MFCFIAFD STOR ON B No. 1024-0018 REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of	Property			
	me CANTON COTTON MI es/site number Canton Te			ok
2. Locatio	n			
street & nu city, town county state	umber 200 Ball Ground Highw Canton Cherokee code GA Georgia code GA		30114	(N/A) vicinity of
(N/A) not fo	or publication			
3. Classifi	cation			
Ownership	of Property:	Ca	itegory of Pro	perty:
(X) private () public- () public- () public-	local state	() () ()	building(s) district site structure object	
Number of	Resources within Property:	Contributing	1	Noncontributing
	buildings sites structures objects	3 0 0		0 0 0 0

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/rederal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic that this nomination meets the documentation standard Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional the procedural the pr	ds for registering properties in the Nationa onal requirements set forth in 36 CFR Pa	al Register of
opinion, the property meets the National Register criter	na. () See continuation sneet.	
RICQUIA COCCO	2.14.02	
Signature of certifying official	Date	
W. Ray Luce Historic Preservation Division Director Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer		
In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register of	criteria. () See continuation sheet.	
Signature of commenting or other official	Date	
State or Federal agency or bureau		
5. National Park Service Certification		
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	CO NA M	.)
(v) entered in the National Register	Colson M. Dlall	9.2.07
() determined eligible for the National Register		
() determined not eligible for the National Register		
() removed from the National Register		
() other, explain:		
() see continuation sheet	Keeper of the National Register	Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: early 20th century industrial building

Materials:

foundation BRICK

walls

BRICK

roof

ASPHALT

other

N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Canton Cotton Mill #2 is located northeast of the downtown Canton, the county seat of Cherokee County, and is bordered by Georgia Highway 5 on the north and the Etowah River on the south.

Built in 1923, Canton Cotton Mill #2 is comprised of a three-story, brick main manufacturing building; an attached, one-story, brick dye house; and a one-story, brick warehouse building comprised of eight warehouse spaces. The mill was designed and built by C.E. Blank, an architect and builder for Dressler Industries headquartered in New England.

The original main mill building is 34 bays long and 10 bays wide (photographs 1 and 2). The main building is of heavy-timber construction with load-bearing brick walls. Three towers are attached on the south façade and two on the west façade. The fenestration consists of one segmental-arched rectangular window in each bay on each floor. The interior of the building historically featured an open plan with wood columns and beams and maple floors; currently it is subdivided into loft apartments.

On the west end, an L-shaped one-story dye house is attached to the building, creating an alley behind the main building (photographs 3 and 4). The attached, brick dye house features heavy-timber construction with a historically open plan now subdivided into loft apartments.

A one-story, brick warehouse building is located behind the main building, running the length of the alley (photograph 5). This layout allowed for short distances between production areas and warehouses (photographs 7, left, and 8). The eight warehouse spaces are wood construction with

Section 7--Description

concrete floors, brick end walls, and an open plan. A concrete loading dock runs along the south side of warehouses #2, 3, and 4. The second floor of warehouse #5 features arched multi-light metal windows.

In 1930, a two-story, 16-bay wing was added to the east end of the main building (photograph 6). By 1947, an additional warehouse space was built, two warehouses were enlarged, and the alley was covered to create a machine shop. Three additional warehouses were also built but are no longer extant.

The next major expansion occurred between 1947 and 1951. A three-story, nine-bay-long addition was added on the west end of the main building. The two-story addition features steel columns and beams with a portion of the first floor having concrete mushroom column construction (photograph 11). Also during this building campaign, two floors and a one-story addition were added to portions of the dye house and a second floor was added to warehouse #5. A bridge connecting the second floor of the main building to warehouse #5 was constructed.

During the certified rehabilitation, the mill buildings were converted into loft apartments (photographs 10, 14, 16, and 17). The mill village historically associated with Canton Cotton Mill #2 is physically separated from the mill by the four-lane Georgia Highway 5 and nonhistoric commercial development and thus is not included in the nomination.

8. Statem	nent of Signi	ificance					
Certifying properties		considered	the significa	nce of this p	roperty in rel	ation to other	
() nation	ally ()	statewide	(X) local	ly			
Applicabl	e National R	Register Crite	ria:				
(X) A	() B	(X) C	() D				
Criteria C	onsideratio	ns (Exceptior	ns): (X) N/A				
() A	() B	() C	() D	() E	() F	() G	
Areas of S	Significance	(enter catego	ories from in	structions):			
ARCHITE(
Period of	Significance	e:					
1923-1952	2						
Significan	nt Dates:						
1923—cor	nstruction of t	the mill					
Significan	nt Person(s):	:					
N/A							
Cultural A	ffiliation:						
N/A							
Architect(s)/Builder(s)) :					
Blank, C.E	. –architect a	and builder					

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Canton Cotton Mill #2 is located north of downtown Canton on a 36-acre piece of land situated between two major transportation routes—the Etowah River and Georgia Highway 5.

Built in late 1923 through the summer of 1924, Canton Cotton Mill #2 is significant in the area of <u>architecture</u> as a good example of an early 20th-century textile mill. C.E. Blank, a New England-based architect and builder for Dressler Industries, designed the mill. The main mill building is typical of large textile mills during the early 20th century with its long rectangular shape, multiple stories, and fenestration consisting of one multi-pane window in each bay on each floor. The main mill building and dye house retain their brick and heavy-timber construction, fenestration, and industrial features. The warehouses retain their brick-and-wood construction and concrete floors. Originally, all the buildings featured an open floor plan with heavy-timber construction. During the certified rehabilitation, the mill buildings were converted to loft apartments.

The mill is significant in the area of industry for its role in the development of Canton and the importance of the textile mill in the city's economy. During its peak, Canton Cotton Mill provided employment for one-third of the population in the area. In 1899, the charter for Canton Cotton Mill was granted. The primary investor in the company was Robert Tyre Jones (1849-1937), who contributed \$25,000 of the \$75,000 needed to start construction. Robert Jones was the owner of the Jones Mercantile Company, one of the largest mercantile companies in the area during the late 19th century. Canton Cotton Mill #1 was constructed in 1900 along the railroad near the Etowah River on the southwest side of Canton. Robert Jones oversaw the mill operations and led the initiative to switch production from cotton sheeting to the more-profitable denim material. The mill became well known in the industry, and with government contracts during World War I and increased efficiency, the company decided to build a second plant. Mill #2 was located northeast of Canton, outside of the city limits, along Georgia Highway 5. Construction for mill #2 began in late 1923 and finished in the summer of 1924. Operations at mill #2 began shortly thereafter with 750 looms and 23.000 spindles. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the mill produced fine denim cloth known for its quality and durability. During the 1940s, the mill produced low-grade cotton tent twill for the government. Between 1947 and 1951, an addition to mill #2 allowed to company to double its manufacturing capacity. In 1963, the company implemented a massive reorganization and modernization effort that included new automated equipment, the production of blended synthetic fibers, and the name changing to Canton Textile Mills. During the late 1960s and 1970s, production at the mill declined with the demand for cotton fabrics at a low, due to the growing dominance of polyester fabric. The mill remained an important manufacturer of cotton fabrics until its closing in 1981.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

Canton Cotton Mills #2 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A for the significant role it played as an important industry in Canton's development and economy by providing employment. The mill is eligible for the National Register under National Register Criterion C as a good and intact example of an early 20th-century textile mill.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance corresponds to the construction date of Canton Cotton Mills #2 in 1923 and ends with 1952, the end of the historic period. This date also corresponds closely with the end of the final major building campaign at the mill. Canton Cotton Mills #2 continued to produce textiles until its closing in 1981.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The three contributing buildings are the main mill building, the attached dye house, and the warehouse building. There are no other buildings or structures on the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The following historical narrative was prepared by Lynn Speno, Ray and Associates, Atlanta, Georgia. "Canton Cotton Mills #2," draft <u>National Register of Historic Places Form</u>, September 14, 1998. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Brief County History

Canton Cotton Mills #2 is located on Ball Ground Highway/Georgia Highway 5, northeast of downtown Canton in Cherokee County, Georgia. The main mill building was built in 1923 as part of a corporate expansion effort undertaken by the mill owners, who also owned and operated an older mill in Canton.

Cherokee County was created in 1831 and the town of Etowah (later renamed Canton in 1838) became the county seat in 1833. Possibly due to early silk manufacturing interests in the area, the name was changed in 1838 to Canton after the city in China.¹ It was not until the land lotteries in the

¹ Rev. Lloyd G. Marlin, <u>The History of Cherokee County</u> (Atlanta: Walter W. Brown, 1932), 33.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

early 19th century that white settlers began to make this area their home. Even then, Canton was nothing more than a crossroads town due to the difficulties of transportation. The first land lottery in Cherokee was the Gold Lottery of 1832; the second, the Cherokee Land Lottery, followed the removal of the Cherokee Native American tribe from Georgia and North Carolina during the "Trail of Tears" removal program in 1838.

One of the settlers who would make Cherokee County his home and help change its course was Robert Tyre Jones, a native of Newton County, Georgia (see attachment 1). Jones was born on October 27, 1849 to a farming family. In 1870, after minimal schooling, he took a business course at the age of 21, and obtained a bookkeeping position with a firm in Covington, Georgia. Shortly after he married, he took the advice of his new wife's uncle, Robert F. Maddox, Sr., who was president of a railroad that was being built from Marietta in nearby Cobb County to Blue Ridge in northern Fannin County, and traveled from Marietta to Canton to investigate the possibility of opening a business there. In 1878, Canton was a small settlement with a courthouse, post office, and several stores. About one year later, Jones moved his family to Canton and opened a mercantile store, the Jones Mercantile Company.²

Prior to 1879, Canton had no easy mode of contact or travel with the world beyond it. With the arrival of the Marietta & North Georgia Railroad in 1879, a new era for growth began.³ Also during this time, Benjamin Franklin Perry began a weekly newspaper called the <u>Cherokee Advance</u>, which advocated growth and progress for the community.⁴

Jones Mercantile Company

The town of Canton and the mercantile grew hand-in-hand until Jones Mercantile was the largest operation of its kind in northwest Georgia. In 1885, a newspaper article state that "R.T. Jones now has one of the best-arranged stores and the most complete display system in town. His corps of clerks is lively and polite." Many of his transactions with the local farmers consisted of swapping merchandise for raw cotton. It was also during the five years from 1879 to 1884 that a number of other enterprises began in Canton including 13 stores, four warehouses, two steam gins, three flour/grist mills, one millinery shop, two drug stores, and one printing office. Also during this time a depot, jail, church, schoolhouse, livery stable, sawmill, furniture shop, and harness/shoe shop were built. 6

As the town grew with new businesses and a corresponding increase in population, two services remained absent. One was a bank, the other a large industry. R. T. Jones stored his customers'

² Robert Paul Turbeville, ed., <u>Eminent Georgians</u> vol. 1 (Atlanta: Southern Society for Research and History, 1937), 76.

³ Marlin, 111.

⁴ lbid., 112.

⁵ Ibid., 112.

⁶ Ibid., 113.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

surplus funds in his safe at the mercantile until 1893 when the Bank of Canton opened its doors with Jones as one of the investors and officers.⁷

By 1930, the Jones Mercantile Company had numerous affiliated businesses including Canton Wholesale Company, Etowah Manufacturing Company, Cherokee Farm Products Corporation, Cherokee Planing & Lumber Company, and the Hotel Canton.

Canton Cotton Mill #1

With the railroad line completed to Canton and beyond and the nearby Etowah River as a water source, it may have been inevitable that the idea for a cotton mill would surface. Additionally, others had proved that southern cotton mills could operate successfully during the New South era. Because of the respect for Jones' business skills and judgment, once the idea for a mill was broached, the charter was granted on December 2, 1899. More than 90 percent of the original stockholders were Cherokee County natives. Jones was the largest investor, contributing \$25,000 of the \$75,000 needed to start the building. By September 1899, the money was raised, and the principal investors toured nearby mills to study their operation and layout. When the committee met again, Jones was elected president of the board of directors.

By January 1900, a site on the railroad was selected with the help of civil engineers from Whitin Machine Company. By spring, construction began on the first Canton Cotton Mill (Mill #1 is located on the southwest side of downtown Canton and is not included in the nomination), which was constructed of local brick, and the mill housing.

Much of the raw cotton used in the mill was obtained directly from growers, typically a small farmer in north Georgia. It was through direct associations such as the one with Mr. E.E. Bishop, a cotton farmer, that many of the mill deals were made. As "Mr. R.T." [Jones] came to know the people and the countryside in his early days traveling throughout the area in his horse and buggy, he made lasting friendships, which later resulted in good business contacts. 11

By March 1901, the machines were at work. During that first year, producing cotton sheeting exclusively, the mill lost \$10,000 and many of the stockholders became restless. Jones offered to buy their stock, and also began to oversee mill operations. He persuaded the board to switch to denim production, which soon proved more profitable. By 1903, the mill became profitable and capacity increased. During the latter part of the 1910s, the mill became well known in the industry. Government contracts during World War I and increased efficiency resulted in smooth operations.

⁷ lbid., 119.

⁸ Canton Cotton Mills Inc., <u>The Story of a Man, a Town, and a Mill</u> (Canton, GA: 1949), 12.

[&]quot; Ibid., 13.

¹⁰ Matthew R. Puckett, "Home Spun," unpublished paper, (1997), 4

¹¹ Canton Cotton Mills, Inc., 51.

¹² Puckett, 5.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Canton Cotton Mills #2

In 1923, despite a recession, plans were underway for a second plant (the subject of this National Register nomination) just north of the city limits adjacent to Georgia Highway 5 near the Etowah River (see attachment 2 for location of mills #1 and #2). Construction began in late 1923 and finished in the summer of 1924. Operations at mill #2 began shortly thereafter with 750 looms and 23,000 spindles.¹³

Housing for the mill workers for mill #2 was constructed simultaneously and additional housing was added as late as 1949. (The mill village is located across Georgia Highway 5 from the mill and is not included in the nomination due to modern commercial development and the widening of Georgia Highway 5.) Streets were paved and tree-lined and housing was in high demand. Approximately 150 houses were finished or under construction by June 1924. The housing was similar to mill villages found throughout the South. The mill also built a school and a church for the village. The school was run by the public school system with pay for the teachers subsidized by the mill. The company had its own water filtration plant for mill #2 and its village. Because mill #2 and the village were outside the city limits, the plant also had its own fire department and constable. By the late 1920s, the mill operated on two or three shifts, seven days a week. The mill was a great asset to the economy of the area, and it was not uncommon to find three generations of a family working at the mill.

The founder's son, Louis L. Jones, worked in the Canton Cotton Mill #1after he graduated from college in 1909 and took over most of the operations of the company from 1920 until 1954, whereupon he became chairman of the board. Following in the family tradition, his son, Louis L. Jones, Jr., served as president from 1954 until the closing of the mill in 1981.

In 1929, the company moved its offices from a small house across from mill #1 to a new brick building in downtown Canton. When the Depression hit later that year, Canton Cotton Mills was hit hard as were all other mills but did not lay off its employees. R.T. Jones believed in taking care of his people, and consequently, the mill warehoused the production it could not sell rather than lay off employees. Since the mill provided employment for about one-third of the population of the area, keeping its workers employed was no small thing.¹⁵

Weathering the Depression and foreign competition in the 1930s as well as the death of Robert Tyre Jones in 1937, the mill continued to produce fine denim cloth known throughout the world for its quality and durability. Canton Cotton Mills was one of the first textile plants to install a machine to "Sanforize" denim in 1935.¹⁶

¹³ Canton Cotton Mills, Inc., 59.

¹⁴ Cherokee Advance, June 27, 1924.

Puckett, 9.

¹⁶ Canton Cotton Mills, Inc., 59.

NPS Form 10-900-a United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

During the 1940s, a labor shortage due to World War II resulted in a decrease in productivity. However, government contracts to produce low-grade cotton tent twill were met despite the wear and tear on the machinery due to the rough cotton required. The mill celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1949 and produced a commemorative book, <u>The Story of a Man, a Town, and a Mill.</u> With an addition to mill #2 completed by 1950, manufacturing capacity was almost doubled. (See attachments 3 through 6 for the 1947 Sanborn map and 1940s photographs of the mill).

A massive reorganization and modernization was implemented in 1963 including new automated equipment and expansion of operations to include production of blended synthetic fibers. The name was changed to Canton Textile Mills. It was during this time of changes, which were initiated to make the mill competitive with the foreign market, that employees voted to unionize, similar to mills across the South. A strike in November 1963 forced the closing of the mill; settlement in January of 1964 led to its reopening.¹⁸

With the demand for cotton fabrics at a low in the late 1960s and 1970s due to the growing dominance of polyester fabric, output at the mill declined. In 1969, the manufacturing operations at mill #1 closed, leaving only warehousing and dyeing processes there. In an effort to diversify its product line, Canton Textile Mill purchased two plants in Alabama in the early 1970s despite the national recession at that time. Also during the 1970s, the company helped develop the first automatic carding equipment in the world. Finally in 1981 during another economic downturn, the mill closed.

¹⁸ Puckett, 15.

¹⁷ Cherokee County Historical Society, Glimpses of Cherokee County, unpublished, 1981, 64.

9.	Major	Biblio	graphic	References
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Canton Cotton Mills, Inc. The Story of a Man, a Town, and a Mill. Canton, GA: Canton Cotton Mills, Inc., 1949.

Canton (Georgia) Cherokee Advance, November 16, 1923 and June 27, 1924.

Cherokee County Historical Society. Glimpses of Cherokee County. Unpublished manuscript, 1981.

Holbrooks, J.T. Interview by Lynn Speno.

Martin, Rev. Lloyd G. The History of Cherokee County. Atlanta: Walter W. Brown, 1932.

Speno, Lynn. "Canton Cotton Mills #2" draft <u>National Register of Historic Places Form</u>, September, 14, 1998. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- (X) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued date issued: April 6, 2001
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- (X) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # "HAER Inventory Card, prepared by James L. Brittain, 1975."

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

Approximately 36 acres.

UTM References

A)	Zone 16	Easting 731802	Northing 3791998
B)	Zone 16	Easting 731901	Northing 3791839
C)	Zone 16	Easting 731508	Northing 3791455
D)	Zone 16	Easting 731430	Northing 3791901

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for Canton Cotton Mills #2 is the current legal boundary and the remaining acreage historically associated with the mill. The boundary is indicated on the attached plat map with a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary includes the remaining acreage historically associated with the mill.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen B. Kinnard/National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 date February 12, 2002
e-mail gretchen kinnard@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Lynn Speno/Consultant organization Ray and Associates mailing address 328 7th Street city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30308 telephone (404) 607-7703 e-mail N/A

()	property owner
(X)	consultant
()	regional development center preservation planner
()	other:

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Louis E. Brown organization (if applicable) Canton Mill, LLC mailing address 170 Boulevard SE, P.O. Box 89170 city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30312 e-mail (optional) N/A

Photographs

Name of Property:

Canton Cotton Mills #2

City or Vicinity:

Canton Cherokee

County: State:

Georgia

Photographer:

James R. Lockhart

Negative Filed:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Date Photographed:

August 2001

Description of Photograph(s):

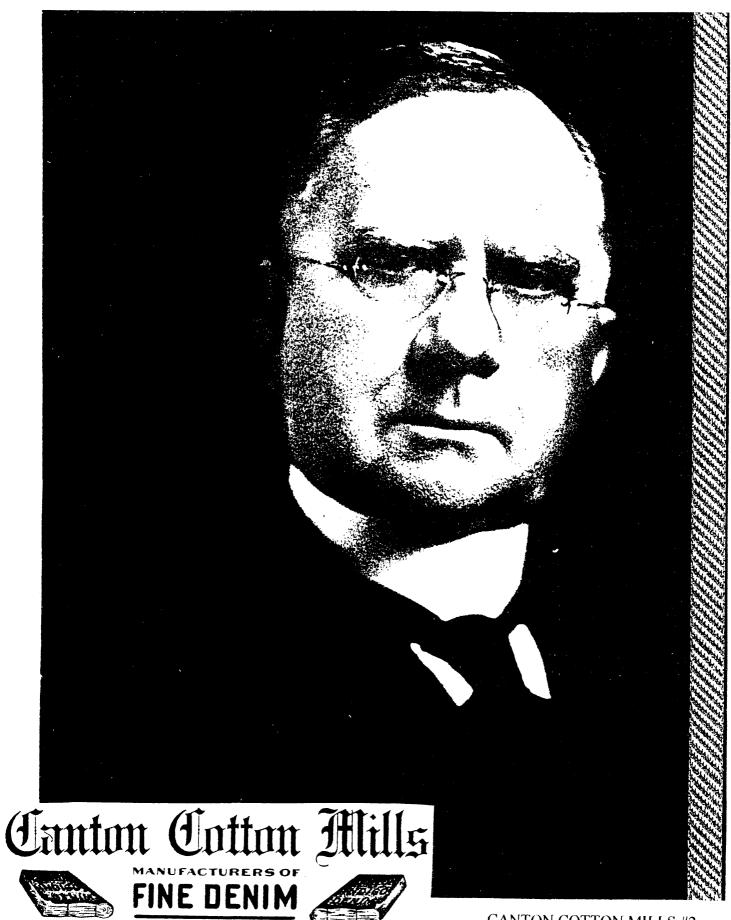
Number of photographs: 18

- 1. View of front (north) façade of main mill building; photographer facing southeast.
- 2. View of rear (south) facade of main building: photographer facing northeast.
- 3. View of dye house; photographer facing north.
- 4. View of dye house and rear (south) façade of main building; photographer facing north.
- 5. View of rear of mill complex; photographer facing northwest.
- 6. View of east façade of main mill building; photographer facing west.
- 7. View of warehouses and main mill building; photographer facing west.
- 8. View of cotton warehouses; photographer facing northwest.
- 9. View of east façade of cotton warehouses; photographer facing west.
- 10. Interior, representative view of loft in main building; photographer facing northeast.
- 11. Interior, corridor in main building; photographer facing west.
- 12. Interior, stairway in main building; photographer facing southeast.
- 13. Interior, door to stairway in main building; photographer facing northeast.
- 14. Interior, representative view of interior of loft apartment in the cotton warehouse building; photographer facing northwest.

Photographs

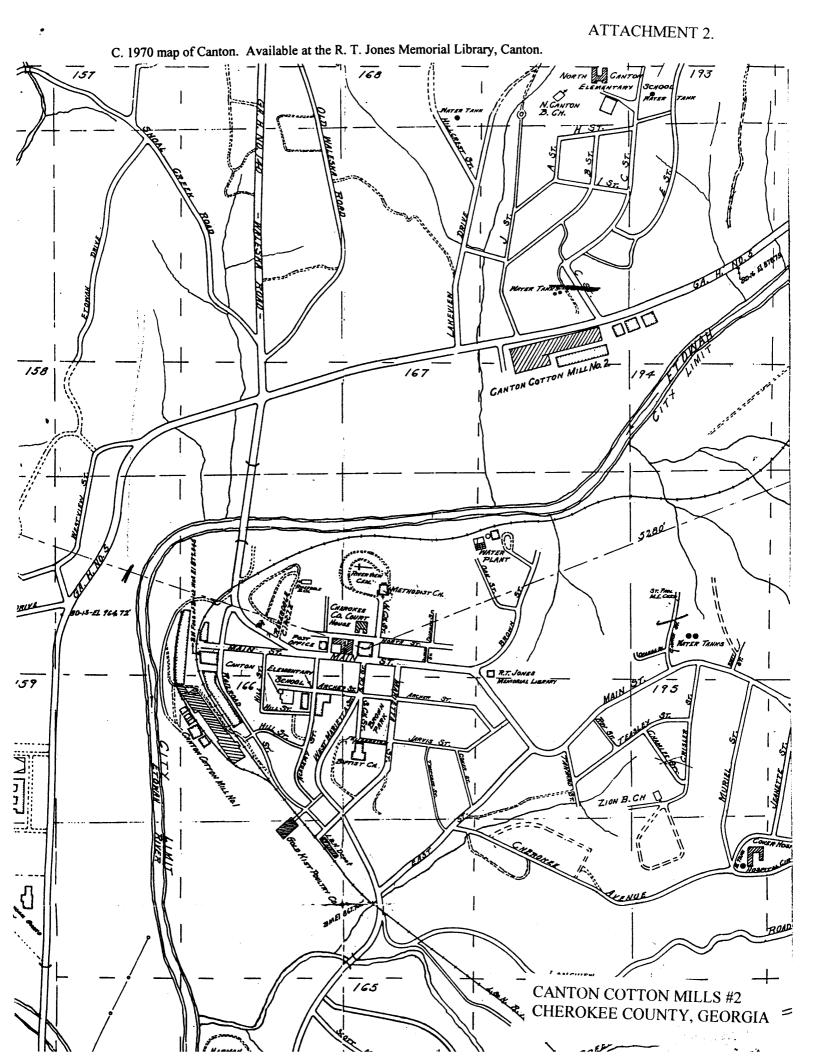
- 15. Interior, representative of atrium space in main building; photographer facing north.
- 16. Interior, representative view of loft space in main building; photographer facing north.
- 17. Second floor, main building, open hallway; photographer facing northwest.
- 18. Second floor, main building, view of corridor; photographer facing west.

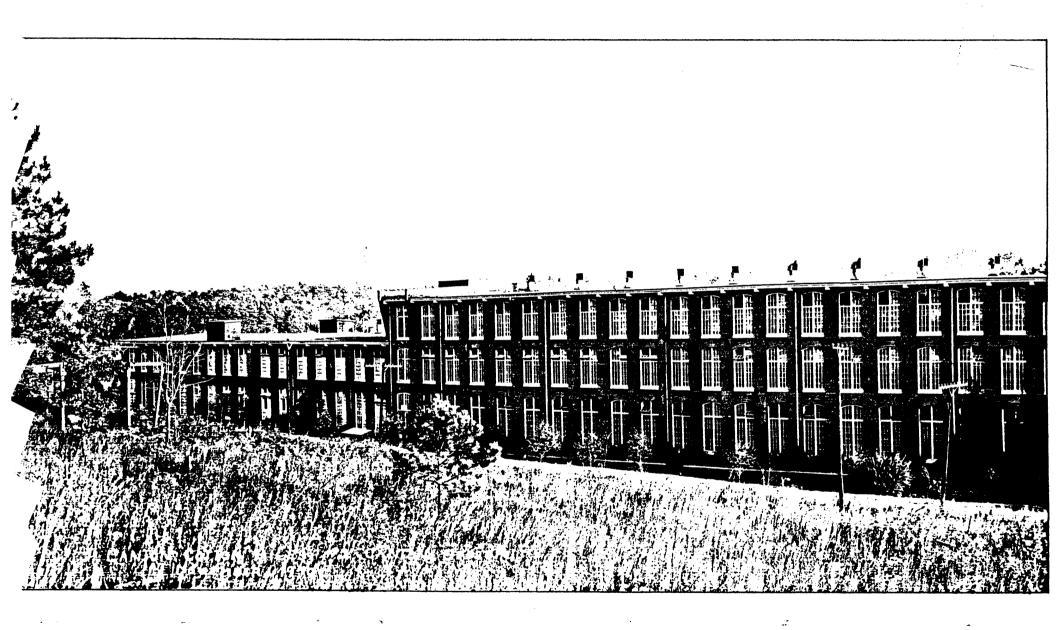
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



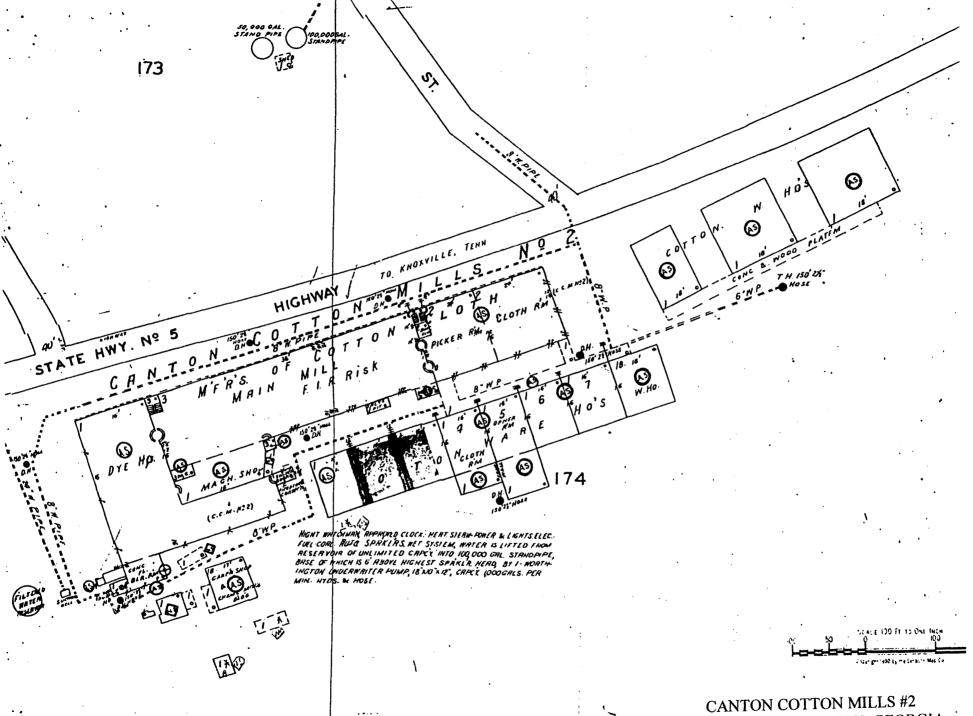
CANTON, GA.

CANTON COTTON MILLS #2 CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA



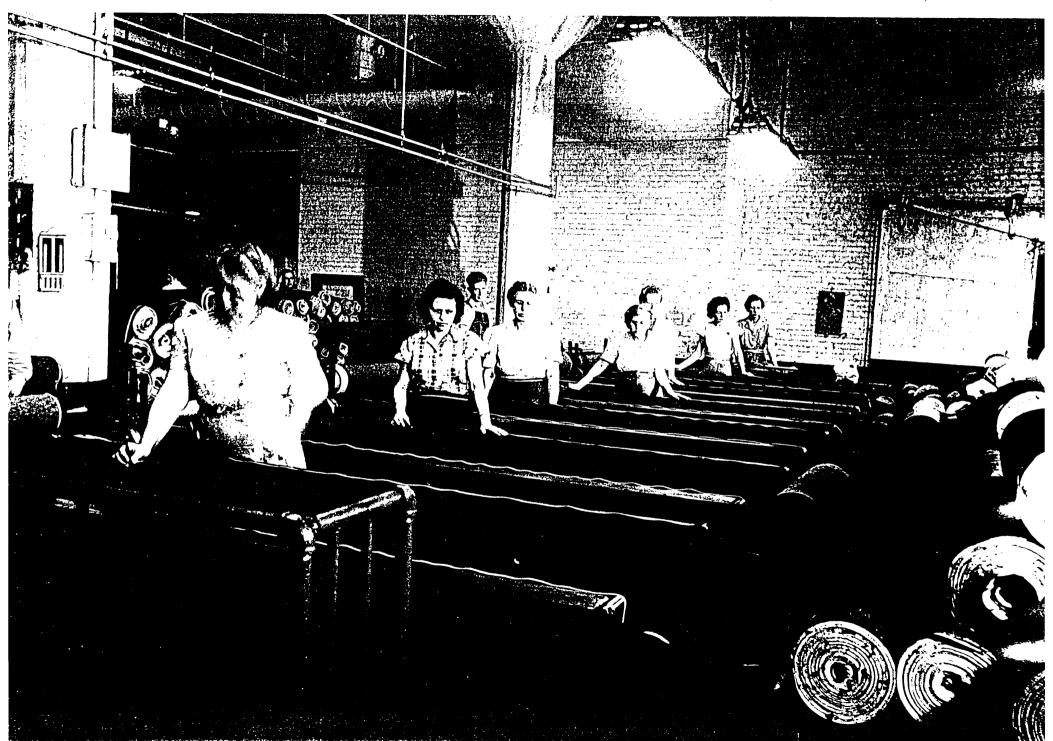


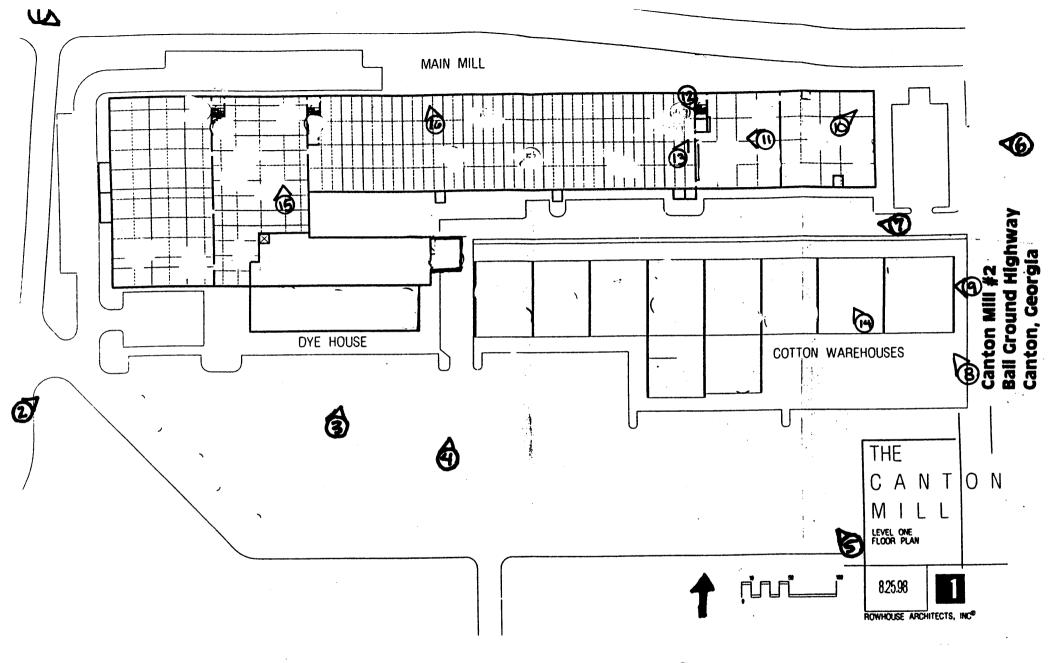
CANTON COTTON MILLS #2 CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA



CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA



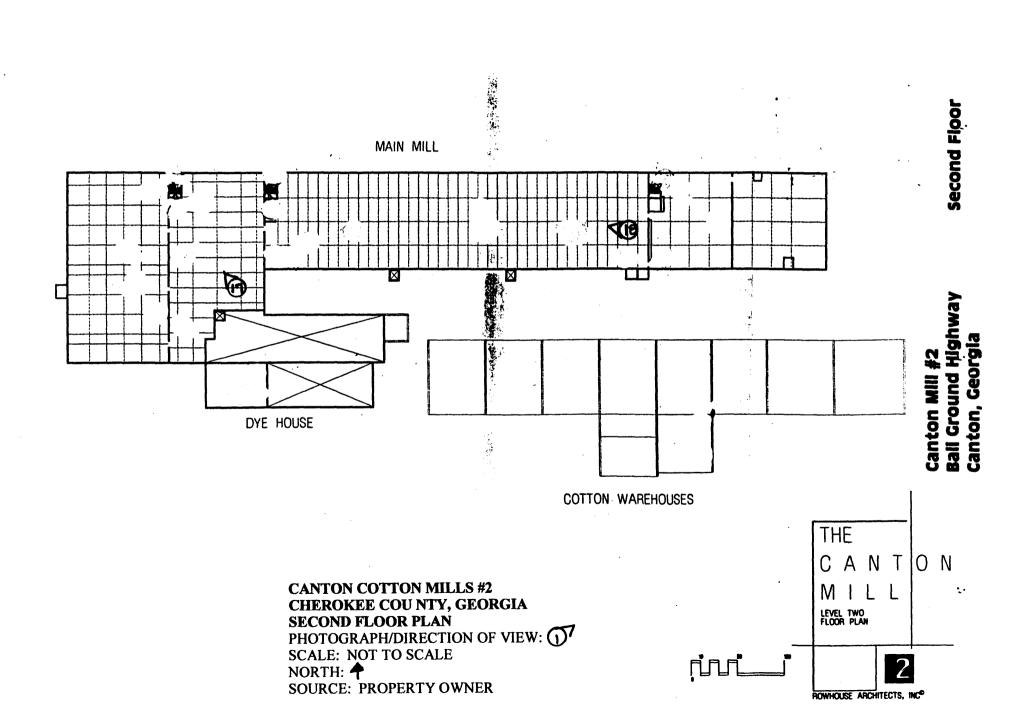


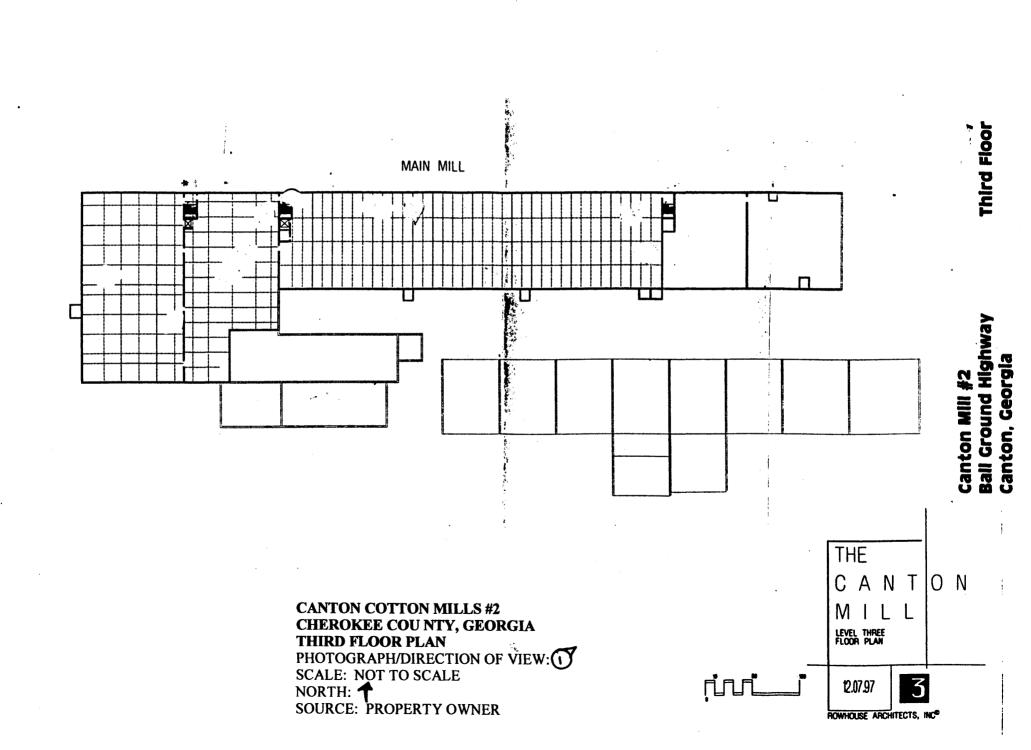


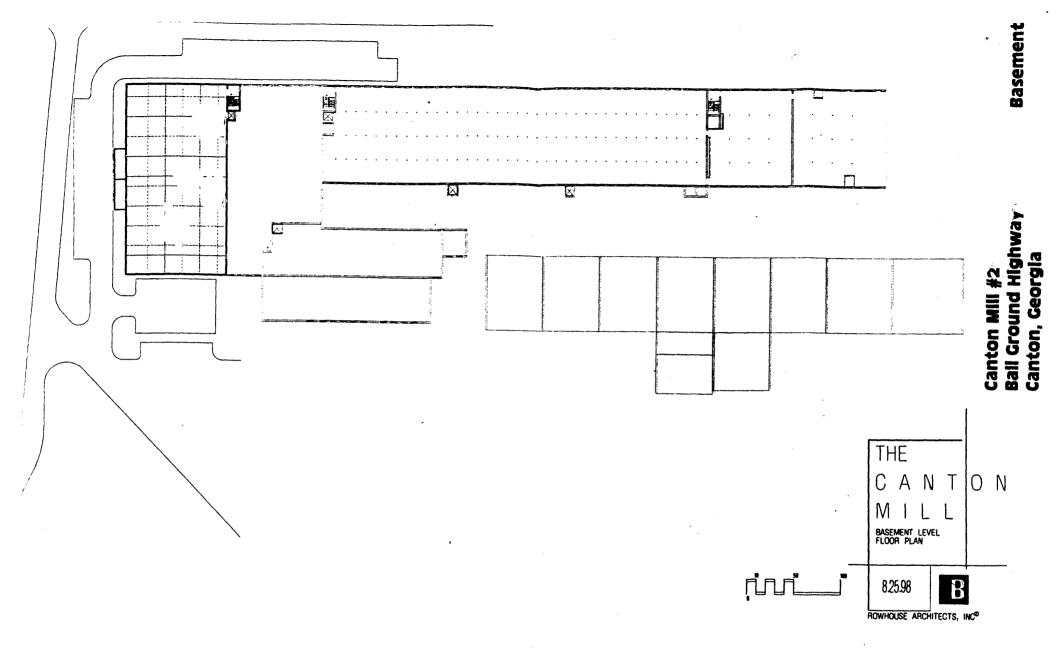
CANTON COTTON MILLS #2
CHEROKEE COU NTY, GEORGIA
SITE PLAN AND FIRST FLOOR PLAN
PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW:
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH:

SOURCE: PROPERTY OWNER







CANTON COTTON MILLS #2 CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW:
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
NORTH:
SOURCE: PROPERTY OWNER