, are those dwellings that have been so altered as to render the house unrecognizable as one of the four types of mill village housing.

**Archaeological Component**

Although no formal archaeological testing has been conducted, the potential for subsurface material remains is good. The district has the potential to yield information about mill life in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**Historic Resource Inventory**

Letters (C) and (NC) denote contributing and non-contributing resources. Photograph rolls and negative numbers are found in parentheses at the end of each listing. All buildings, unless otherwise denoted, were constructed between 1903-20.

**Fifth Avenue North (originally named Grove Street)**

1. **2705 Fifth Avenue North, Steel Magnolias Beauty Salon, ca. 1970.** One-story concrete block building, brick veneer exterior wall material on facade, gable-roof, three-bay facade, central single-leaf entrance, large plate glass windows. (NC) (Roll #6-Neg. 24)
2. **2709 Fifth Avenue North, Brandy's Café, ca. 1970.** One-story concrete block building, cross-gable roof, brick-veneer exterior wall material on facade, three-bay facade, central single-leaf entrance, large plate glass windows. (NC) (Roll #6-22)
3. **2801 Fifth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, three-bay facade, single-leaf entrance, paired windows, partial-width gable roof porch supported by metal posts resting on low brick balustrade, metal awning along front of porch. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 14)
4. **2803 Fifth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay facade, two single-leaf entrances, three-quarter-width shed roof porch supported by simple posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 15)
5. **2805 Fifth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay facade, two single-leaf entrances, near full-width shed roof porch supported by slender posts resting on low brick balustrade. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 16)
6. **2807 Fifth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, weatherboard exterior wall material, four bay facade, two single leaf entrances, near full-width hipped roof porch supported by boxed posts on low wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 17)
7. **2809 Fifth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay facade, two single leaf entrances, near full-width shed roof porch supported by slender posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 18)

**Sixth Avenue North (originally named Peachtree Street)**

8. **2800 Sixth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, central chimney, three-bay facade, single-leaf entrance, three-quarter width hipped roof porch supported by boxed posts, side bay window, aluminum siding exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 8)
9. **2802 Sixth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, three-bay facade, single-leaf entrance, full shed roof porch supported by slender posts with simple brackets. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 9)
10. **2804 Sixth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, former full-width hipped roof porch has been enclosed, partially glassed-in and the remainder fully enclosed three-bay facade, paired aluminum windows, metal storm door opens onto glassed-in porch. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 11)
11. **2805 Sixth Avenue North, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage.** House has been totally altered and does not bear any resemblance to mill village type housing. Brick foundation, cross-hipped roof, former porch has been enclosed. (NC)



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Name of Property: Avondale Mill Historic District

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12. **2806 Sixth Avenue North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, central interior chimney, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, full-width shed roof porch supported by tapered posts on low brick piers, weatherboard exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 12)

**Twenty-Fifth Street North** (originally named Poplar Street)

13. **400 Twenty-Fifth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrance, shed roof porch supported by slender posts. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 5)
14. **402 Twenty-Fifth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four room cottage. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, aluminum siding, aluminum windows, former full width shed roof porch is now enclosed, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, paired aluminum windows. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 4)
15. **404 Twenty-Fifth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room cottage. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by four tapered posts connected by wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 3)
16. **406 Twenty-Fifth Street North**, Gable roof cottage. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, double-hung-sash window, full-width recessed porch. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 2)
17. **408 Twenty-Fifth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, paired and single double-hung-sash windows, partial-width gable roof porch. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 1)
18. **410 Twenty-Fifth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, three-bay facade, single-leaf entrance, paired and single double-hung-sash windows, partial-width gable roof porch. (C) (Roll #6-Neg. 1)
19. **412 Twenty-Fifth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, four-bay facade, two single-leaf entrances, near full-width screened-in porch. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 36)

**Twenty-Sixth Street North** (originally named Mulberry Street)

20. **400 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Cross gable six-room house. One-story frame, central hipped roof with projecting hipped roof wings, central hipped roof dormer with ventilator, interior chimney toward north elevation, four-bay façade, single-leaf entrance and single double-hung-sash window recessed between two front-facing wings, addition of sun room to projecting ell on southwest corner. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 20)
21. **401 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, interior chimney, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, paired double-hung-sash windows, gable roof portico supported by slender posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 19)
22. **402 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Cross gable six-room house. One-story frame, central hipped roof with projecting hipped roof wings, four-bay façade, single-leaf entrance and single double-hung-sash window recessed between two front-facing wings, three-quarter-width half hipped roof porch supported by simple posts on low brick balustrade. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 21)

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Name of Property: Avondale Mill Historic District

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23. **404 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Cross gable six-room house. One-story frame, central hipped roof with projecting hipped roof wings, four-bay façade, single leaf entrance and single double-hung-sash window recessed between two front-facing wings, simple shed-roof portico supported by wooden posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 23)
24. **405 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, single and paired double-hung-sash windows, gable roof portico supported by boxed wooden posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 22)
25. **406 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Cross gable six-room house. One-story frame, central hipped roof with projecting hipped roof wings, four-bay façade, single-leaf entrance and single double-hung-sash window recessed between two front facing wings, paired double-hung-sash windows remain in projecting wings, partial-width shed roof porch. Abandoned and deteriorating. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 26)
26. **407 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Gable roof cottage. One-story frame, front-facing gable roof, three bay façade, single-leaf entrance, three-quarter width shed roof porch supported by four wooden posts. House does not fit any defined mill village housing type and appears to be of modern construction or a total modern renovation of existing structure. (NC) (Roll #3-Neg. 24)
27. **408 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Cross gable six-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, central hipped roof with projecting hipped roof wings, four-bay façade, single-leaf entrance and single double-hung-sash window recessed between two projecting wings, full width shed roof porch supported by slender posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 28)
28. **409 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, hipped roof, remnants of interior chimney, three-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by wooden posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 25)
29. **411 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, One-story brick veneered ranch style dwelling, continuous brick pier foundation, side gable roof, gable roof porch supported by slender posts, side carport, four bay façade, single leaf entrance. c. 1970. (NC) (Roll #3-Neg. 27)
30. **500 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, central interior chimney, four bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, three-quarter width hipped roof porch supported by iron-work post on low concrete balustrade. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 29)
31. **501 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, one single-leaf entrance, three aluminum windows, former full-width porch removed. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 30)
32. **502 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, two double-hung-sash windows, gable roof porch supported by slender posts on brick piers. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 31)
33. **503 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier and concrete block foundation, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, full-width shed roof porch supported by slender posts on concrete block balustrade. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 32)
34. **504 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, gable roof porch. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 33)

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35. **505 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick and concrete block foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 34)
36. **506 Twenty-Sixth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof with central interior chimney, brick pier foundation, former three-quarter-width hipped roof porch has been enclosed, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, paired double-hung sash windows. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 35)
- Twenty-Seventh Street North** (originally named Orange Street)
37. **303 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Cross-gable, six-room house. One-story frame, original weatherboard exterior wall material has been replaced with brick veneer exterior wall material, cross-hipped roof, central gable-roof dormer, front facing hipped roof wing, large rear side addition. (NC) (Roll #6-23)
38. **401 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by iron work supports. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 6)
39. **403 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by iron work supports. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 7)
40. **501 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width hipped roof porch supported by wooden supports. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 8)
41. **504 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick and concrete block foundation, three-bay façade, former open gable roof porch enclosed, aluminum siding exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 11)
42. **506 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width gable roof porch, aluminum siding exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 9)
43. **508 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width gable roof porch which is partially enclosed with vertical siding and the remainder with wire screening material. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 10)
44. **600 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 12)
45. **601 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof with rear ell, central interior chimney, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by wooden posts on low wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 13)
46. **602 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, central interior chimney, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by pierced wooden supports. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 14)
47. **603 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, L-cottage. One-story frame, side gable roof with projecting front gable addition, aluminum siding exterior wall material, three bay façade, former partial width porch enclosed. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 15)

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48. **604 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, set off the ground on high brick pier foundation, three-bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full shed roof porch supported by pierced wooden supports and embellished with decorative detailing. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 16)
49. **605 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, L-cottage. One-story frame, cross gable roof with front facing projecting ell, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, paired double-hung-sash windows, partial-width half-hipped roof porch, aluminum siding exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 17)
50. **606 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, set off the ground on high brick pier and concrete block foundation, five-bay façade, side additions, partial-width shed roof porch supported by pierced woodwork supports. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 18)
51. **607 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, central interior chimney, three-bay façade, single leaf entrance, three-quarter width porch supported by decorative metal posts. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 19)
52. **609 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, central interior chimney, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, three-quarter width porch supported by slender wooden posts connected by lattice-work balustrades. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 20)
53. **610 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, gable roof porch supported by boxed wooden posts. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 21)
54. **611 Twenty-Seventh Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, brick pier and concrete block foundation, side gable roof, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, full shed roof porch supported by slender wooden posts. (C) (Roll #4-Neg. 22)
- Twenty-Eighth Street North** (originally not named, part of railroad right of way)
55. **501 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, brick pier foundation, central interior chimney, four bay façade, single leaf entrance, gable roof porch supported by boxed supports. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 1)
56. **503 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Bungalow form. This particular house may have evolved from a side gable, three room house or it may have been built as it appears today. It has, however, undergone a number of changes to its appearance and therefore is considered non-contributing. One story frame, cross gable roof, former gable roof porch has been glassed-in, small recessed porch, aluminum windows. (NC) (Roll #5-Neg. 2)
57. **505 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, central interior chimney, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, near full width shed roof porch supported by slender wooden posts. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 3)
58. **600 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full-width half-hipped roof porch supported by tapered posts on low brick piers. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 4)
59. **601 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, former shed roof porch enclosed, façade consists of row of windows, wooden deck. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 5)

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60. **602 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, near full-width hipped roof porch supported by tapered posts on low brick piers connected by low brick balustrades. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 6)
61. **603 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, former four bay façade reduced to three bays, single leaf entrance, near full width gable roof porch supported by tapered posts on low brick and concrete balustrade. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 7)
62. **604 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full width hipped roof screened-in porch. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 8)
63. **605 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier and concrete block foundation, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, near full-width gable roof porch supported by tapered posts on low concrete block balustrade. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 9)
64. **606 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, gable roof porch supported by slender posts, aluminum siding. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 10)
65. **607 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by slender posts resting on concrete block balustrade. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 11)
66. **609 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Hipped roof three-room house. One story frame, hipped roof, resting on brick and concrete block foundation, three bay façade covered by shed roof enclosed porch with seven aluminum windows. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 12)
67. **610 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, No style. This house may have evolved from earlier mill village type, perhaps side gable three-room cottage, but has been radically altered. One story frame, side gable roof, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, partial-width shed roof porch. (NC) (Roll #5-Neg. 13)
68. **611 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick and concrete block foundation, raised foundation providing space for small garage on basement level, full width half-hipped roof porch, three bay façade, single-leaf entrance. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 14)
69. **612 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, gable on hip roof (non-original), brick pier foundation, three-bay façade, single leaf entrance, three-quarter width hipped roof porch supported by decorative ironwork posts. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 15)
70. **616 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, with side gable roof wing, original three bay façade with single leaf entrance, former double-hung-sash window replaced with picture window, paired double-hung-sash window in addition, small gable roof porch. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 16)
71. **618 Twenty-Eighth Street North**, Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, aluminum siding exterior wall material, three-bay façade, near full width hipped roof porch supported by slender posts connected by wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #5-Neg. 17)

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**Twenty-Ninth Street North (originally named Cherry Street)**

72. **310 Twenty-Ninth Street**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, three-bay façade, single leaf entrance, gable roof porch, rear shed rooms, brick pier foundation, hipped-roof, asbestos shingle exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 1)
73. **312 Twenty-Ninth Street**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, weatherboard exterior wall material, three bay façade, replacement windows, former gable roof porch has been enclosed, brick pier foundation, side aluminum carport. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 2)
74. **314 Twenty-Ninth Street**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, central gable roof dormer, interior chimney, four bay façade, partial shed roof porch, aluminum awnings, brick pier foundation, single leaf entrance, weatherboard exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 3)
75. **316 Twenty-Ninth Street**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, central gable roof dormer, four bay façade, partial shed roof porch which has been glassed-in, single leaf entrance, brick pier foundation. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 4)
76. **318 Twenty-Ninth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, four bay façade, partial shed roof porch, single leaf entrance, weatherboard exterior wall material, brick pier foundation. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 5)
77. **320 Twenty-Ninth Street North**, Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, central decorative gable, interior chimney, partial width half-hipped roof porch, four bay façade, weatherboard exterior wall material, brick pier foundation. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 6)
78. **322 Twenty-Ninth Street North**. Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, central decorative gable, four-bay façade, shed roof porch with metal awning, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 7)
79. **400 Twenty-Ninth Street North**. Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, three bay façade, three-quarter width shed roof porch, single leaf entrance, brick pier foundation, aluminum siding exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 8)
80. **401 Twenty-Ninth Street North**. Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, three-quarter width half-hipped roof porch, and brick pier foundation. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 9)
81. **402 Twenty-Ninth Street North**. Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, four bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, near full-width half-hipped roof screened-in porch, brick pier foundation, and weatherboard exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 10)
82. **403 Twenty-Ninth Street North**. Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, four bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full width shed roof porch supported by slender posts, brick pier foundation. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 11)
83. **404 Twenty-Ninth Street North**. Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, three-quarter-width half-hipped roof porch. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 12)
84. **405 Twenty-Ninth Street North**. Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-and-a-half-story frame, hipped-roof with dominant cross hipped-roof dormer windows, three-bay façade with single and paired double-hung-sash windows, single-leaf entrance, three-quarter-width half-hipped roof porch supported by tapered posts, side screened-in porch, aluminum siding exterior wall material. (NC) (Roll #1-Neg. 13)

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85. **406 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, former four-bay façade, present three-bay façade consisting of two aluminum windows, one single-leaf entrance, near full-width shed roof porch supported by decorative ironwork posts. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 14)
86. **407 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, former four-bay façade, present three-bay façade, consisting of two 6/6 double-hung-sash windows, single-leaf entrance, full-width shed roof porch supported by slender posts resting on wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 15)
87. **408 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, aluminum siding exterior wall material, rear shed rooms, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, former full-width porch has been glassed-in, aluminum storm door. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 16)
88. **409 Twenty-Ninth Street North** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, near full-width shed roof porch has been screened-in, slender porch supports rest on closed wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 17)
89. **410 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, former four-bay façade has been reduced to present three-bay façade, two aluminum windows, single-leaf entrance, near full-width hipped-roof porch supported by slender posts on low closed wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 18)
90. **411 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, three-quarter width gable roof porch supported by three plain wooden posts resting on medium-height closed wooden balustrade, metal awnings. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 19)
91. **412 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, central interior chimney, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances although one appears to have been sealed shut and is no longer operable, two 6/6 double-hung-sash windows, full-width shed roof porch supported by plain posts connected by wooden balustrades. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 20)
92. **413 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, aluminum siding exterior wall material, original four-bay façade still evident although a side shed roof addition creates a five-bay façade consisting of a single-leaf entrance, three aluminum windows, and one double aluminum window. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 21)
93. **500 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Mobile Home. Modern, one story mobile home, side gable roof, four bay facade, single leaf entrance, paired aluminum windows. c. 1990. (NC) (Roll #1-Neg. 22)
94. **502 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, central interior chimney, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full width shed roof porch supported by four wooden posts on low brick piers, side shed roof carport, rear ell. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 23)
95. **504 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. This dwelling was originally a pyramidal-roofed dwelling but the roofline has been altered from a hip to a front-facing gable, probably at the time the front porch was added. Presently the house has a front-facing gable roof, a three bay façade with a single leaf entrance, a single and paired double hung sash windows, near full width gable roof porch supported by four wooden posts on low balustrades, weatherboard exterior wall material. Since the roofline has been altered and the dwelling no longer retains its original form, the structure is considered to be non-contributing. (NC) (Roll #1-Neg. 24)

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96. **506 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, two double-hung-sash windows, full width shed roof porch supported by slender posts resting on closed wooden balustrade, attached side metal carport. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 25)
97. **508 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Pyramidal massed-plan four-room house. One-story frame, hipped-roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, near full width shed roof porch supported by decorative metal supports, rear shed rooms. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 26)
98. **600 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three-bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, tapered posts on low wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 27)
99. **601 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Side gable three-room house. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three-bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, three-quarter width (screened-in) shed roof porch supported by slender wooden posts connected by wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 28)
100. **602 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Side gable three-room house. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, single and paired double hung sash windows, three-quarter width hipped roof porch supported by slender wooden posts. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 29)
101. **603 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, tar paper exterior wall material, three-bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, single and paired aluminum windows. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 30)
102. **604 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Ranch. One-story frame dwelling, low-pitched cross-hipped roof, concrete and concrete block foundation, four-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, plate glass windows, attached carport. c. 1960. (NC) (Roll #1-Neg. 35)
103. **605 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, side gable roof ell, four-bay façade, aluminum windows, single-leaf entrance, small shed roof porch supported by decorative ironwork supports. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 33)
104. **606 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Mobile Home. Modern, one story pre-fabricated house, gable roof, paired windows. C. 1980. (NC) (Roll #1-Neg. 34)
105. **608 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, central interior chimney, three bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows, near full hipped roof screened-in porch, rear shed rooms. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 32)
106. **610 Twenty-Ninth Street North.** Side gable three-room house. One-story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, tar paper exterior wall material, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, single and paired double hung sash windows. (C) (Roll #1-Neg. 31)
- Thirtieth Street North** (originally named Beech Street)
107. **315 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, three bay façade, central single leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows, three-quarter width hipped roof porch supported by decorative metal posts. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 1)



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108. **316 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, three-bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows, three-quarter width hipped roof porch which has been glassed-in. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 2)
109. **317 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard and aluminum siding exterior wall material, three-bay façade, central single leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows, three-quarter-width hipped roof porch, rear ells. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 3)
110. **318 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, three-bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows, three-quarter width hipped roof porch. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 4)
111. **319 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundations, weatherboard exterior wall material, three-bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows, small gable roof porch supported by decorative metal posts. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 5)
112. **320 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundations, weatherboard exterior wall material, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows, three-quarter width hipped roof porch supported by slender posts on low closed wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #2-Neg.6)
113. **321 Thirtieth Street North.** No style. The core of this house may be one of the original mill village houses. If so, this house has undergone radical changes and no longer retains any resemblance to its original appearance. Side gable roof with front-facing gable wing, six-bay façade, two single- leaf entrances, aluminum windows, aluminum siding. (NC) (Roll #2-Neg. 7)
114. **322 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, three bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, brick pier foundations, two double-hung-sash windows, rear shed rooms. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 8)
115. **323 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. Originally a hipped roof cottage, this house was changed with the addition of a front facing gable wing. One-story frame, hipped with cross gable roof, interior chimney, three bay façade, central single-leaf entrance, partial-width hipped roof porch, aluminum siding. (NC) (Roll #2-Neg. 9)
116. **400 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, weatherboard exterior wall material, three-quarter width hipped roof porch supported by decorative metal supports, three-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, paired aluminum windows. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 10)
117. **401 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, near full-width shed roof porch supported by slender posts on low brick piers. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 11)
118. **402 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, four-bay façade, near full-width hipped roof (screened-in) porch, two single-leaf entrances, two double-hung-sash windows, rear shed rooms. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 12)
119. **403 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, near full-width hipped roof porch, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 13)

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120. **405 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, central interior chimney, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch supported by decorative metal posts. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 14)
121. **406 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, central interior chimney, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width shed roof porch. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 15)
122. **407 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, near full-width shed roof porch. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 16)
123. **408 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, three-bay façade, single leaf entrance, two double-hung-sash windows. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 17)
124. **409 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof three-room house. One-story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, four-bay façade, two single-leaf entrances, full-width half-hipped roof porch supported by tapered piers. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 18)
125. **410 Thirtieth Street North.** Front facing gable roof. One-story frame, front-facing gable roof, three-bay façade, single leaf entrance, near full-width half-hipped roof porch supported by tapered posts on low brick piers. Roof of this structure may have been radically altered from pyramidal to front facing gable. (NC) (Roll #2-Neg. 19)
126. **411 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full-width half-hipped roof porch supported by wooden posts on low closed balustrade. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 20)
127. **412 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, full-width half hipped roof porch supported by slender wooden posts. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 21)
128. **413 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, weatherboard exterior wall material, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, former full width shed roof porch has been glassed-in. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 22)
129. **500 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, brick pier foundation, asbestos shingle exterior wall material, three bay façade, one single leaf entrance, paired window, gable roof porch supported by slender posts, rear shed rooms. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 23)
130. **501 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, central interior chimney, brick pier foundation, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, three-quarter width gable roof porch supported by slender posts on low brick piers connected by low brick balustrade. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 24)
131. **502 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, three bay façade, a single and a paired double-hung-sash window, single leaf entrance, partial hipped roof porch supported by decorative metal posts. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 25)
132. **503 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, near full-width gable roof porch supported by wooden posts on low brick piers connected by low concrete block balustrade. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 26)

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133. **504 Thirtieth Street North.** Hipped roof cottage. One story frame, hipped roof, four bay façade, two single leaf entrances, near full width screened-in shed roof porch, brick pier foundation, attached side metal roof carport. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 27)
134. **506 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, central interior chimney, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, double-hung-sash windows. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 28)
135. **507 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick piers foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, double-hung sash windows, rear ell and attached shed roof carport. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 29)
136. **508 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, rear ell, no porch, presently being renovated. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 30)
137. **509 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, full-width shed roof porch supported by tapered posts, aluminum siding exterior wall material. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 31)
138. **600 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, aluminum siding exterior, rear ell and additions, three-quarter width half-hipped roof porch. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 32)
139. **601 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, aluminum siding, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, three-quarter width half-hipped roof porch supported by slender posts on closed wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 33)
140. **602 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, aluminum siding, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, rear ell, three-quarter width shed roof porch. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 34)
141. **603 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, three-quarter width shed roof porch supported by turned decorative posts on low brick piers. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 35)
142. **604 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, three bay façade, rear ell, single leaf entrance, shed roof porch supported by tapered posts on low wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #2-Neg. 36)
143. **605 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, central interior chimney, rear shed rooms, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, brick pier foundation, three-quarter width shed roof porch which has been glassed-in. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 1)
144. **606 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, central interior chimney, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, full width shed roof porch supported by tapered posts resting on low brick balustrade. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 2)
145. **607 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, near full half-hipped roof porch supported by decorative metal posts. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 3)
146. **608 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, near full half-hipped roof porch supported by tapered posts on a low closed wooden balustrade. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 4)

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147. **609 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. Remodeled with total loss of integrity. One and a half story frame, side gable roof, two front facing gable roof dormers, full width shed roof porch, slender posts, screened-in porch. (NC) (Roll #3-Neg. 5)
148. **610 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, near full-width shed roof porch supported by posts, rear shed rooms. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 6)
149. **611 Thirtieth Street North.** Side gable roof cottage. One story frame, side gable roof, brick pier foundation, three bay façade, single leaf entrance, partial width shed roof porch supported by slender posts, rear shed rooms. (C) (Roll #3-Neg. 7)

**Avondale Mill Complex**

**150. The Mill Building**

The main mill building is basically rectangular, of brick construction, two stories in height, and covers a ground area of 225' x 640 feet. Originally, the mill was divided into four large rooms: the main mill (225' x 225'), the picker room (100' x 100'), the dye room (125' x 100'), and the weaving room (225' x 175'). The picker and the weaving rooms separated the main mill in the northern portion of the building from the weaving room in the southern half of the building. Six clerestory windows at the northern and six clerestory windows in the southern ends of the building span the entire width (225') of the building. In the center of the building, however, the clerestory windows stop at the midpoint of the roofline, running from the center to the eastern elevation. Instead of the clerestory windows, the contractors for the mill building placed seven skylights over the picker and dye rooms. Along all elevations of the mill building, the wall plane is broken by a series of windows and blind arches. The window openings and the blind arches are all accentuated with graduating brick stringcourses and lintels. Almost all of the original window openings have been enclosed. On the eastern and western elevations, a small vent is located just above the cornice and at the juncture of the clerestory window. These small vents actually open into the side of the clerestory or sawtooth portion of the roof. The eastern and western elevations of the mill building are embellished with small brick buttresses. Also, four two-story brick pavilions with flat roofs are spaced evenly along each of the side elevations. Some of these pavilions were designed as water closets and others as stairwells and they remain in use as such today. The interior remains almost unaltered with basically the same room arrangement and much of the original fabric, such as the highly polished wooden floors. With the installation of modern electrical lighting, there was no longer a need for the clerestory windows to allow direct sunlight into the main mill building. The clerestory windows have been painted over or covered with metal roofing material. (C) (Roll #6-Neg. 3-3,4, 5 & 7, 11, 12)

**151. Reservoir**

Located immediately to the northwest of the main mill building, the concrete reservoir is a circular retaining pool 75 ft. in diameter and designed to hold 510,000 gallons of water. The reservoir served as the primary water supply for the mill machinery and for fire protection purposes. Water was supplied to the mill from a spring and pumping station, a mile and a half north of the site. At the pumping station, an electrical centrifugal pump forced the water into a 1.5 million gallon reservoir that flowed into water mains. Pumps then forced water into the reservoir. Water pipes, 10" in diameter, connected the reservoir with the fire pumps, the engine room, and the sprinkler system. This sprinkler system produced 15 lbs. of pressure per sprinkler head. (C) (Roll #6-Neg. 8, 9)

**152. Chimneystack**

The chimneystack is located south/southeast of the reservoir, west of the main mill building, and north of the engine rooms. The stack is of brick construction, approximately 20' in diameter and 180' tall. The stack tapers as it rises but flares out into a cone shaped stack at its upper end. (C) (Roll #6 - 8, 10)

**153 & 154 Engine House**

The engine house consists of 2 two-storied structures, both of brick construction with flat roofs. The boiler room is approximately 50' x 50' and was designed to hold four primary boilers which fed the turbines in the adjacent 40' x 50' engine room. The upper story of the engine room consists of large open areas that were used as locker rooms for employees and as storage facilities. Today, these areas are vacant and not in use. (C) (Roll #6 - 18)

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**155. Warehouse**

The warehouse lies directly west and parallel to the main mill building, set back approximately 200' from the façade of the main mill building. Basically rectangular, this brick building is approximately 100' x 350' and consists of seven 50' x 100' rooms. Originally, a railroad spur ran along side of the western elevation of the warehouse, alongside a wooden loading platform. A similar concrete platform is located along side of the eastern elevation. The warehouse has wide, overhanging eaves extending out passed the edge of the loading platforms. Seven large sliding wooden doors are found on both the western and eastern elevations of the warehouse. (C) (Roll #6 - 20)

**156. Office Building**

The office building is located immediately to the north of the mill and is a one story brick building. Basically pyramidal in form, the building features a hipped roof, three bay façade, a single leaf entrance with transom, and a small entrance porch. This building continues to serve as the headquarters for the Pell City division of the Avondale Mills Company. (C) (Roll #6 - 21)

**157. Fountain**

Located near the entrance to the mill and the mill village on a diagonally shaped tract of land formed by the intersection of 26<sup>th</sup> Street North and the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Erected by Avondale Mills, ca. 1920. Classically inspired, the fountain consists of a statue of a Grecian woman holding aloft a large urn from which water falls into an elliptical basin. Small streams of water fall from the basin into a recently restored brick pool. (C) (Roll #6-25)

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**8. Statements of Significance**

**CRITERION A: INDUSTRY**

The Avondale Mill Historic District in Pell City, St. Clair County, Alabama, is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its industrial associations, as it contains an intact historic textile mill and associated industrial resources. Avondale Mill was the first "sawtooth" mill constructed in Alabama. Construction occurred from 1902-1905 and an excellent group of original buildings still exist. The complex is located north/northwest of the city limits of Pell City. The mill complex is located to the south of the mill village. The complex contains the mill, warehouse, chimneystack, office building, reservoir, and engine houses, all of which date from circa 1902.

**CRITERION A: SOCIAL HISTORY**

The Avondale Mill Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its social history as the village contained educational, domestic, and social/recreational resources built for the workers by the Pell City Manufacturing Company and later, the Avondale Mills Company. Like other textile companies, Pell City and Avondale Mills viewed themselves as a great paternalistic entity and constructed social welfare programs and buildings in the village. Unfortunately, the school, hospital, and community house are no longer extant. Much of the village housing is extant, however, and conveys the company's ideas about appropriate worker domestic environments, local vernacular architectural traditions, and southern mill architecture. Avondale's housing is one-story hip- or pyramidal-roofed cottages, side-gable dwellings, cross-gable cottages, based on four basic house forms.

**CRITERION C: COMMUNITY PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT**

The Avondale Mill Historic District is eligible under Criterion C for community planning/development as a good example of planned 20<sup>th</sup> century mill village. The textile industry began constructing mill villages influenced by progressive reformer's ideology of an independent village in a decentralized location. The mill complex at Avondale is a central focal point once surrounded by community resources (most now destroyed) and out from that, housing. Consisting of two, three, and six room uniform houses, the dwellings were placed on a typical grid-plan within close proximity to the mill.

**CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE**

The Avondale Mill Historic District is eligible under Criterion C for architecture as it contains a good collection of industrial architecture and vernacular mill house types. The majority of the industrial resources at the mill are constructed of brick, rectangular in plan, and contain large banks of window to take advantage of natural air and light when needed or contain no windows when that was desired as well. The mill complex contains a large mill building, reservoir, chimney stack, engine house buildings, warehouses, and an office. The mill is quite distinctive with its "sawtooth" roof design that maximized light and ventilation evenly throughout the building. Designed to allow light to filter in from above, the sawtooth design featured a series of clerestory windows across the roof. Mill housing was essentially all one-story, frame, vernacular cottages. The earliest company houses were one of four types: pyramidal massed-plan four-room, side gable three-room, hipped roof three-room, and cross gable six-room houses. Other house forms were added after this initial wave of construction (1902-1905) and include L-cottages, bungalows, and side-gable dwellings.

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Historic Narrative

Major bibliographical sources for the following historical narrative are "The Textile Mill and Mill Village in the American South," *Vernacular Architecture Forum*; *Cotton Mills, Planned Communities, and the New Deal: Vernacular Architecture and Landscapes of the New South*; and "Historic Development of Valley, Alabama, and the West Point Manufacturing Company, 1866-1949," *MRP Historic Resources of Valley, Alabama, and the West Point Manufacturing Company*, National Park Service.

In 1902, the Pell City Manufacturing Company began the construction of a cotton textile mill in Pell City, Alabama. According to press reports, the mill was to be the "largest and most complete cotton mill plant for the making of domestics in the south..." and would provide employment "to from 500 to 600 people." The establishment of a cotton mill in Pell City reflected the expansion and rise of the textile industry not only in post-Reconstruction Alabama but throughout the South.<sup>1</sup>

The spinning of yarn and weaving of cloth – traditionally done in the home or in small workshops by hand – became industrial processes in Great Britain during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This transition from home to factory was made possible by the invention of machinery, especially the spinning machines developed by Richard Arkwright, James Hargreaves, and Samuel Compton as well as power looms. America's budding textile industry took root in New England and the mid-Atlantic States during the decades following the Revolutionary War. Textile pioneer Samuel Slater relied on British technology in his successful mill ventures in Rhode Island beginning in 1791, while Francis Cabot Lowell further developed the New England textile industry with a new power loom. The American industry's first period of sustained growth came during and after the War of 1812, when British imports were disrupted. The processes and machinery developed in Great Britain and New England were gradually adopted by the southern textile industry during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup>

While the American South was the world's great cotton-producing region during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, textile manufacturing in the South was characterized by small, geographically scattered, water-powered mills that often produced for local or regional markets. Dr. John Shecutt established a cotton mill in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1808. Georgia's first cotton mill was founded near Washington in 1810. That same year, the Antioch Factory was established between Madison and Monticello, at that time, the western frontier. The 1810 census recorded 22 cotton mills in the Mississippi Territory that included Alabama. Typical of southern mills before 1830, each of these examples remained in business only a few years. These mills appear to have been much like grist mills and saw mills of the period. Using machinery forged by local blacksmiths, they produced coarse cloth for the everyday needs of the immediate family.<sup>3</sup>

According to historian Randall Miller, "contrary to popular belief, Southerners did not neglect manufacturing Southern investment in manufacturing compared favorably with that of the Midwest, the other developing agricultural region in the United State." Nevertheless, manufacturing remained secondary to agriculture, particularly cotton cultivation. As long as the price of raw cotton remained high, as it did in the 1820s and 1830s, Southerners looked for no other investment. However, when cotton prices fell, planters invested in textile mills. According to Miller,

The concern for cotton manufactures grew out of the planters' dissatisfaction with the frequent and annoying fluctuations in the price of raw cotton, crop failures, the dramatic decline of cotton prices in the 1840s, and out of this, the growing irritation and embarrassment over the South's slavish dependence upon a hostile North

<sup>1</sup> "Pell City Manufacturing Company: Operating the Pell City Cotton Mills. Largest Mill of its Kind in the South." *Birmingham Ledger*, March 24, 1903.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Blythe. "Cotton Mills, Planned Communities, and the New Deal." *Vernacular Architecture Forum*, n.p., 1999, p. 125-126.

<sup>3</sup> "American Textile Development Before 1866." "Historic Resources of Valley, Alabama, and the West Point Manufacturing Company." (Alabama Historical Commission, 1999), p. E-2.

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for basic goods and services. The need to diversify the economy was recognized by the planters, encouraged by them and finally supported by their patronage and investment.<sup>4</sup>

In order to power textile machinery, the earliest southern mills relied on waterwheels. By the 1850s, some mills began using water turbines in place of wheels. Nevertheless, only a few places in the South, where ample waterpower was combined with good transportation to national markets, did major textile centers develop before 1861. At Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia, on the James River; Huntsville and Florence, Alabama, on tributaries of the Tennessee; Columbus, Georgia, on the Chattahoochee; and Augusta, Georgia, on the Savannah, the fall line was near the head of navigation for steamboats, resulting in thriving textile operations. The Eagle Manufacturing Company, with 10,000 spindles and some 500 employees, was the largest of three successful antebellum mills in Columbus, Georgia. More typical of the southern industry as a whole was the Troup Factory, established ten miles southeast of LaGrange, Georgia, in 1848 with 1600 spindles and 65 operatives.<sup>5</sup>

Many factors hampered industrial development in antebellum Alabama. These included an inadequate transportation network, a general distrust of corporations, an unstable banking system, and limited investment funds. Despite these obstacles, the textile industry gained a foothold in the state. The first mill was established in the Tennessee Valley in 1818. The Tallassee Factory opened in 1845, and Autaugaville had a cotton mill by 1850. Other mills dating from the antebellum period included the Dog River Mill near Mobile, the Fish Pond Factory on Elkhatchie Creek in Tallapoosa County, and a mill on Socapatoy Creek in Coosa County. Daniel Scott's Tuscaloosa Manufacturing Company in Bibb County was the center of an extensive textile mill operation with 25,000 spindles and 50 looms. Jones M. Gunn operated a steam-powered mill in Dallas County with 1,152 spindles. During the Civil War, he sold osnaburg for Confederate uniforms for \$1 to \$2 per yard. The Bell Factory in Huntsville, the Globe Factory in Florence, and the Decatur Factory in Decatur ran a combined total of 5,500 spindles in 1850. Eight years later, Martin Weakley and Company in Florence operated 23,000 spindles. Small operators were also found in Montgomery, Mobile, and DeKalb Counties.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps the best-known of Alabama antebellum industrialists was Daniel Pratt, a New Hampshire native who came to the South in 1819. Pratt founded his first cotton mill in 1846. He ultimately established a large industrial complex at Prattville, in Autauga County, which included a textile mill with 2,800 spindles and 100 looms. Pratt located his mill and mill village in the country because he feared the corrupting influence of cities and the rise of a class consciousness. Furthermore, rural Autauga County could readily supply cotton and other farm products plus poor whites needing employment. Initially, Pratt employed 160 men, women, and children. He preferred families but would also hire single women and children. In 1850, his 73 female employees averaged nine dollars per month in wages and his 63 men averaged sixteen dollars per month. His workers lived in a mill village comprised of a day-care center, a school for workers' children, and 65 cottages available for low rent. Pratt financially supported local churches, allowed no sale of liquor, and required the village children to attend Sunday school.<sup>7</sup>

The last decade of the antebellum period witnessed the greatest prosperity for American textile mills in the era. New England mills totaled 3.8 million spindles, 73 percent of all those in the U. S., and thus dominated the American production. This region's production remained concentrated in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which together possessed 48 percent of all U. S. spindles. In the southern states in 1850, Georgia led production with 35 mills and manufacturing products valued at \$2,135,044. Georgia's value of products was more than double that of its nearest competitor, North Carolina, which had 28 mills and a value of products totaled \$382,260. In 1860, Georgia was still the largest manufacturer of cotton goods among the southern states, exceeding one million dollars in the value of its products. However, three other southern states—Virginia, North Carolina, and Alabama—also exceeded the one-million-dollar mark. The increase in value of products for the first two states amounted to no more than 3 percent. For Alabama, the rate of increase was 161 percent.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Randall Martin Miller. The Cotton Mill Movement in Antebellum Alabama. (New York: Arno Press, 1978); Robert Eugene Perry. Middle-Class Townsmen and Northern Capital: The Rise of the Alabama Cotton Textile Industry, 1865-1900, Ph. D. diss. Vanderbilt University, 1986, pp. 10-12.

<sup>5</sup> Blythe, p. 126;

<sup>6</sup> Turner, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 4.



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By 1860, the textile industry was Alabama's second largest industrial employer. The state had 14 mills with over 1,300 employees. Most mills averaged 94 operatives. Following the industrial trend that had been established in England and New England, Alabama's textile labor force that year was 59 percent female. According to at least one Alabama historian, poor, native-born whites had an aversion to manual labor, which they associated with slavery. However, some poor whites were mill operatives. In Mobile, French and Irish immigrants worked alongside native-born whites. Slaves were also used in some mills during the 1850s. White males found other employment opportunities in sawmills and gristmills or as mechanics. Therefore, in the antebellum period, textile work was generally left to white women, children, or male slaves.<sup>9</sup>

While the Civil War was disruptive, it did not destroy the southern textile industry. An Alabama historian contends that the Civil War had a drastic impact on the state's textile industry because its labor force declined from 1,312 in 1860 to 744 by 1870. Nevertheless, the number of mills in the state and the total value of their products indicates how well Alabama's textile industry weathered the war. In 1850, the state's 12 mills manufactured sheeting, batting, and so on that was valued at \$382,260.00. Ten years later, on the eve of the Civil War, Alabama's 14 textile mills produced cloth goods worth over one million dollars. By 1870, Alabama had 27 mills, and the value of its textile products was \$1,178,765. The number of Alabama's textile mills had dropped to 18 by 1878, but the number of looms had increased by one-third and the increase in spindles was even greater. Most of the post-bellum growth in the state's textile industry occurred in the Chattahoochee River Valley.<sup>10</sup>

In general throughout Reconstruction, the anti-North sentiment that developed throughout the 1850s and during the war persisted. In addition, new federally imposed taxes made a difference. Immediately after the war, Congress levied a cotton tax on raw cotton shipped outside of the newly imposed southern tax districts. If cotton stayed within the tax district where it was grown, it would not be taxed. Needless to say this new tax encouraged Southerners to process the raw cotton without shipping it to avoid the tax and keep the profits. By 1868 Northern manufacturers realized the unexpected effect of the cotton tax and urged Congress to life it. New state laws throughout the South also encouraged industrial development. For example, the Reconstructionist Alabama Legislature enacted changes in corporate law that protected investors. Prior to 1867, stockholders in Alabama held unlimited liability in a corporation that made investment risky business. The new law limited individual stockholder responsibility.<sup>11</sup>

Conventionally, historians view 1880 as the beginning of the Southern textile movement, based upon the 1921 work of Broadus Mitchell, The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South. A period of booming "mill fever" swept the South after 1880 and eventually led to the southern states domination of the national textile industry by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. By the 1880's, a group of southern merchants and professionals launched what became known as the "cotton mill campaign." The campaign was an article of faith among proponents of the "New South" – Southerners who eschewed the past in favor of rapprochement with northern interests and who actively sought industrial opportunities. "Bring the cotton mills to the cotton fields" became the rallying cry. Newspaper editors, merchants, professional men, and some planters jumped on the bandwagon, and it became almost a civic duty to acquire a mill for one's town. The emergence of a new, town-based merchant class and the growing concern over the large number of whites falling into the precarious status of farm tenants played important roles in the development of the textile industry.<sup>12</sup>

On the surface, the South had a significant number of advantages in its court, including an ample supply of local capital, good railway connections, plentiful streams, proximity to the cotton fields of Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia and a seemingly inexhaustible supply of cheap labor drawn from the tenant farms of the Piedmont and the mountains. After the Civil War the once self-sufficient Piedmont subsistence farmers had become inextricably linked to the worldwide cash economy. Instead of growing subsistence goods, small farmers had been convinced to grow cotton. Unfortunately, overproduction was the result and cotton prices began to plummet. This process decreased the returns for small farmers and quickly forced them into debt because poor southern farmers had to borrow against their harvest to secure

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

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enough money to purchase fertilizer, seeds and tools each season. The agricultural crisis of the 1890s worsened the situation and the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the gradual impoverishment of countless white farmers. Many were forced to sell off their land to pay their debts. After becoming landless there were not many occupation choices beyond sharecropping. To many, the industrialization of the South was the answer to the pauperization of the southern white family. Ironically, much of the money that paid for the construction of the earlier mills during the 1880s came from wealthy town-based merchants who had profited from extending credit to poor farmers and foreclosing on their property when they could not pay.<sup>13</sup>

The transition to “public work” was rapid but not easy for the South. The region experienced many of the same problems that New England had experienced earlier in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a largely agricultural population was transformed into corps of factory workers. For many of the new mill employees, taking up public work was the final misfortune. Factory work represented the death of traditional rural southern values of self-sufficiency and independence. The industrialization of the South progressed rapidly because the region was able to effectively beat New England at their own game. Southern mill owners paid their workforce 44% less than their northern counterparts and compelled them to work ten to twelve hours each weekday and six hours on Saturdays. Additionally, southern mills were newer than their increasingly obsolete northern counterparts. Less hidebound than many northern industrialists, southern mill owners made extensive use of automated technology.<sup>14</sup>

Additionally, the gradual introduction of steam and electric power allowed far greater freedom in locating mills and the expansion of the southern rail network gave access to national and international markets. Whereas the standard wheel-powered mill had only one wheel, turbine-powered mills typically required two or three turbines. Whether powered by wheels or turbines, water-powered textile mills had to be located on a source of falling water, restricting the placement of mills to river banks and limiting their size to the amount of power available. As technology advanced, southern textile mills adopted new methods of powering their manufacturing processes. Steam and electric power in southern mills allowed more flexibility in location and design. Although steam was used in some southern mills as early as the 1830s, it did not become common until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the southern textile industry began to boom. Using wood or coal for fuel, these mills transformed water into steam, which was used to power the machinery. This method required railroad connections for fuel shipments and reservoirs of water, usually mill ponds. Steam power freed mills from the need to locate on river fall lines. By the early twentieth century, southern mills were increasingly turning to electricity for power. Hydroelectric plants often produced the electricity. Unlike the previous power sources, electricity allowed mills to be sited away from the power source itself, with current run in on transmission lines. In addition, electricity provided an alternative lighting source for mills.<sup>15</sup>

The International Cotton Exposition held in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1881 provided another strong impetus to southern cotton manufacturing. Though often referred to as the starting point of the southern textile movement, the Exposition actually resulted from changes already taking place in southern industry. The Exposition echoed “New South” ambitions to shed the defeatist skin of the Civil War and to develop untapped wealth of the region. As stated by Georgia historian E. Merton Coulter, “The purpose of the exposition was...to fire the soul of the people with the desire to go forward in manufacturing.” It did indeed spark a desire for southern cotton manufacturing and initiated a flow of northern capital into southern mills.<sup>16</sup>

During the 1890s the textile industry grew dramatically in the South thanks to tariff protection, active Asian markets and continued local investment. The number of spindles in the four states of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama jumped from 423,000 in 1880 to 1,195,000 in 1890 and to 3,792,000 in 1900. The industry was concentrated in the Piedmont, running in a broad arc from Lynchburg and Danville in Virginia, across the Carolinas and Georgia, and into Alabama. The growth of cotton manufacturing in Alabama was phenomenal with the capital invested quadrupling in the 1890s. During the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, southern cotton mills prospered whereas northern mills

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<sup>13</sup> Blythe, p. 131-133; Turner, p. 9,10.

<sup>14</sup> Christopher Van Planck, “Textile Mill Village Housing: An Overview,” *Southern Textile Industrial Survey*, Historic American Engineering Record, Summer: 1997, p. 17.

<sup>15</sup> Blythe, p. 126-127.

<sup>16</sup> Turner, p. E-9.

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experienced financial instability to the point of periodically closing down. In the South, on the other hand, mills never curtailed production and a great number of them ran 24 hours a day. Existing mills were enlarged and numbers of new mills were constructed. This prosperity was based in part on having the raw material at hand and a cheap labor force. In the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama, almost one-third of each state's cotton crop was used by the mills in that state.<sup>17</sup>

In 1890, Alabama had 13 textile mills with a total capitalization of \$2,853,015 and 2,088 operatives. That same year, Sumpter Cogswell, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, was enroute to Talladega when he stopped to change trains in Pell City. Cogswell, an insurance agent, was immediately taken with the beauty of the surrounding land and he subsequently bought 400 acres of choice land near the railroads for \$5,000. The railroads had created Pell City. An early observer described the town as "a wide place in the middle of an old field, where three railroads come together." The railroads were the Georgia Pacific (later the Southern Railway System), the E. & W. (later the Seaboard Air Line), and the Coosa Valley Railroad (a line connecting Pell City with Talladega). In 1890, the population of Pell City was 42 and by 1900, the census listed 20 households with 97 people. The population of St. Clair County was 20,000. In 1902, Cogswell was instrumental in capturing the interest of George W. Pratt of Atlanta in a plan to establish the Pell City Manufacturing Company, a cotton textile mill. The area's population began to increase dramatically.

Cogswell and Pratt secured the services and investments of northerners and southerners alike, relying on individuals from areas of the country with extensive textile mill networks. A. J. Draper of Hopedale, Massachusetts, served as treasurer while E. T. Garsed of Greensboro, North Carolina, was the mill superintendent. Draper owned the company that would supply the mill with the spinning looms. Of the 33 original stockholders in Pell City Manufacturing Company, 12 were from Atlanta, 11 from Massachusetts, two from South Carolina, two from Rhode Island, and one each from Kentucky, North Carolina, New York, Oregon, New York, and Pell City. At the groundbreaking ceremony on August 4, 1902, F. P. Sheldon, an engineer and planner of Providence, Rhode Island, laid the first brick and by April 15 of the following year, the mill was producing cloth. William Bensel of Atlanta served as the general contractor for the project. When completed, the Pell City Manufacturing Company's mill complex consisted of the main factory, the engine and boiler rooms, a chimney stack, a reservoir, a water works plant (off-site), a warehouse, an office building, a cotton seed oil mill, and a gin.<sup>19</sup>

The mill erected by the Pell City Manufacturing Company reflected the prevailing forms, styles and trends of American industrial design of the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Like most forms of vernacular architecture, mill architecture responded to the needs of the builder, in this instance the manufacturer. The textile industry demanded a building form with adequate space to house the necessary machinery, an efficient layout, and structural materials that could withstand the stresses created by vibrating machinery. Southern textile mills followed the example of mills in England and New England and solved these needs by developing a narrow, multi-story, rectangular building form with rows of windows and large areas of unbroken space to accommodate long rows of machinery. With the machines stacked on top of one another on several floors, this building form was more efficient and less expensive because it require less land, less roofing, and less extensive foundations. The second need, for an efficient layout of machinery and its power source, also helped determine the rectangular form of mill buildings. The power source, a water wheel, water turbine, or a steam engine, turned a series of gear and shafts called a power train, which moved energy from the source to the horizontal line shaft spanning the length of each floor. Belts then stretched from drums on the line shaft to the machines, transferring the necessary power to run the machines. Practical limits on the length of shafts made a multi-story stacking arrangement the most efficient, allowing a relatively short shaft to power a group of machines on each floor. The distance from the textile machines to the line shaft, as well as lighting and ventilation requirements, determined the relatively narrow width of a mill.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Van Planck, p. 16; Turner, p. E-9.

<sup>18</sup> C. Vann Woodward, *Origins of the New South, 1877-1914, A History of the New South*. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951), pp. 131-135; David L. Carlton, *Mill and Town in South Carolina, 1880-1920*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982), pp. 4-13; *Record of Incorporation: Pell City Manufacturing Company*, St. Clair County Courthouse, Office of Judge of Probate, Book 7, p. 209; and Clyde W. Ennis, "A Pen Picture of Pell City and Sumter Cogswell, The Builder," *The St. Clair Times*, June 1936.

<sup>19</sup> *Record of Incorporation*, p. 209; *Birmingham Ledger*, March 24, 1903.

<sup>20</sup> Blythe, p. 128-130.

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Mills were constructed using a combination of brick walls and heavy timber columns providing open interiors as well as stability against the impact of machines. The masonry wall, large timbers, and thick floors helped to prevent fires from spreading from one floor to another. Brick firewalls also isolated highly fire-prone areas like the picker room from the rest of the mill. Like many factory buildings and complexes, mill architecture reflected its use. A cotton mill usually consisted of four parts: the main mill (which housed the carding, spinning, and weaving machines), the picker room, the belt tower, and the engine and boiler rooms. In the main mill, the first floor was usually for spinning and weaving, the third for dressing, and the fourth and fifth for spinning and carding. The mill office, the power plant, and areas for storage of raw cotton and finished cloth were usually separate buildings. <sup>21</sup>

For the Pell City Manufacturing Company, F. P. Sheldon introduced the "sawtooth" mill building, a design that featured clerestory windows placed at regular intervals along the roof of the mill to provide light into the main building. The Pell City mill was possibly the first "sawtooth" factory constructed in Alabama. The mill contained the main room as well as the picker, dye, and weaving rooms. The reservoir, chimneystack, engine house, warehouse, office building, and cotton gin surrounded the main building. <sup>22</sup>

Ginned cotton became finished cloth through several processes. Mill workers were involved in a complex process that separated, straightened, and twisted cotton fibers into yarn and wove them into cloth. At the Pell City mill, as well as scores of other cotton mills across the South, the manufacturing began in the opening room, where workers removed the ties and bagging from the bales of raw cotton. Due to ever-present danger of fire, this activity was usually located in an adjacent warehouse; it was also one of the few jobs usually performed by blacks. At the Pell City mill, a train, running alongside the brick warehouse, brought the cotton to the mill. The cotton was unloaded and stored in one of the seven fireproof rooms. The cotton was fed into an opening machine that tore apart the compressed cotton, removing dirt and short fibers. A vacuum system carried the cotton into continuous sheets. Card hands fed these sheets into carding machines where metal teeth converted the mass into a loosely compacted rope. Workers directed four or more slivers of rope onto a series of rollers where they combined into a single strand. The rollers drew out the strand, making it thinner and then slightly twisted to ensure the union of the threads. As the bobbins filled with thread, doffers replaced them with empty ones and the spinners moved up and down the row of machines repairing breaks and snags. The thread would then be combined with thread from ten to fifteen other bobbins, wound into a ball for sale, put into coops for the weaver in the loom shuttle or wound on cones for later processing in the mill. <sup>23</sup>

The cloth at the Pell City mill was produced in the weaving room on the second floor. Workers mounted yarn from the winder on a large frame called a creek. The threads from each cone were directed through individual parallel wires onto a rotating beam. The yarn from several beams was combined, dipped into a hat starch and oil, dried over steam-heated drums and wound onto a giant spool known as a loom beam. Weavers completed the drawing-in process, counting and arranging the thread according to the desired pattern, and lowering the beam onto the weaving harness. The loom would continue the production until the desired length of cloth was produced. <sup>24</sup>

The total number of spindles it operated to spin cotton into the yarn typically measured the size of a cotton mill. Numerous workers were needed to operate the machinery and keep the process moving. And, since technological improvements occurred gradually, the textile industry remained labor intensive – a factor that affected the industry's desire for cheap, non-union labor. In 1903, when the Pell City Manufacturing Company opened its doors, the mill contained 21, 000 spindles and 640 Northrop looms. Howard and Bullough, American Manufacturing Company of Providence, Rhode Island, provided the entire preparation and spinning machinery while the Draper Company

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> *Birmingham Ledger*, March 24, 1903.

<sup>23</sup> Glenn Gilman, *Human Relations in the Industrial Southeast*, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1956), p. 159-161; Jacquelyn Dowd Hall et al., *Like A Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World*, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press), p. 52; Cathy L. McHugh, *Mill Family: The Labor System in the Southern Cotton Mill Textile Industry*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), pp. 5-6.

<sup>24</sup> Hall et al., pp. 49-51.

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manufactured Northrop looms. By 1905, the mill produced 26,000 pounds or 52,000 yards of indigo denim material per day and consumed 15,000 bales of cotton per year.<sup>25</sup>

The first whistle at the Pell City mill blew at 5:00 a.m. and by the fourth whistle at 5:55 a.m., the mill force was at their departments and the machinery had started. The doffers sat beside the spinning frame on the bobbin box waiting for the bobbins to fill with yarn. Girls watched the spinning looms, quickly repairing the broken threads with their nimble fingers. Excluding work on the night shift, the day lasted from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. with a 30-minute break at mid-day for lunch.

Corporate paternalism pervaded the textile industry and it was no different at the Pell City Manufacturing Company. The reasons for corporate paternalism have been debated for decades; many believe the provision of so many life necessities was done simply to attract labor during a time when it was in short supply. Mill companies provided their workers, typically called "operatives," with work, housing, religious buildings, health care, schools, and communal and social spaces and functions. Others believe the mill owners were honestly concerned with the welfare of the most impoverished whites in the workplace. Corporate paternalism created a malleable workforce. With the mill providing all the necessities of life, and deducting payment directly from workers' paychecks, the "poorly educated, economically insecure, and socially isolated" workers had very few options available to them. These forces kept them in the mills, dependent on the company, and, thus, tractable. A sense of inferiority over their perceived "failure" at farming, leading to work in a mill village, may have played a role in the dependency of some mill families.<sup>26</sup>

While work in the textile mills was generally regarded as more lucrative than farming, the income of the head of the household employed in the mill was insufficient to provide for the entire family. The major motivation of parents who sought employment in the mill for their children was undoubtedly the supplementation of family income. Also, new mill operatives brought to the work place particular work habits. On the farm, all members of the family had worked at certain assigned duties and tasks. Parents who brought their children into the mill saw nothing unnatural in the idea of their children working and often accepted a position with the mill expecting an opportunity for all members of the family. While child labor was not unique to the South or to industrial society for that matter, it was decidedly more prevalent in the southern cotton mills. In 1880, children accounted for 25.1% of the southern textile work force as opposed to only 14.1% in the North. By 1900, the percentage of children employed in the northern mills had fallen to 6.7% while in the South it remained at approximately 25%. Due to the desire for a cheap, reliable work force, the owners usually purchased family labor as a package, paying adult workers less than a living wage but offering employment to their children.<sup>27</sup>

Southern mill owners soon came to the conclusion that providing housing for their workers was an inevitable cost of doing business in the South. Unfortunately they had few models to follow, homegrown or northern, for designing mill villages. The southern textile industry was faced with very different circumstances than most northern mills. Unlike New England, with its urban mills and abundant multi-ethnic immigrant workforce, the southern mill industry was almost exclusively rural. Additionally, the labor pool was mostly white, native-born and dispersed throughout the countryside. Southern mill owners soon discovered that in order to attract a labor force to their isolated mills, they would have to provide housing for them.<sup>28</sup>

The mill village became an institution of the industrialized South. In many ways neither the workers, nor the mill management could get along without the mill village. By the turn of the century, when the southern mills began to overtake their northern competition, anywhere between seventy and ninety-two percent of all southern mill operatives lived in company-built mill villages. The mill village became a product of

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<sup>25</sup> Jennings J. Rhyne, Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers and Their Villages, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1930), p. 94-104.

<sup>26</sup> Blythe, pp. 146-150.

<sup>27</sup> John Garrett Van Osdell, Cotton Mill, Labor, and the Southern Mind: 1880-1930, Ph. D. diss. Tulane University, 1966, p. 20. Gilman, p. 159; Hall et al., pp. 52; McHugh, pp. 8-10;

<sup>28</sup> Blythe, pp. 139-141; Turner, pp. 9 - 10.

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economic necessity and intent. Mill owners used company housing to attract a labor force but they also used it as an agent of control. As the boss and the landlord, the mill owner had almost complete control over his operatives' lives. For example, if an operative joined a union, chances are that he would lose not only his job but also his family's home. People who rented company housing had to provide at least one worker per room and with mill dwellings averaging four rooms per house this meant that children would have to work.<sup>29</sup>

Early southern mill villages typically followed the hilly riverside topography in their layout, with houses arranged along streets that ran through ravines or ridgelines, and company stores usually located near the mills. These early, informally laid out, and generally unincorporated villages became known as "mill hills." Most later villages were more deliberately planned, with some open space and street patterns more often following a grid, radial, or looping plan. As always, the mill remained the focal point of the town. Marching along a street, the houses were often virtually identical, down to the paint color.<sup>30</sup>

The *Coosa Valleyen* boasted that the mill village at the Pell City Manufacturing Company was one of the best. By December 8, 1902, the paper was able to report:

The *Coosa Valleyen* man has been around at different times examining the houses built by the Pell City Manufacturing Company for their operatives. It is our opinion, after taking the observations of a number of these houses from foundation to completion, that they are better constructed, better planned, and more comfortable than any we have ever seen built for operatives. The foundations are of brick, buried in the earth at sufficient depth to insure perfect safety against washing; the chimneys are built of brick and carefully plastered all over, the stove flues are of brick, plastered on the inside and outside.... Their convenience and comfort are unequalled by the majority of the best houses in St. Clair County. They will be fitted up with waterworks, closets, garden plots, electric lights, and every modern convenience. The rooms are plastered over-head as well as on the side. The roofs are of good shingles and carefully put up. There are two verandahs on every house and each one is neat and pretty in appearance.

Nevertheless, the reporter noted that while the new village was something for St. Clair County to be proud of, the "beautiful picture is not one third as much so as it will be a few months later, when in front of every house there will be roses blooming and birds singing their sweet notes of the spring returning and gardens for vegetables as a return for the care and attention to be given them by the Mill Company." The Pell City Manufacturing Company encouraged horticulture among the operatives by providing a garden plot for every house.<sup>31</sup> Typical of the rhetoric of the day, the *Coos Valleyen* extolled the virtues of working in the mill and living in the company village. The reporter asks:

How many people in St. Clair would not enjoy living in one of these cozy houses, with fire-places, stove-flues, warm plastered rooms, water works, electric lights, room for a home garden, and in a pretty village of nicely graded streets, plenty of shade trees everywhere, a splendid school building, church buildings and all other conveniences to make life comfortable? Many of them are today laboring and toiling under a system of crop-mortgage from which they will not be rid of until death's cold grasp calls upon them to depart this life, unless they change their way of doing. They are not working their entire families in the fields; renting land and making about enough to pay for one year's advance at about 50 to 100 per cent profit to the merchant, and living in houses that are far from being comfortable, while their children have no school advantage. But here they can find employment under shelter, make a good living, have good comfortable homes, good educational advantages and churches for their children.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Blythe, pp. 139-143.

<sup>31</sup> "Comfortable Homes Are Those Built by the Pell City Manufacturing Company for their Operatives," *The Coosa Valleyen*, December 8, 1902.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

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In 1919, Avondale Mills purchased the Pell City Manufacturing Company; the company employed 600 people and operated 20,028 spindles and looms. Founded by Alabama Governor B. B. Comer and a group of investors, the Avondale Mills Company took its name from the Avondale neighborhood of Birmingham where they opened their first cotton mill in 1897. The artificially high demand for American textiles created by World War I resulted in an over expansion of production capacity that plagued the industry for two decades. Chronic oversupply and ruthless competition forced producers to cut production costs, largely by increasing output per worker. Nevertheless, when Avondale purchased Pell City Manufacturing Company, the mill operatives began to realize the benefits of working for a major corporation. During the 1920s and 1930s, Avondale Mills spent over a million dollars improving the plant and the residential area. Streets were graded and paved and minor improvements were made to the existing workers' houses. Avondale added approximately 40 houses to the mill village, bringing the total to 163 by 1945. The Avondale Village School included grades 1 through 7 and usually had 350 students and 13 teachers. The school served hot lunches to the students whose parents were working in the nearby mill. After the purchase by Avondale, company employees could take advantage of a Federal Credit Union with assets of approximately \$90,000. The company built the Gertrude Comer hospital around 1925 on the corner of Grove and Mulberry Streets (Fifth Street North and Twenty-Sixth Street North, demolished 1965). By 1940, Avondale had increased the mills' capacity to 25,584 spindles and 800 looms and had increased the payroll to 800. The mill boasted its own band, boy scout troupe, woman's club, music club, boys' work shop, and 4-H club. East of Beech Street, on playgrounds and parks provided by Avondale, mill operatives and their children participated in sports such as baseball, softball, and tennis. <sup>33</sup>

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 ushered in another boom for American textiles, and the industry reached its peak employment of 1.3 million in 1942. During World War II, 142 employees of the Avondale Mills entered the armed forces. By 1946, the flyer from the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration noted that the Pell City Plant of the Avondale Mills was using approximately 500 bales of cotton each week and producing approximately 410,000 yards of cloth for the same period. The southward movement of production continued, so that by the mid-1950s, southern mills accounted for more than 90 percent of the cotton consumed in the U. S. <sup>34</sup>

From 1940 to 1950, Pell City's population (exclusive of the mill village) rose from 900 to 1,189. On April 23, 1956, the two neighboring towns of Eden and Oak Ridge merged with Pell City. This merger brought the city's population to 3,644. Later that year, in September, the Avondale Mills village finally became part of the city. By the 1960s, corporate American had long abandoned the paternalistic industrial system. After the village was incorporated into the Pell City limits, the directors of the Avondale Mills began to sell houses and lots to individual operatives. The Gertrude Comer hospital was demolished ca. 1965 and the Avondale Village School ceased operation in the 1960s. Although the school was demolished in the early 1970s, mill workers continued to use the community house until it was demolished in the early 1980s. <sup>35</sup>

Beginning in the 1970s, increased automation of mills and growing competition from lower-cost Asian producers led to plant closings and reduced employment in the southern textile industry. By 1995, imports of cotton fabrics amounted to 40 percent of the value of U. S. production. In 1996, the American textile industry employed about 500,000 production workers, a mere 4 percent of all industrial workers in the nation. The industry remains heavily concentrated in the South, with Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina accounting for some 65 percent of all production workers. In Alabama, about 11 percent of the state's industrial workers are employed in textiles. <sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> "Pell City Manufacturing Company Sold to Avondale Mills in December," *Birmingham Ledger*, 1914; "Avondale Mills: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Inspection," May 6, 1946, n.p.

<sup>34</sup> Turner, pp. 11 - 13.

<sup>35</sup> "Population of All Incorporated Places and of Unincorporated Places of 1,000 or More: 1950 and 1940; Alabama Official and Statistical Register, 1955, pp. 466-472.

<sup>36</sup> Turner, pp. 14, 15.

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Today, the Avondale Mill and Mill Village clearly reflect the development and continued importance of the cotton textile mill industry in Alabama from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to the present. Architecturally, the cotton mill complex, c. 1902-1905, is extremely significant as an almost intact cotton textile mill that has remained in continuous use. The mill complex remains almost unaltered as an intact collection of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century workers' houses. The mill village clearly reflects the paternalistic industrial philosophy implemented by corporate America throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries are as shown on the attached map of the Avondale Mill Historic District, scale 1 inch = 100 feet.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were drawn to include as many contributing resources as possible historically associated with the Avondale Mill Village.

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The information contained in items 1-5 is the same for all photographs.

1. Avondale Mill Historic District
  2. St. Clair County, Alabama
  3. Jeff Mansell, photographer
  4. July, 1999
  5. negatives on file, Alabama Historical Commission
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| 6. Avondale Mill, camera facing southeast                                | 6. 319 Thirtieth Street, Inv. #111, camera facing west   |
| 7. Photograph #1   | 7. Photograph #14  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, camera facing northeast                                | 6. 322 Thirtieth Street, Inv. #114, camera facing east   |
| 7. Photograph #2   | 7. Photograph #15  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, camera facing southwest                                | 6. 402 Twenty-Sixth Street, Inv. #22, camera facing east |
| 7. Photograph #3   | 7. Photograph #16  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, camera facing north                                    |  |
| 7. Photograph #4   |  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, camera facing south                                    |  |
| 7. Photograph #5   |  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, reservoir and chimneystack, camera facing south        |  |
| 7. Photograph #6   |  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, detail of exterior, camera facing west                 |  |
| 7. Photograph #7   |  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, office building, camera facing northeast               |  |
| 7. Photograph #8   |  |
| 6. Avondale Mill, detail of statue and fountain, camera facing northeast |  |
| 7. Photograph #9   |  |
| 6. 310 Twenty-Ninth Street, Inv. #72, camera facing east.                |  |
| 7. Photograph #10  |  |
| 6. 320 Twenty-Ninth Street, Inv. #77, camera facing east.                |  |
| 7. Photograph #11  |  |
| 6. 601 Twenty-Ninth Street, Inv. #99, camera facing east.                |  |
| 7. Photograph #12  |  |
| 6. 600 Thirtieth Street, Inv. #138, camera facing east.                  |  |
| 7. Photograph #13  |  |

# Avondale Mill and Mill Village

Pell City, St. Clair County, Alabama

□ - Contributing Resources

■ - Non-Contributing Resources

Scale 1" = 100 ft.

