

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Swift Manufacturing Company
other names/site number Swift Textiles, Inc.; Swift Denim Mill

2. Location

street & number 1410 6th Avenue not for publication
city or town Columbus vicinity
state Georgia code GA county Muscogee code 215 zip code 31901-2223

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide X local
David C. Crass 3-10-14
Signature of certifying official/Title Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date
Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____
David D. Davis 3/10/14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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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.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY – manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – multiple dwelling
OTHER - storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style
OTHER: 20th century industrial buildings

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK; CONCRETE
walls: BRICK; CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT
other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Swift Manufacturing Company is located east of downtown Columbus adjacent to a large railroad yard in an industrial area of the city. The 15-acre site consists today of four major buildings: Mill 3 (1945), Mill 4 (1925-1927, 1936, 1946, 1988), the White Building Plant (1950), and the 7th Avenue Plant (1953 and 1975). In 2011 fire destroyed Mill 1 and Mill 2, which were located south of Mill 3. Mill 3 is an L-shape, two-story building with a steel post-and-beam structural system and brick curtain walls. The 1883 brick smokestack and the 1883 brick boiler house remain on the southeast corner of Mill 3. Mill 4 consists of four buildings that are interconnected: a 1925 mill building, a 1936 warehouse, a 1946 warehouse, and a 1988 loading dock. The oldest section of Mill 4 is a two-story mill building (1925-1927) with brick walls and steel post-and-beam construction. Warehouse 1 (1936) is three stories high with brick walls and steel post-and-beam construction. Warehouse 2 (1946) is three stories high of concrete post-and-beam construction with brick curtain walls. Interior columns are mushroom-shaped. A covered loading dock with concrete floors and a metal post-and-beam structural system was added to Mill 4 in 1988. By 1950 the Swift Manufacturing Company had expanded to the east side of the railroad. The White Building Plant was constructed in 1950 using the same construction methods as those used in Warehouse 2. The 7th Avenue Plant consists of the one-story brick Indigo Dye House (1953) and a 1975 brick addition. All of the buildings retain integrity.

Narrative Description

The following description was written by Marion Ellis, Ray & Ellis Consulting, and edited by Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist, Historic Preservation Division. It is taken from the "Swift Manufacturing Company" draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form December 7, 2012. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The mill complex is located east of downtown Columbus in an industrial area of the city on both sides of a large railroad yard. The area surrounding the mill contains vacant land, some new construction, several older industrial buildings, the Linwood Cemetery, and the railroad yard. The complex grew from its inception at this site in 1883 until the mill ceased operations in 2004. The mill complex consists of several buildings and structures that were constructed over time to adapt to the evolving nature of the mill. The earliest buildings included the 1883 mill, known as Mill 1, the 1883 boiler house, and 1883 smokestack. Only the boiler house and smokestack are extant today. As is typical for industrial plants, alterations, additions, and new construction took place through the years. At Swift, original warehouses were replaced with new buildings. Open spaces, especially alleys, were closed in to create more useable space. New buildings were constructed, and, as the complex grew, it spilled over onto neighboring plots and eventually to the east side of the railroad.

Originally, the mill was served primarily by the railroad as evidenced by its location along a major railroad hub with a spur line that wrapped around the front of the entire original complex along 6th Avenue. Warehouses, located in the same space as Mill 3 is today, had a rounded side on the north following the line of this spur line. When motor traffic became more prevalent, this rail line was removed. Mill 3, completed in 1945 on the site of the former warehouses, did not have to conform to the rail line and had square corners. At that point, 6th Avenue became the major traffic artery to the mill.

Fire erupted Saturday night, November 5, 2011 and continued for several days. It began in the southwest corner of the 6th Avenue Plant in Mill 2 and eventually destroyed Mill 1, Mill 2, and the Office building. The remaining buildings of the 6th Avenue Plant, the White Building Plant, and the 7th Avenue Plant were unharmed. The buildings that remain after the fire are the Boiler House, Mill 3, Mill 4, the White Building Plant, and the 7th Avenue Plant. They are all good examples of mill buildings that retain their character-defining features and contribute to this district.

Boiler House

The Boiler House is located at the south end of the property adjacent to Mill 3 and the smokestack (photographs 4 and 6). The Boiler House, constructed in 1883, is a one-story brick building with a rectangular footprint and a concrete roof and floor. All of the window openings have been bricked in. Boilers are extant on the inside. It is a contributing building.

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Smokestack

The 1883 brick smokestack is located between the Boiler House and Mill 3 (photographs 3-6). During the historic period, the smokestack served the Boiler House, which is located just south of the smokestack. It is a contributing structure.

Mill 3

Mill 3 was constructed in 1945 (photographs 1-3). It replaced several one-story warehouses. The footprint of this large building has an L-shape and is two stories high. It has a steel post-and-beam structural system with brick curtain walls. The large window openings are separated by brick pilasters. Lintels and sills are long bands of concrete. Windows are replacement, multi-light metal windows. The floors are wood and ceilings are exposed steel and wood from the floor or roof above (photographs 8-11). A stairwell is located on the southeast corner of the building. The stairs are concrete and the rails are metal (photograph 7). The basement retains its open floor plan with steel columns and a concrete floor. The upper floor of the building has been rehabilitated into loft apartments. The rehabilitation, which was approved by the Technical Services Branch of the National Park Service on July 8, 2013, resulted in the mill being subdivided into apartment units. Most of the character-defining features of the mill were retained. An overhead metal bridge connects this building to Mill 4 (photograph 2). Mill 3 is a contributing building.

Mill 4

By the 1920s, Swift Manufacturing had expanded north to include a two-story mill building, constructed between 1925 and 1927. Two warehouses (1936 and 1946) were added to it along the 6th Avenue side of the building (photograph 13). A 1920s warehouse, which was located along the railroad, was demolished in 1988 and replaced by a covered loading dock (photographs 22 and 25, left). The current configuration is referred to as Mill 4. It contains four sections-- the 1925-1927 Mill building, the 1936 warehouse, the 1946 warehouse, and a 1988 covered loading dock. All four sections are interconnected.

The 1925-1927 Mill building is two-stories high (photograph 13). The structural system has load-bearing masonry walls with round steel post-and-beam construction (photograph 15). The interior of the mill is mostly open space interrupted only by steel posts. The posts support steel beams that form the substructure of the above floors. The roof is flat and has a brick parapet. Most of the windows are missing or the openings are bricked in, but a few historic windows exist on the west façade of the second floor and have multi-light metal frames with pivot style openings. The floors are wood and ceilings are exposed structural beams and wood from the floors above. One non-historic metal staircase is located on the west side of the building, which serves all sections of Mill 4.

Warehouse 1, constructed in 1936, is three stories high and has load-bearing walls and square steel post-and-beam construction (photograph 13, left). The floors are wood and ceilings are exposed structural beams and wood from the floors above (photograph 16). The street side has nine bays divided by brick pilasters with concrete caps. Historic windows exist in the west façade and are metal multi-light factory windows.

Warehouse 2, constructed in 1946, is three stories high. It has concrete post-and-beam construction with brick curtain walls. Columns on the interior are mushroom-shaped (photograph 17). Floors and ceilings are concrete. Two types of windows exist. Large bands of glass block windows exist on the north, east, and south facades (photograph 20). Other window openings are bricked in, but a few historic metal multi-light windows remain. North and east facades show the concrete ribbons dividing the floors and bays. An overhead metal bridge connects this building to the White Building Plant located across the railroad tracks.

The 1988 dock has concrete floors and a metal post-and-beam structural system with a metal roof (photograph 12). The dock connects to the east side of the 1925 mill building. Mill 4 is counted as one contributing building because all of the sections are attached.

Pump House and Water Tower

A two-story brick pump house is attached to the northeast side of Mill 4 (photograph 20). There is no internal access to the pump house from the mill. The pump house was built sometime between 1929 and 1951 and then expanded later. The pump house has a concrete floor. It is adjacent to the water tower. The 158,000-gallon concrete water tower has a steel frame (photograph 20). The water tower is counted as a contributing structure. The pump house is attached to Mill 4 and is not counted separately.

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Garage

A one-story concrete garage with concrete floor was built in 1946. It is located at the northwest corner of Mill 4. The two large entrance doors on the west side of the building are separated by mushroom-shaped concrete pilasters. It is a contributing building.

White Building Plant

By 1950 the company had expanded to the west side of the railroad tracks with the construction of the White Building Plant (photographs 21-23). Due to its location between the railroad tracks, 7th Avenue, and Linwood Boulevard, the building has a somewhat triangular shape. It has concrete post-and-beam construction on the first two floors. The third floor is steel frame. Walls are brick curtain and the roof is flat. Columns on the interior are mushroom-shaped. Floors and ceilings are concrete (photograph 24). Each elevation has different size metal, multi-light windows. The first floor was used as a cotton warehouse; the second floor as a merchandise warehouse; and the third floor for production. As the company expanded in the 1960s, production expanded onto the second floor. A two-door loading platform is located on the south end of the building (photograph 23). A spur rail line runs right next to the building on the west side. There are several sliding freight doors on the first and second floors to allow easy transport between a railcar and the building. There is also a recessed first-floor platform in the center of the building on the rail side (photograph 21). It is a contributing building.

7th Street Plant

The 7th Street Plant consists of the Indigo Dye House built in 1953 (photograph 26) and a 1975 addition to that building. The 1953 building is one-story rectangular building with long rows of metal multi-light windows on the south elevation. There is a double-entrance door that is accessed by a concrete platform, covered by a wood canopy. The window to the right of the entrance has been altered. Most of the windows on the north elevation have been covered by the later addition. The dye house has a steel frame, concrete floor, and brick curtain walls. Roof is a slab concrete roof with a recessed metal addition atop a portion of the roof. The 1975 addition to the building is one-story with metal multi-light windows on the north elevation. The dye house and its addition are counted as one contributing building.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1883-1975

Significant Dates

1883-date of boiler house and smokestack

1975-date of construction of newest extant building

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is from 1883 to 1975 to include the date of construction of the oldest building in the complex and the most recent building.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Beginning in 1883, Swift Manufacturing Company evolved into a fully integrated textile mill and expanded from a single building to a complex spread over two city blocks by the 1950s. The mill complex is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of industry as a good example of the changing textile manufacturing industry in the post-World War II era. From the dyed yarn in the 7th Avenue Plant, to production in Mill 3, and storage of denim fabric in Mill 4, the complex exhibits a complete integrated process of denim production. Swift Manufacturing is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture because the design of the mill buildings is representative of mills built throughout Georgia and the South through the mid-20th century. The extant buildings date from 1883 to 1975 and reflect changes in mill architecture during that period. The buildings' long, rectangular, open floor plans and large windows maximized the amount of light and air that reached the interior to allow for greater flexibility in the placement of textile machinery before air-conditioning was prevalent. Both the 1945 Mill 3 and the 1946 Warehouse 2 exhibit International Style features in their simple design with lack of historical precedent. As noted in Steven Eubanks' 2011 context, *Adapting to Survive: A Historic Context for Georgia's Textile Mills Following World War II*, changes to mill architecture grew slowly postwar with the general trend of constructing new buildings to accommodate technological changes in production. At Swift, the construction of the White Building, with minimal windows, and the 1951 dye house are good examples of postwar mill construction to accommodate specific processes in Swift's production line.

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

The Swift Manufacturing Company was founded in 1883. The rise of the textile industry during the second half of the 19th century was critical in the transformation of the South from solely an agricultural-based economy to one that included industrial production. Mills, such as Swift Manufacturing, were once common throughout towns and cities in the Piedmont but many have not survived as the center of the textile industry has shifted from the United States to overseas operations. The mill complex is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of industry as a good example of the changing textile manufacturing industry in the post-World War II era. When the use of denim changed from a cloth used strictly for the working class to a fashion material, the textile industry adjusted to meet increasing demand. Swift Manufacturing became one of a few textile plants in the nation to master the technical knowledge and specialty equipment needed to produce indigo dyed denim. Until the 1970s, denim was only produced in the United States. At Swift, even with running three shifts a day, six days a week, the demand was larger than the output. Swift Manufacturing also became known as pioneers in manufacturing automobile fabric for automakers such as Chrysler, Ford, and Dodge. Additionally they produced fabric for furniture industries, as well as the garment industries. The mill complex is a good example of specialized processes related to denim and automobile fabric production in the 20th century. From the dyed yarn in the 7th Avenue Plant, to production in Mill 3, and storage of denim fabric in Mill 4, the complex exhibits a complete integrated process of denim production.

At this location, Swift Manufacturing Company grew from a family-owned manufacturing company to part of an international textile corporation that dominated the denim manufacturing industry. The company was at the forefront in the search for new products and for ways to manufacture it. According to a *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* news article in 1974, Swift had to allocate its yardage to existing customers and turn away new customers due to the high demand for its products.

Prior to the Civil War, there were only a few small textile mills in operation in Georgia, even though Georgia led the world in the production of cotton fiber in the 1820s. In the effort to rebuild the South after the war, leaders such as Henry Grady of Atlanta pushed the South to move away from dependence upon agriculture as the main source of income. With an abundant supply of cotton, labor, and waterpower, as well as a need for fabric, the textile industry grew in the postbellum era. Despite the depression of the 1870s, Georgia's textile industry soon led the South in the number of spindles in operation. By 1881 the South provided strong competition to the New England textile mills and by the 1920s, the South led the industry in all categories of cotton textile manufacturing.

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Textile mill construction reached a peak in the mid-20th century in Georgia and leveled out after that. Emphasis was placed on improving the efficiency of production that was already in place. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, great strides were made in technology with increased efficiency resulting in more automated plants. At this time also, most mills replaced and upgraded machinery, and added air-conditioning and lint-control systems in an effort to stay competitive. Many mills bricked in windows on their existing mill buildings during this time as air-conditioning was added to older buildings. Swift followed this pattern by bricking in many of the window openings in their buildings.

Until the Second World War, almost all mills produced only one fiber. With the introduction of manmade fibers, new markets were generated. Swift Manufacturing stayed at the forefront of the very competitive textile industry and expanded into automotive fabric and the highly popular denim material. With over one-third of Georgia's manufacturing employment in textiles in the 1980s, Swift was one of many mills operating in Georgia. By 2004 when the mill closed, it was one of only a few remaining textile manufacturing operations left in Georgia; most textile operations had moved overseas.

In addition, Swift Manufacturing Company is significant because it represents industrial enterprises that developed along the rail corridor east of downtown Columbus. The first textile mills in Columbus developed along the Chattahoochee River to take advantage of the falling water to provide power for the mills. As steam engines became the dominant source of power in the early 20th century, industrial facilities could be located away from hydropower energy sources. Rail corridors provided the means of shipment for these facilities that were not located on waterways. Swift was also the last major textile operation started within the city limits, as later industrialists built beyond the city limits to avoid city taxes.

Swift Manufacturing is locally significant under Criterion C under architecture because the design of the mill buildings is representative of mills built throughout Georgia and the South from the 1920s to the mid-20th century. The buildings' long, open floor plans and large windows maximized the amount of light and air that reached the interior of the mill to allow for greater flexibility in the placement of textile machinery before air-conditioning was prevalent. The buildings are built with masonry construction that includes non-load bearing brick walls and either concrete or steel post-and-beam construction. Both the 1945 Mill 3 and the 1946 Warehouse 2 exhibit International Style features in their simple design with lack of historical precedent. As noted in Steven Eubanks' 2011 context, *Adapting to Survive: A Historic Context for Georgia's Textile Mills Following World War II*, changes to mill architecture grew slowly postwar with the general trend of constructing new buildings to accommodate technological changes in production. At Swift, the construction of the White Building, with minimal windows, and the 1951 dye house are good examples of postwar mill construction to accommodate specific processes in Swift's production line.

Textile mills in Georgia, as well as elsewhere, were based upon two independent manufacturing processes. One process was the production of yarn from raw materials and the second was making cloth from the yarn. Some mills produced both yarn and cloth in a consolidated operation. The extant buildings at the Swift Manufacturing Company represent the second process - the production of cloth. The production of cloth is a discrete manufacturing process that took place in the remaining buildings at Swift, which are good examples of early to mid-20th-century mill buildings used for the production of denim.

In the postbellum period, textile mills operated by either waterpower or steam power. These constraints influenced the form of the building, resulting in long, narrow, multi-storied buildings for the remainder of the 19th century. Swift's operation was the first large-scale, steam-driven textile manufacturing facility in Columbus. This new operation did not rely on waterpower, as the earlier Columbus mills, all located along the Chattahoochee River, had done. Later, electricity brought interior lighting, electrical motors, and then air-conditioning. The use of electricity brought changes to the floor plans of mills allowing them to be much wider, as well as allowing one- or two-story buildings to be less expensively constructed than multi-storied ones. New construction materials also changed how mills were constructed. Reinforced concrete and structural steel beams replaced timber construction. These new materials allowed expansion of the floor space, so that, along with electric lights, mill buildings could be wider in size. These new materials also withstood the vibrations of heavier and faster machinery.

With the exception of the production of yarn, the complete process for denim production took place in Mill 3. After completion of the dye process in the 7th Avenue Plant, the yarns were transported by truck to Mill 3. Slashing, a process to prepare yarn for weaving, and the actual weaving of the fabrics took place in Mill 3. The bottom floor was divided into two sections and the smaller section, approximately one-fourth of the ground floor was used for slashing. Looms for weaving were located in the remaining space on the first floor and on the entire second floor. All denims manufactured were sanfordized, a process needed to reduce shrinkage and skew. This process took place in a building (not extant) located

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behind Mill 3. The completed rolls of denim were moved to the warehouse in Mill 4 and shipped out from there via truck. In 1980 all denim weaving looms were moved to an off-site plant and Mill 3 housed additional spinning production for denim.

Mill 4 was used for shipping and receiving. Finished products from all production were returned to Mill 4 and shipped via truck from this building. Finished and raw goods were stored in Mill 4, the primary shipping, receiving and storage facility. On the railroad side of Mill 4, older warehouses were torn down (at an unknown date) to construct a truck loading platform. The total reliance on truck delivery required a larger space. The current loading dock replaced a smaller dock in 1988.

The White Building Plant produced automobile upholstery fabric. From here the finished product was trucked back to Mill 4 for storage and shipping.

Yarn was dyed in the Indigo Dye House, also called the 7th Avenue Plant, located on the east side of the railroad yard. The Indigo Dye Plant, built in 1953 was needed for blue denim. This new dye house made the old dye house located behind Mill 3 obsolete. Until 1980 all dyeing took place in the 7th Avenue Plant. After this, the main dye operation was moved to the off-site Boland plant. At this time, the 7th Avenue Plant became a research and development facility. It was used to produce small amounts of new and different colors to provide customers with samples, as well as to conduct research on new and improved dye processes without having to halt production.

The mill buildings are typical of large textile mills built during the 20th century in Georgia with their brick exterior walls, rectangular shape, and multiple stories. During a recent rehabilitation, Mill 3 was converted to loft apartments. The buildings retain their materials, construction methods, fenestration, and industrial features.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The following developmental history was written by Marion Ellis, Ray & Ellis Consulting, and edited by Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist, Historic Preservation Division. It is taken from the "Swift Manufacturing Company" draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form December 7, 2012. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

G. Mote Williams and William August Swift, the son of George P. Swift, started Swift Manufacturing Company in 1882 under the name Excelsior Mills. They began operation with a few looms producing check and plaid fabric on the second floor of Temperance Hall on the corner of First Avenue in Columbus between 13th and 14th streets. Temperance Hall was the scene of much of the civic, social, and cultural life in Columbus and in 1872 housed the city's first public school for African Americans. The enterprise was successful, and in the same year, George P. Swift Sr., George P. Swift Jr., William A. Swift, Louis Hamburger, and G. M. Williams, all five well-known local businessmen, applied for a charter for a textile mill.

In 1883 the Swift Manufacturing Company was founded and moved to their new location on 6th Avenue. Work clothes were in demand and one of their major products was denim. William A. Swift was elected treasurer and G. Mote Williams became president, a position he held until his death in 1897. His son, Harry L. Williams, was elected president of the mill in 1906, a position he held for 31 years. In a 1961 interview with Williams, he recalled that until 1897 the company had no carding and spinning capabilities, which changed when a pair of steam engines manufactured by the Providence Steam Engine Company were imported from England.

As the plant grew in the 1920s, Mill 2 was completed c.1928 with an addition added sometime between 1929 and 1951. Two offices buildings, one built before 1907, and a second completed between 1929 and 1951, were part of the complex.

Over the years, Swift Manufacturing Company became a fully integrated textile mill and expanded from one building to a complex spread over two city blocks by the 1950s. They manufactured a variety of products including open mesh material used for agricultural products and a tremendous volume of cotton fabric, fiber, and plastic materials used in the automobile industry for seat covering and car linings. During World War II, Swift also was an important supplier of fabrics to the armed forces.

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By 1957 the mill had grown to 42,000 spindles and 989 looms. At this time, the company also produced fashionable denim products and had just completed a new indigo dye house to be able to offer vat-dyed denim to the garment trade. They continued to be pioneers in automobile fabric manufacturing and provided well-known automakers like Chrysler, Ford, and Dodge with fabric. Other fabrics they manufactured went to the furniture industries, as well as the garment industries. The company had their own standards department with stringent quality control.

In 1962 the company was sold to the Glen Arden Corporation of New York. The company continued to operate under the same management without change in their manufacturing operations. At that time, Charlton H. Williams was president of Swift Manufacturing. The company had 2,000 employees and sales offices in the Empire State Building in New York and in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta. All stockholders sold their stock to Glen Arden, which meant that local control of the company had, for the first time, shifted to an outside interest.

In 1965 John A. Boland came to Swift Manufacturing as president. In 1967 the name changed to Swift Textiles Inc. In 1972 Glen Arden disposed of its Swift interest to Johnston Industries. In 1974 the company was sold to DHJ, also headquartered in New York. Swift Textiles continued to operate independently as a wholly-owned subsidiary of DHJ. Under the reign of Boland, Swift textile sales were approximately \$30 million, the company had 1,300 employees and one million square feet in the local mill. In three shifts, 24 hours a day, six days a week, the company produced enough denim for 20 million pairs of jeans. Major customers were Levi Strauss, H.D. Lee, Sears, and J.C. Penney. In 1998 DHJ, which was part of the Dominion Group, sold Swift through the Polymer Group to Galey & Lord, another New York-based textile company, which was founded in 1886. Galey & Lord closed the Columbus operation in June 2004.

Housing and Mill Hands

According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, as early as 1885 at least two blocks near the mill contained typical mill village housing. By 1895 several blocks showed rows of matching homes in just a few different sizes, smaller lots and almost no setback, as would be typical for a mill village. Part of this included, directly across from the mill, an L-shaped "Tenement," a term used in mill housing for a multi-family dwelling. Also on the corner of 5th Avenue and 14th Street was a grocery store. However, because no reference to a mill village directly connected to Swift Mill was found, it is unknown whether the mill owned this housing. None of these houses are extant.

African Americans worked in the mill from the beginning. As was common in Southern mills, they worked in maintenance repair shops and in low-paying jobs until World War II, when they were allowed to train for better paying jobs. The following statements were extracted from a 1988 interview with Robert Passmore, an African American who worked at Swift from 1926 to 1971. It was not uncommon for a black man to work 11 to 12 hours a day, six days a week. Before World War II, he held only one job, doing maintenance in the dye house on a machine called an extractor. After World War II, he was allowed to learn different things like dyeing fabric and operating machinery, which was not possible for a black man before the war. Specific areas in which black men could work were the dye house, opening room, warehouse, boiler room, and picking room. The weave shops were for whites only, unless machines were put in or taken out, and the work was always performed under a white foreman's supervision. African American women were sometimes allowed to work in the sewing rooms. There were no black supervisors. As long as work was available, every day a family could exist and also save a little money. Bathroom facilities were strictly segregated. In early days of his employment, only whites could drink out of the water fountains, blacks had to bring their own bottles or cups. Blacks had to go in and out of the back gate along the railroad tracks, the front gates were reserved for whites. Passmore did not live in the mill village, but lived on 24th Street and later on 18th Street and walked to the mill. Right around the time of Passmore's retirement, the company started to pay a retirement for all workers that had not existed until that time.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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- "Beneath The Swift." Timm, Paul A. *Columbus Ledger- Enquirer*, February 2, 1974.
- Chesnut, Linda and Carson Pease. *Textile Mills in Georgia: A Cultural Assessment*. Atlanta, GA: [n.p.], 1980.
- Eubanks, Steven. *Adapting to Survive: A Historic Context for Georgia's Textile Mills Following World War II*. Atlanta, GA: [n.p.], 2011.
- History of Textiles in Georgia.*" *Jackson Progress-Argus*, October 1, 1981, p.14A.
- Industrial Index*, Columbus Centennial Number, April 18, 1928, p.109.
- Johnson, Constance. "Swift Mill Is Sold to New York Firm By Vote of Board." *Columbus Ledger*, December 8, 1961.
- Kyle, Clason. "Young, Swift were Textile Pioneers." *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* , May 7, 1978.
- "New York Firm Obtains Full Control of Swift." *Columbus Ledger*, January 3, 1962.
- Presley, Vernon. Interview with Mr. Robert Passmore. Digital Library Georgia, Oral History Project. 1988.
- Ray & Ellis. "Swift Manufacturing Company." Draft *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, December 7, 2012. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*, 1885-1951. On file at the Bradley Memorial Library in Columbus, Georgia.
- "Swift MFG. Co., Co. Continues to Expand To Meet Modern Demand." Bradley Memorial Library, Columbus, Georgia. Business and Industries, Swift Textile file.
- "Swift Textiles Is Leader In Denim Industries." *Columbus Ledger – Enquirer*, January 6, 1974.
- "Swift Textile Sales Disclosed." Timm, Paul A. *Columbus Ledger - Enquirer*, February 2, 1974.
- "Tower is Mill History." *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, February 2, 1974.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Swift Manufacturing Company
Name of Property

Muscogee, Georgia
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):
N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 15
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.475277 | Longitude: -84.984658 |
| 2. Latitude: 32.474778 | Longitude: -84.982276 |
| 3. Latitude: 32.472374 | Longitude: -84.984618 |

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

The boundary is identified with a heavy black line on the attached National Register map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the extant historic buildings associated with the Swift Manufacturing Company in Columbus.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date March 2014
street & number 254 Washington Street, Ground Level telephone (404) 656-2840
city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30334
e-mail lynn.speno@dnr.state.ga.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Swift Manufacturing Company
Name of Property

Muscogee, Georgia
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Swift Manufacturing Company

City or Vicinity: Columbus

County: Muscogee County

State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller

Date Photographed: December 11, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Mill 3 and Mill 4; photographer is facing east.
2. Mill 3; photographer is facing southeast.
3. Mill 3; photographer is facing northeast.
4. Mill 3; photographer is facing north.
5. Mill 3; photographer is facing west.
6. Mill 3; photographer is facing west.
7. Interior stairwell in Mill 3; photographer is facing east.
8. Interior Mill 3; photographer is facing southeast.
9. Interior Mill 3; photographer is facing north.
10. Interior Mill 3; photographer is facing west.
11. Interior Mill 3; photographer is facing north.
12. Loading Dock; photographer is facing north.
13. Mill 4; photographer is facing northeast.
14. Mill 4; photographer is facing north.
15. Interior Mill 4 (1925 section); photographer is facing north.
16. Interior Mill 4 (1936 section); photographer is facing north.
17. Interior Mill 4 (1946 section); photographer is facing north.
18. Interior Mill 4 (1988 section); photographer is facing south.
19. Interior Mill 4 second floor; photographer is facing northeast.
20. Mill 4; photographer is facing south.
21. Mill 4; photographer is facing south.
22. Mill 4 and White Building Plant; photographer is facing northwest.
23. White Building Plant; photographer is facing north.
24. Interior White Building Plant; photographer is facing south.
25. White Building Plant and Loading Dock; photographer is facing northwest.
26. 7th Avenue Dye House; photographer is facing northeast.
27. 7th Avenue Dye House; photographer is facing northwest.

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

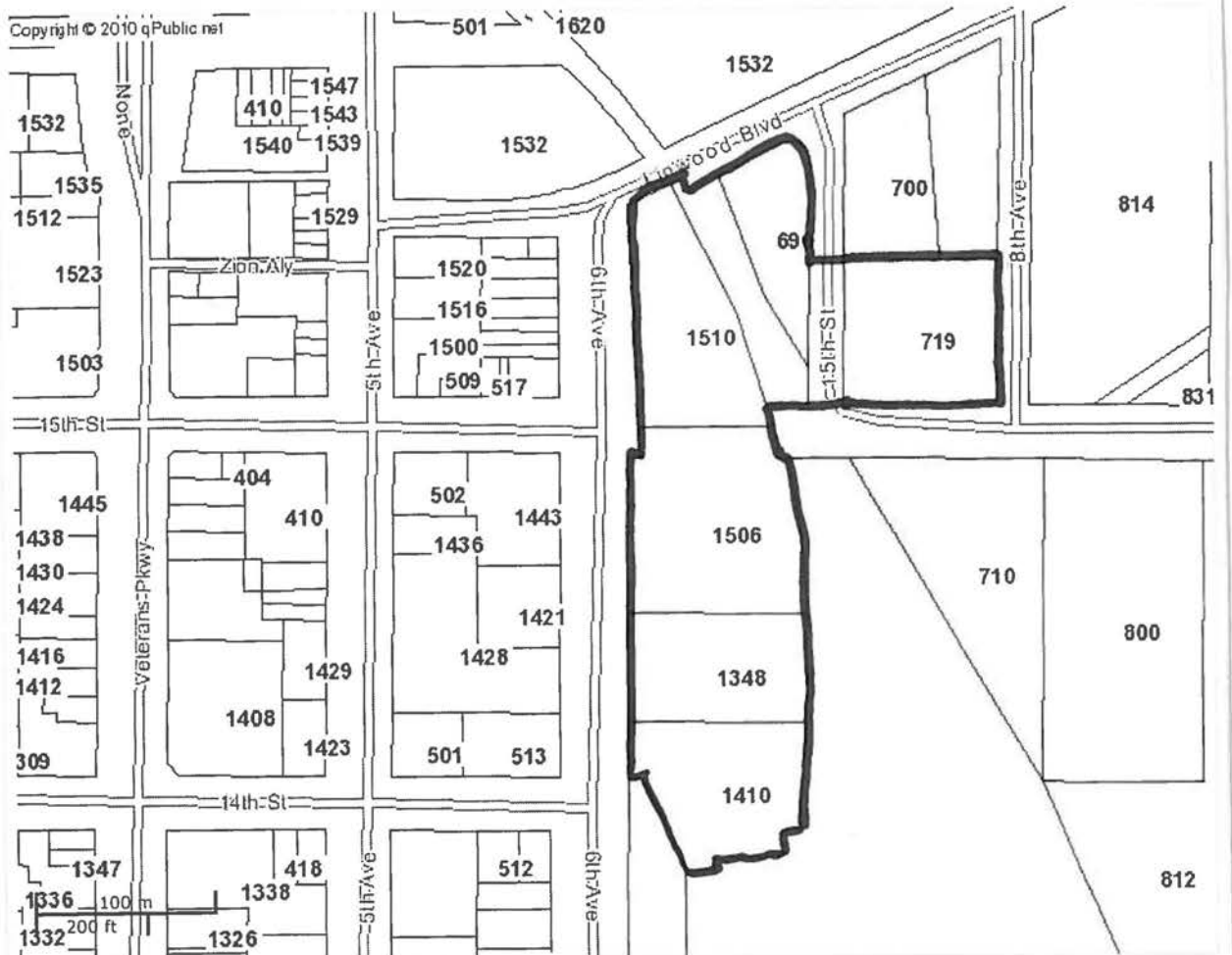
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**SWIFT MANUFACTURING COMPANY
MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/PLAT MAP**

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: 1 inch = 328 feet

SOURCE: Muscogee County qpublic



Muscogee County makes every effort to produce the most accurate information possible. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for information is from the last certified taxroll. All data is subject to change before the next certified taxroll.

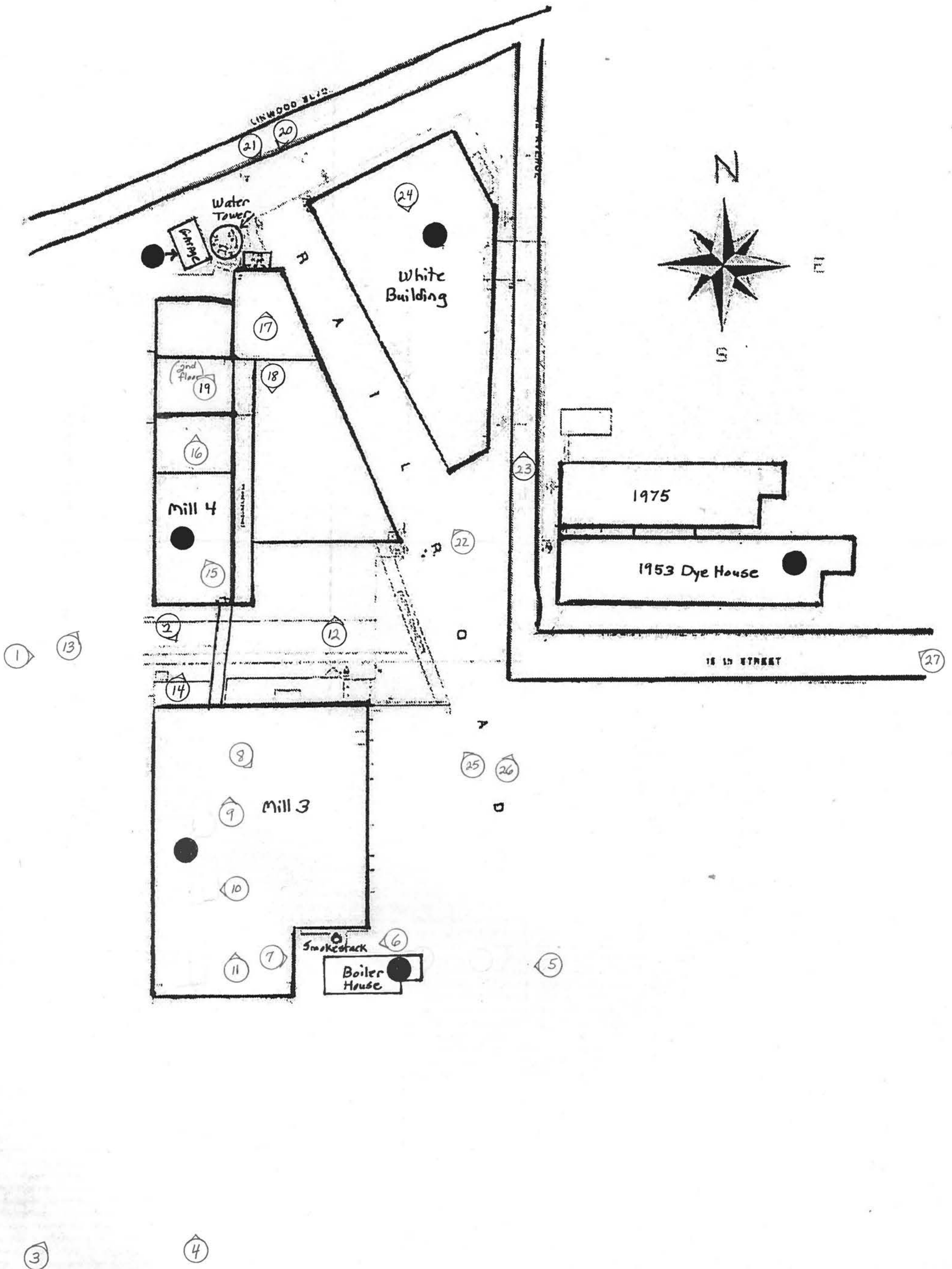
SWIFT MANUFACTURING COMPANY
MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: Not to scale

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: (⊕)

CONTRIBUTING: ●



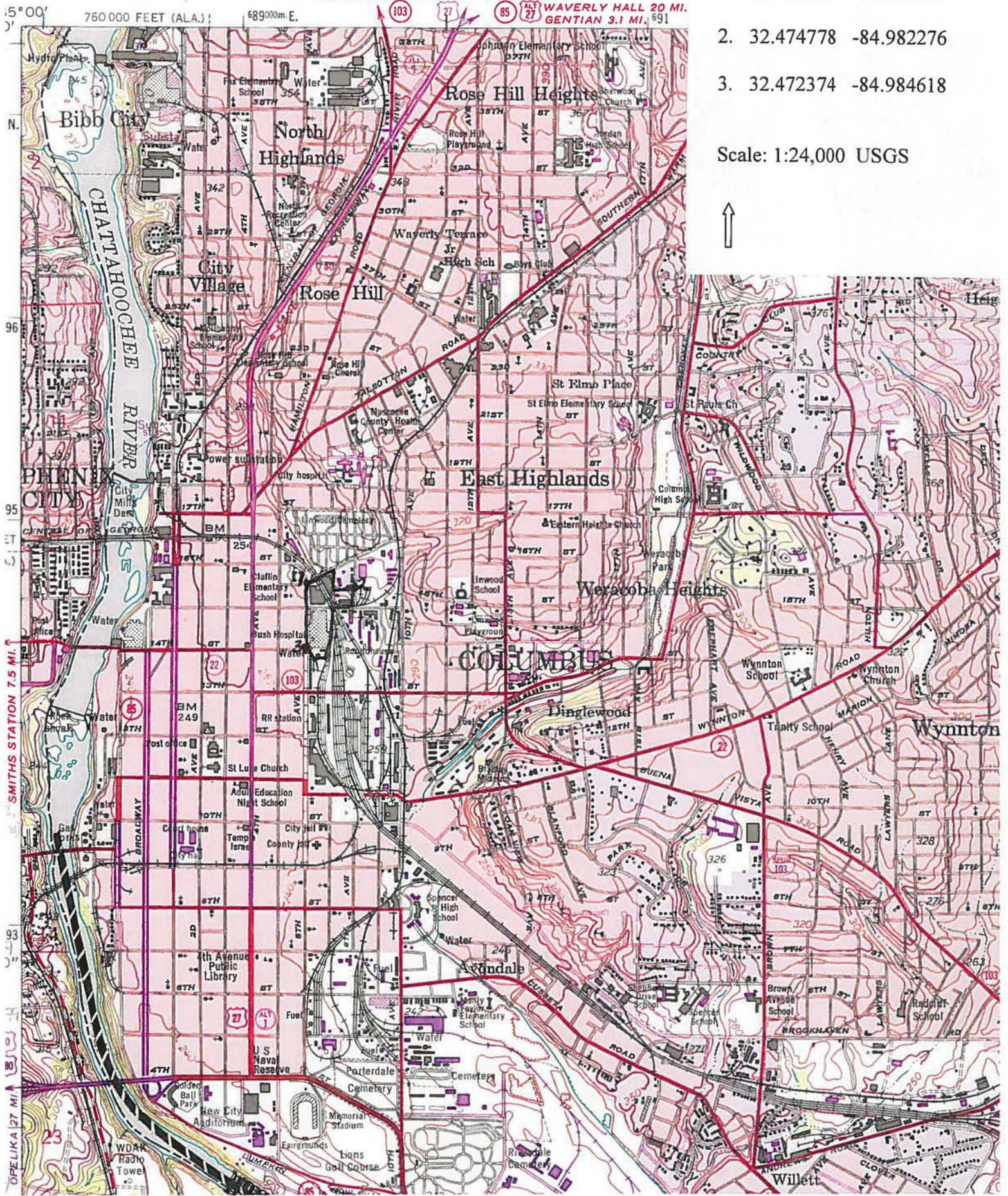
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WEST POINT 37 MI.
MOUNTAIN HILL 18 MI.
HAMILTON 19 MI.
GLENN'S 2.2 MI.
WAVERLY HALL 20 MI.
GENTIAN 3.1 MI.

Swift Manufacturing Company
Columbus
Muscookee County, Georgia

1. 32.475277 -84.984658
2. 32.474778 -84.982276
3. 32.472374 -84.984618

Scale: 1:24,000 USGS





SWIFT MFG. CO.

ROAD
CLOSED

ROAD CLOSED
TO
THRU TRAFFIC

RETOUR
→

SWIFT MFG. CO.





NOTICE TO REZONE
The following property is being re-zoned from
Industrial District (ID) to Industrial District (ID-2).
The property is located at 1000 1st Street, North
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28401. The property
owner is [Name Redacted]. The rezoning is effective
on [Date Redacted].













Yoga









WEIGHT
LIMIT
10 T
14 T
18 T

NOTICE TO REZONE
The following property is proposed for rezoning from its current zoning to the following zoning district. The rezoning is subject to the approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council. The rezoning is effective upon the date of the City Council's final action on the rezoning application. For more information, please contact the Planning and Zoning Commission at (904) 251-1234.

SWIFT MFG. CO.





























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Swift Manufacturing Company

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Muscogee

DATE RECEIVED: 7/25/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/10/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000173

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/10/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Comments made accept -
AOS - architecture & industry
POS 1883 - 1975
local level*

RECOM./CRITERIA *See*
REVIEWER *Wm. Deane* DISCIPLINE *Historic*
TELEPHONE _____ DATE *9/10/14*

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



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

March 10, 2014

J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor
Washington, D.C. 20005



Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Swift Manufacturing Company, Muscogee County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Original USGS topographic map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Lynn Speno
National Register Specialist

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Swift Manufacturing Company

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Muscogee

DATE RECEIVED: 3/12/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/07/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/22/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/28/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000173

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/24/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Rou

REVIEWER W. D. H.

DISCIPLINE H. J.

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 4/24/14

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

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



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Swift Manufacturing Company
Property Location: Muscogee County, GA
Reference Number: 14000173
Date of Return: 5/6/14

Reason for Return

The Swift Manufacturing Company nomination is being returned for substantive and technical corrections.

Section 7. Narrative Description

The narrative describes a railroad and rail spur that once served the mill. Please clarify current ownership of this rail spur and its classification as a contributing resource.

Section 8. Areas of Significance

The ending period of significance of 1975 needs further justification and evaluation under Criterion Consideration G.

Since denim was one of Swift Manufacturing Company's main products, provide some additional contextual details on its industrial significance at the local level during the period of significance. Given the number of textile companies in the area, was Swift's significance exceptional because they adapted quickly to changing textile manufacturing compared to what other local companies were doing? Were there other denim manufactures in the area and Swift--due to technical knowledge and market timing--grew to dominate the industry? Was this Swift's only denim mill? If available, provide some production figures during the period of significance.

Please call me at 202-354-2239, or e-mail at <lisa_deline@nps.gov> if you have any questions.

Lisa Deline, Historian
National Register of Historic Places



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

July 22, 2014

J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor
Washington, D.C. 20005



Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Swift Manufacturing Company, Muscogee County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places. It has been revised from the initial March 2014 submission. Disk with digital images and signature page were submitted previously.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Original USGS topographic map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Lynn Speno
National Register Specialist

Enclosure