

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Utah</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.4.49.0008</b>	DATE <b>4/16/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Washington Cotton Factory**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Washington Cotton Factory**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**On Highway 91 - Frontage Road west**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE: <b>Utah</b>	CODE: <b>49</b>	COUNTY: <b>Washington</b>	CODE: <b>053</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<b>None</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**William Adler**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c/o Fratef, Faye, Floyd and Pearson  
12th floor Concord Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Miami**

STATE:  
**Florida**

CODE:  
**09**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Washington County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**197 East Tabernacle**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**St. George**

STATE:  
**Utah**

CODE:  
**49**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Utah Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Utah Historical Society**

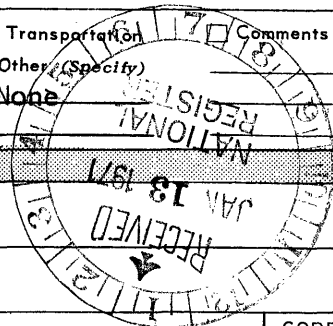
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**603 East South Temple**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Salt Lake City**

STATE:  
**Utah**

CODE:  
**49**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Utah**

COUNTY: **Washington**

ENTRY NUMBER: **71.4.49.0008**

DATE: **4/16/71**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On a site originally selected for a mill by James Richy and Benjamin F. Pendleton, Brigham Young and the Dixie settlers constructed their cotton factory.

The large sandstone structure was begun in 1865, with Appleton Harmon assigned as superintendent of construction, Elijah and Elisha Averett, stone masons, and John P. Chidester, chief carpenter. August Mackelsprang and Hyrum Walker supplied lumber from Cedar Mountain. One story was completed and machinery in operation by January 1867. Later, because of expanded demand, including processing of woolen goods, two additional stories were added. By 1870 the enlarged factory was in use.

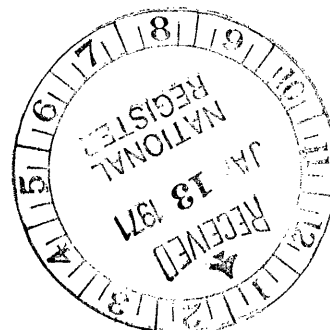
Located on Mill Creek, west of Washington, central to the cotton producing region, the factory used the water from springs feeding the stream, which was stored in a reservoir west of the mill. Fourteen hours of storage plus the stream flow, would operate the factory for ten hours. At peak production, the factory was capable of producing 500 yards of cloth per day and employed scores of local people. Their production included cotton batts, mattresses, quilts, blankets, jeans, denims, broadcloth, flannels and gingham. Problems plagued the factory--a supply of cotton and wool, a balanced operation, and lack of a market.

The factory has been empty for years. Fortunately, the roof has been in generally good repair until the last few years. The structure is sound, modified very little and in need of a new roof. It awaits preservation interest, which is now appearing. Its restoration is vitally important to telling this facet of Utah and Mormon history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

The old cotton factory became the heart of the Cotton Mission. It remains its symbol today. In trying to meet the Saints' needs for cotton goods under extreme conditions, the L.D.S. Church leaders employed both the "mission call" and the "United Order." Success was limited. After the Civil War and the coming of the transcontinental railroad, competition from the American "Dixie" increased. The factory's survival until the turn of the century owes much to the dedication of the cotton missionaries.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1865-1870

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric            | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Basic to an understanding of early Utah history is an awareness of the Mormon hope for economic independence and the "mission call." With early explorations into Utah's southwest, which discovered the mild climate of the valleys of the Virgin River, a major tributary to the Colorado River, the agricultural implications became obvious.

By 1854 an Indian Mission had been established on the Santa Clara River. With cotton seed obtained from Nancy Anderson at Parowan, Angus Hardy, Jacob Hamblin and others planted and grew cotton successfully. Colonists moved south to grow cotton between 1856 and 1860. An experimental farm was established at Tonaquint (near Bloomington) in 1858. Washington was settled by "Southerners" led by Bishop Robert D. Covington a year earlier. However, although several thousand pounds were grown during these experimental years, not until the fall of 1861 did Brigham Young call 300 families to the Cotton Mission. The Civil War opened this second phase.

With the erratic Virgin River to supply water for irrigation, the settlers suffered extremely. Floods destroyed dams, leaving no water for partially grown crops. No cotton meant no trade, even for foodstuffs. By 1864 about 74,000 pounds of lint had been sent east to markets. As Young wanted economic independence, he located a factory in "Dixie" to support and encourage the missionaries. Joseph Birch managed this mill. Brigham sold his factory after five years (1870) to the Rio Virgin Manufacturing Company for \$44,000; however, most of this debt was cancelled, since the factory was having such a difficult time.

During this second period, the "Saints" were organized into the "United Order," a communal economic system. "Orders" from Brigham City on the north and Orderville on the east, sent people to Dixie to grow and process their cotton. Only with the boom of Silver Reef did any real economic relief come to the cotton missionaries, and then mainly to those who grew produce for market at the mines. This diversion, however, slighted the factory's needs for raw cotton. By 1877, new farms were opened on the lower Virgin River at Bunkerville and Mesquite, Nevada. The St. Thomas area was resettled in the 1880's and also raised cotton for the factory. Its impact was widespread. Its product and script were used extensively.

Finally, in 1890, Thomas Judd, an important southern Utah merchant, leased the factory and operated it profitably for a few years. By 1898, it was again idle. A few brief attempts at reactivation followed until 1910, when some machinery was sold. In 1914, the rest was scrapped. Since that time, the old mill has served primarily as a warehouse and a haunted house for Halloween dances.

(continued on preceding page)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Albert W. Miller. The Immortal Pioneers: Founders of St. George, Utah. (St. George: Privately published, 1946), pp. 148-155.
- Hazel Bradshaw, ed. Under Dixie Sun. (Panguitch, Utah: Garfield County News, 1950), pp. 61-76.
- A. Karl Larson. I Was Called to Dixie. . . . (Salt Lake City: the Deseret News Press, 1961), pp. 101-234.
- A. Karl Larson. Red Hills of November. (Salt Lake City, the Deseret News Press, 1957), pp. 11-35, 182-223.

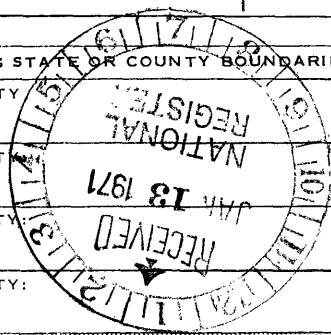
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37°	07'	45"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		113°	30'	53"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO  
UTM  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Melvin T. Smith

ORGANIZATION: Utah Historical Society DATE: December 2, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Milton L. Weilenmann  
 Title: Utah State Liaison Officer  
 Date: December 3, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

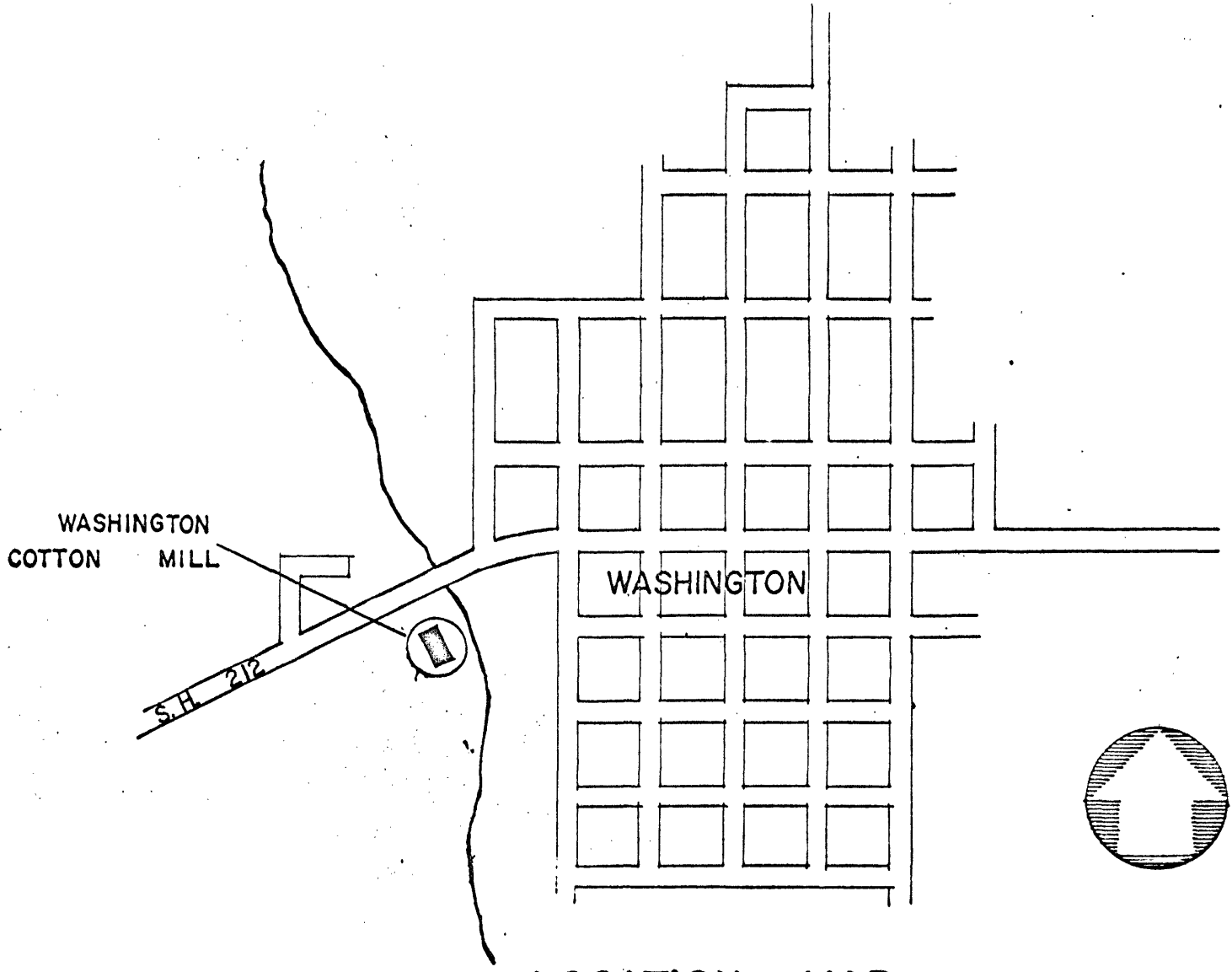
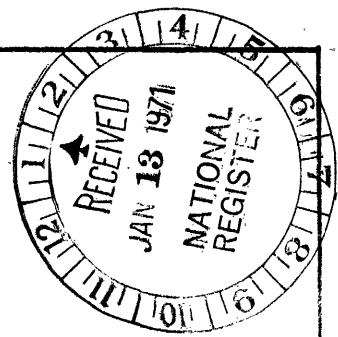
Ernest A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

APR 16 1971

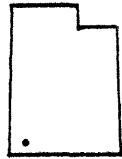
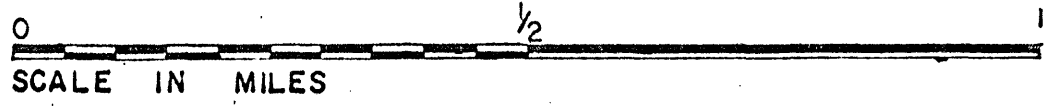
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William J. Stouffer  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAR 17 1971



LOCATION MAP

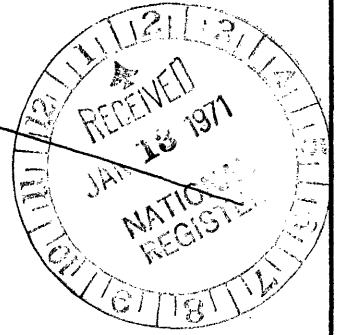


WASHINGTON COTTON FACTORY

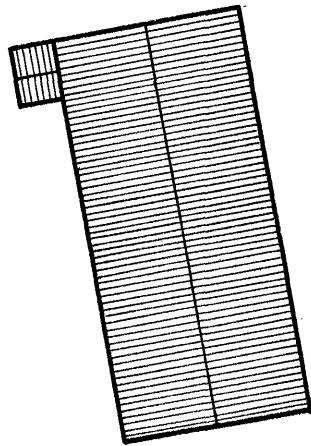
WASHINGTON, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 7' - 45"  
LONGITUDE: 113° - 30' - 53"

DATE: DEC 1970

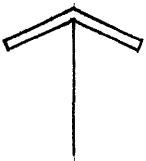


HIGHWAY 212



MILL CREEK

PROPERTY LINE



WASHINGTON COTTON FACTORY

WASHINGTON, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 7' - 45"  
LONGITUDE : 113° - 30' - 53"

DATE : DEC 1970  
SCALE : 1" = 50'