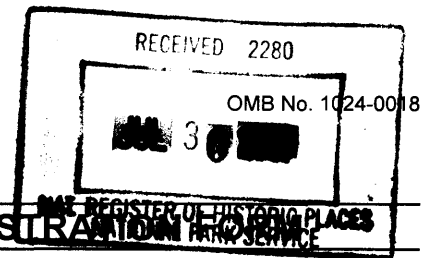


912



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

historic name Whittier Mills Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly located at the intersection of Bolton Road and Parrot Avenue approximately seven miles northwest of the central business district of Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia.

city, town Atlanta () vicinity of
county Fulton **code** GA 121
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code**

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	98	16
sites	1	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	100	16

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Corde Siggitt for Ray Luce
Signature of certifying official

7-23-01
Date

W. Ray Luce, Director, Historic Preservation Division and
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register 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:

- Entered in the National Register **Entered in the National Register** 9.13.01
- 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:

DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING/MULTIPLE DWELLING
SOCIAL/CIVIC
INDUSTRY/MANUFACTURING FACILITY/MILL
HEALTH CARE/CLINIC

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/COLONIAL REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN
OTHER: GEORGIAN COTTAGE
OTHER: QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE
OTHER: GABLE-ELL COTTAGE

Materials:

foundation	Brick/Concrete
walls	Wood/Weatherboard/Brick
roof	Asphalt
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Whittier Mills Historic District consists of the residential mill village and the site of the mill buildings (since demolished) established by Whittier Mills in 1895. The district is located in what was historically the community of Chattahoochee, Fulton County, which was incorporated into the City of Atlanta in 1952. The district is located on approximately 30 acres on the south bank of the Chattahoochee River. The historic district includes the site of the mill and the mill village. The village includes dwellings, a church, and a county health center. The remaining historic resources and sites within the historic district represent various periods of development initiated by the Whittier Cotton Mills Company, originally based in Lowell, Massachusetts.

The initial development by the Whittier Mills Cotton Company began in 1895 with the subdivision of the company land with streets in a grid-iron pattern and the construction of a 40,000 square-foot cotton mill, a warehouse, a storehouse, and 30 wood-framed dwellings for mill workers. The mill and mill village were concentrated on Wales, Whittier, and Layton Avenues. A company baseball field was located east of the mill complex on the north end of Butler Way.

Although the mill buildings were demolished in the 1980s, the mill's former location is still evident northwest of the village, south of the railroad tracks and north of Wales Avenue. A three-story tower (Photograph 11) remains on the site as well as the brick walls of a storehouse (Photograph 12). The

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Section 7--Description

tower and storehouse feature English bond brick patterns, segmental and round arched windows and doors, and decorative brick cornices.

The First Baptist Church of Chattahoochee (Photograph 1), constructed in 1942, is located at the intersection of Bolton Road and Tribble Avenue. The church is a brick, front-gable building with a symmetrical facade highlighted by a monumental stone entrance. The church has an asphalt shingle roof and includes large, round-arched, stained glass windows.

The county health facility (Photograph 2), constructed in 1948, is located on Tribble Avenue. It is a one-story brick building built in the Art Moderne style. Character-defining features include the asymmetrical facade, horizontal bands, ribbon windows, and simplicity of materials.

The residential buildings in the historic district are comprised primarily of house types common in Georgia: Georgian cottage (Photograph 3), Queen Anne cottage (Photographs 4 and 20), and Gable-ell cottage. The one-story wood-framed dwellings are situated on small lots and share uniform setbacks. The dwellings were constructed as duplexes and triplexes. The single-family dwellings of the mill company's superintendents are located on a slight hill just south of Parrot Avenue. In 1926, the Silver Lake Company, manufacturer of cordage, joined the mill complex of the Whittier Company resulting in the construction of 36 dwellings and eastern expansion of the mill village. The mill village was further subdivided with street extensions and sanitation improvements north of Butler Way, the site of the company baseball field, by the Whittier Cotton Mills Company in 1957. During that same year the company relocated approximately one dozen late 19th-century dwellings from the area around Wales Avenue to Butler Way. The company then sold the company-owned dwellings to the mill workers living in the homes.

Many of the dwellings in the historic district have been altered after the mill sold the houses to mill workers in the late 1950s. Duplexes were converted to single-family houses. Collectively the mill village retains a high level of historic integrity and most houses retain their original design, materials, and craftsmanship.

Landscaping within the district includes mature trees and minimal foundation plantings. Roads and lots follow the contours of the land.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture, Community Planning and Development, Industry, and Social History.

Period of Significance:

1895-1957

Significant Dates:

1895-Whittier Cotton Mills of Lowell, Massachusetts first documented in Atlanta.

1896-Whittier Cotton Mills began operation.

1942-First Baptist Church of Chattahoochee constructed.

1948-Fulton County health facility constructed.

1957-Last expansion of company-owned mill village

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Parsons and Wait, Boston, Massachusetts, Architects

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Whittier Mills Historic District represents the late 19th-century development of manufacturing mills with associated mill villages in Georgia. The district is significant in the areas of social history and community planning and development for its development as a mill complex with mill village by the Whittier Cotton Mills Company of Lowell, Massachusetts in 1895. The mill company was responsible for almost every aspect of the development and continuation of the mill and mill village. The company constructed the mill and platted and developed the original section of the mill village in 1895. In 1926, the company expanded its mill complex, subdivided more property owned by the company, constructed more mill housing, and electrified the mill and mill village. After the annexation of the Chattahoochee community into the City of Atlanta in 1952, the mill company installed indoor plumbing in the mill houses. In 1957, the mill company subdivided more company land (the company baseball field), extended once dead-end streets, and moved mill houses to the subdivided land. During the first decade of the 20th century, the mill company was directly responsible for the construction of a church (replaced by the "new" First Baptist Church of Chattahoochee, built 1942); a school (no longer standing); a settlement house (no longer standing) that functioned as a day nursery, boys' and girls' club, night school for adults, physician-lead health clinics, and music classes. As an outreach of the church started by the company, the Fulton County Health Center was built in 1948 across from the church. From the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, the Whittier Cotton Mills Company was the dominant force in the creation, growth, sustainability, and welfare of the Whittier Mills village. The district is significant in the area of architecture for its excellent examples of mill village housing and single-family dwellings (superintendents' houses). The character-defining features of the multi-family mill village dwellings include one-story height, wood-framed construction and duplex and triplex interior plans. The dwellings constructed prior to 1926 feature steeply-pitched roofs and those constructed after 1926 feature lower-pitched roofs. The single-family dwellings are good examples of the types of houses built during the early to mid-20th century, such as Georgian Cottage, Queen Anne cottage, and Gable-ell cottage, representing architectural styles popular during the same period, such as Colonial Revival. The district is significant in the area of industry for the mills' function as manufacturing facilities. The Whittier Cotton Mills and Silver Lake Company produced a variety of cotton yarn; the Whittier Cotton Mills produced revolutionary high-twist yarn used by the Navy to replace leather firehouses. Mills and mill villages like the Whittier Mills exemplify the industrialization of the South during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; this period was called the "New South" by newspaper publisher and industrial promoter Henry Grady of Atlanta.

National Register Criteria

Whittier Mills Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion A in the areas of social history and community planning and development for its development as a mill complex with mill village by the Whittier Cotton Mills Company of Lowell, Massachusetts in 1895. The district is significant in the area of industry for the mills' function as manufacturing facilities. Whittier Mills

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture for its excellent examples of mill village housing and single-family dwellings.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance represents the period in which the Whittier Cotton Mills and Silver Lake Company developed and constructed the mills and mill village and operated the mills from the initial development in 1895 through the final phase of company improvements to the mill village in 1957.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources within the Whittier Mills Historic District include houses, a church, a county health facility, a mill tower, and mill site which contains ruins. Noncontributing resources include houses built after the period of significance. The construction dates of three houses within the district on Burden Street could not be determined, therefore those houses are not included in the number of resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****Note: The following history was compiled by Don Rooney and Laura C. Lieberman, "History of Whittier Mills Village," 1993. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. Information was also obtained from the Whittier Mills Village Internet website.**

Whittier Cotton Mills of Lowell, Massachusetts was first documented in Atlanta in 1895, the year of the Cotton States and International Exposition. The company purchased 25 acres of land on the south bank of the Chattahoochee River, due west of Bolton. The mill company was named for the Whittier family of Massachusetts, which had started the business in Lowell. The actual owners were Paul Butler, son of Civil War General Benjamin Butler, and several other prominent capitalists. The mill began operations in 1896. The Whittier family provided the major officers, including president Helen Whittier and treasurer Nelson Whittier. Nelson's son, Walter R.B. Whittier, was installed as the manager of the mill, a job he would retain until 1936. First in Massachusetts and then in Georgia Whittier Cotton Mills produced a wide variety of cotton yarn, ranging in size from "twos," used for window cord, to 40s, the finest of cotton filaments. "Softbacks" for gloves and mittens, braiders' yarns, druggists' twine, and wrappings for hose were also manufactured. Mississippi Delta cotton was used for thread and California cotton was used for yarn. Yarn-wrapped water hose used for fire

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

hose was the mills' specialty. The mill itself was closed in 1971 and most of its buildings destroyed in 1988. Only the original cotton mills' four-sided, three-story red brick tower and a single-story carpentry shop, constructed in 1900 remain on the 17 acres of the original mill site.

Served by the Southern Railroad (several trains a day) and an electric streetcar line running every thirty minutes, the mill and its village nestled in a small valley near the Chattahoochee River. Construction of the Whittier Mills and mill village began in May, 1895, and was completed in less than one year at a total cost of \$180,000. In a letter dated March 6, 1895, Chattahoochee Brick Company vice-president G.W. Parrott outlined and confirmed an arrangement between his corporation and Whittier Cotton Mills. The Chattahoochee Brick Company would sell 30 acres of land along the Chattahoochee River and their manager's existing brick cottage and would construct a 40,000 square foot cotton mill building, a warehouse, and a storehouse of "the very finest hard brick" as well as thirty frame cottages for the mill workers. Whittier Mills would supply half of the necessary equipment from its existing mills in Massachusetts and the other half would be new. Chattahoochee Brick Company received \$2,500 in cash and \$50,000 in stock in the new Georgia corporation as payment. On October 4, 1895, the land sale was complete. Corporate records indicate that another \$8,000 was spent on construction in 1900. More cotton warehouses and the dye room were built in 1906.

When Whittier Cotton Mills was established in Georgia, Paul Butler was the major stockholder of the corporation (259 shares of the 495 listed on November 17, 1896). His father, General B.F. Butler, established a family fortune and Paul expanded upon it by making ammunition at the U.S. Cartridge Company. That money eventually financed ten mills, nine in New England including the Whittier Cotton Mills of Lowell and one southern mill, the Atlanta branch of Whittier Mills. The Whittier family never owned the mills which were controlled by a Massachusetts-based corporation that included the Stevens, Marshall, Butler, and Ames families. Paul Butler's sister married General Adelbert Ames; the Ames Corporation later owned Whittier Mills.

"10,000 Spindles Move," declared *The Atlanta Journal* headline that announced the opening of Whittier Mills on Monday, January 6, 1896. Located along a curve in the river, adjacent to the Chattahoochee Brick Company and a little more than seven miles from Atlanta's downtown railroad depot, Whittier Mills was praised as the new employer of more than 300 people and a major new southern producer of cotton cordage, some 90,000 pounds of yarn each month, using state-of-the-art equipment.

On January 14, 1896 Helen Whittier pulled the lever to start the factory engines and her grandnephew Paul blew the factory whistle for the first time. She was the president of the Lowell, Massachusetts-based Whittier Cotton Mills corporation. Her brother Nelson Whittier served as corporate treasurer. After the death of Moses Whittier who founded the original Lowell operation, his son Henry ran the mills outside Boston. When Henry became ill, Helen supervised the family

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

corporation. Helen became interested in expanding their operation into the South after visiting Atlanta before the Cotton Exposition of 1895. Nelson's son, W.R.B. (Walter Rufus Boyd, known throughout the community as "Boss") Whittier was named the general manager of the new Atlanta branch of the mills.

A special feature in the Atlanta Journal in July 1896 (six months after the mill had been operating) was subtitled "Quite a community itself/The Operatives Colonized in Comfortable Cottages -- Built by Capitalists of New England." In a typical Victorian prose, the writer stated: "One of the most picturesque places in the vicinity of Atlanta is Whittier Mills. . . . The houses of the operatives are built around the brow of the hill in a semi-circular shape. . . [that] resembles a half-moon. . . . The greatest number of these houses face the mill and are built of the best material with terraced yards and plenty of green grass, some of the more thrifty of the occupants already having roses planted and growing. Altogether they present an appearance of thrift and care not usually seen among people of this class." Guarding over the workers was manager Walter "Boss" Whittier in a large, brick house named "Hedgerows" (no longer extant) on a nearby hill, and superintendent W. H. Salmon, also living on the property. The homes of these two men were heated with steam from the plant.

Housing was rented from the mill and paid for by the room. Duplexes were built with locks on both sides of the doors to each room so the interiors could be easily reconfigured when families wanted to rent more rooms as they grew. Most families rented three rooms. At \$.50 per room, \$1.50 per week, or \$6.00 per four week month, the price included all maintenance and utilities. The mill kept the houses painted and the grass cut, water and electricity were provided, and all plumbing and electrical repairs were done by the mill. In the original mill village each house had a well, but the cottages built in 1926 had running water in the kitchens and bathrooms. The "new mill village," as former Whittier Mill people still refer to it, was situated north of Parrot Avenue and east of Whittier Avenue. The Boston architectural firm of Parsons and Wait designed a complete set of plans for the expansion. Their specifications, dated August 31, 1926, include framing of common southern pine, pier foundations, and fireplaces and chimneys built of Chattahoochee brick. A.K. Adams, a local contractor, bid the construction at about \$350 per room exclusive of lighting, plumbing and grading. Paul Whittier advised his father, W.R.B. Whittier, that "we do it ourselves and save money."

Every detail of the Parson and Wait plans were scrutinized by Paul and Sid Whittier. Paul oversaw the construction and was an "efficiency expert," conducting a "time study system" for mills. Sid Whittier, an inventor who later owned several patents and worked for Polaroid Land Camera Corporation, became the manager of Silver Lake. In a letter to W.R.B. Whittier, dated September 30, 1926, Sid suggested that the new unpaved streets and alleys run along the hillside's contours, establishing eight terraces below Parrot Avenue: the lots would be smaller than in the old village so they would be easily cared for and the alleyways would both set boundaries and provide good drainage so the house foundations could be lower and less expensive to build.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

At about the same time, just after the families settled into their homes and the construction below Parrot Avenue was completed, "Boss" also designed and established a nine-hole golf course just east of the new village, near the village cemetery, because he and his son Roger were such avid golfers. Mill workers fished the golf course lake until 1948 when it was no longer allowed.

Other than jobs, which started in 1896 at one dollar a day, the mill owners provided a settlement house, a store, a school building with space for church services, and a golf course. In the east half of the mill store were dry goods, groceries were located in the west half, and the Chattahoochee post office occupied the northwest corner. The mill owned and operated the store until 1937 when it was sold to Mr. H.E. Malaier. The 1911 Sanborn Map of Chattahoochee, Georgia includes the company store and, directly across Parrot Avenue, what was known as the "ark" which housed the barber shop, a shoe shop, a pharmacy, and the men's showers.

That some "outside" help was needed, however, is reflected in W. R. B. Whittier's 1910 request that the Atlanta Sheltering Arms Association of Day Nurseries set up a settlement in the village. In addition to the nursery, there were kindergarten classes, night school for adults, clubs for boys and girls, and mothers' meetings with a social worker. A physician held free clinics twice weekly, and a brass band was organized for the young men, who performed in a bandstand located north of Parrott Avenue. The settlement house was in a large, three story building at the southeast corner of Parrott and Whittier Avenues (based on the 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map), but was dismantled in 1926 with the waning of the settlement house movement in the United States during that decade. Sections of the settlement house were used to construct other houses in the expansion of the village that year.

The first church in the area, Antioch Baptist Church, was established in 1881 and disbanded in 1889. In 1897, the New Antioch Baptist Church was founded; its congregation first met in an empty house near the mill and then in the old Chattahoochee schoolhouse. Many mill workers helped to build the new church which was then renamed the First Baptist Church of Chattahoochee in 1905. According to several former Whittier Mills employees, each year the mill had a "cemetery clearing" day, which "showed that the mill took care of you even after you died."

Chattahoochee School, a two-story brick building, was built in 1899, at the intersection of Bolton Road and Parrot Avenue. Church services were held in the single large room upstairs; school was conducted in the single downstairs room. After the church moved into a small white frame building behind the school in 1905, the Board of Education divided the space into four classrooms and attempted to reinforce the entire structure with iron braces to no avail. Deemed unsafe for pupils, the building was torn down. In 1925, a new school was constructed on Peyton Road, west of Bolton Avenue. The new Chattahoochee School served the communities of Riverside and Bolton, as well as Whittier Mills Village, as a Fulton County School. The building remains extant but unoccupied.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Due to its location and association with the communities of Riverside and Bolton it is not included in the nominated district.

Despite the many amenities provided by the mill owners, life for the workers was not easy. According to Sid Whittier, the last member of his family to run the business, when "the mill first started...the pay was just one silver dollar per day, and even so there were hundreds of people for every job and none of them had ever worked in a factory before." The 1900 census lists 635 people working at Whittier Cotton Mills including 211 weavers, 135 spinners, 60 spoolers, 48 dolphers, 29 carders, 23 speeders, and 20 drawers. Many of the dolphers, weavers, and spinners were children as young as seven or nine years of age. By the late nineteenth century, New England had compulsory school laws while Southern states did not. Mill owners found it most profitable to use women and children laborers, bringing foremen, engineers, and mechanics from New England. The failure of southern states like Georgia to pass compulsory school attendance laws made it possible to employ children and helped the southern mills to have profits of 20 to 75 percent while their counterparts in New England were losing money. Although one of the major attractions of the South for northern industrialists was the lack of child labor laws and many children worked in Whittier Cotton Mills during its first decades of operation, the Whittiers were concerned about their employees' welfare. In fact, "Boss" Whittier ran for and won the position of Superintendent of the Fulton County school system when it became apparent that the local public school was in danger of being closed. Another factor in such profits was long hours. In 1896, Whittier Cotton Mills ran 24 hours a day seven days a week; first shift ran from midnight to noon, second noon to midnight. Labor laws later created three-shift workdays, 7 until 3, 3 until 11, and 11 until 7. Only when J.P. Stevens took over management at the mill during the late 1940s did work on Sundays stop.

These workers primarily produced cotton yarn, ranging in size from "twos," used for window cord, to "forties," the finest of cotton filaments. "Softbacks" for gloves and mittens, braiders' yarn, druggists' twine, and wrappings for hose were also manufactured. Mississippi delta cotton was used for thread and California cotton was used for yarn. Yarn-wrapped water hose used for fire hoses was the mills' specialty. The use of cotton fiber to make flexible firehoses had been developed by Paul Butler and Nelson Whittier prior to 1895 and the business had a virtual monopoly on the production due to patents on the circular loom and twister machinery these two men had developed. It was this part of the Whittier Mills production which was moved to Georgia with the opening of the new southern branch.

Nevertheless, the mills' wares changed with the times. In 1914 experiments with "mineral wool" or asbestos were recorded and in the late 1920s blue denim was sold to the United States penitentiary in Atlanta. During World War II, the mills made cloth for sandbags for the federal government. At other times, Whittier Mills produced corduroy cloth, garden hosing, and even synthetic cloth. In September 1926 the trade journal Cotton reported that the Silver Lake Company had applied for a charter to produce cordage at Whittier Mills in what was now called the suburb of Chattahoochee. It

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

was this expansion of the mill by 65,000 square feet which brought about the already mentioned addition to the mill housing.

The 1930s proved a particularly difficult time for Whittier Mills and its workers. The Whittiers had a virtual monopoly on fire hose yarn production in the South until the depression when Callaway Mills hired a key worker, who, according to Sid Whittier, ". . . took a complete set of yarn samples and the 'know-how'" with him. Bibb Manufacturing later hired knowledgeable personnel from Callaway, and three southern mills began to compete for the lucrative firehose business. Again according to Sid Whittier, ". . . the last to pirate his way in had a cost advantage because he comes in with more modern machinery." To earn extra money during the Depression, mill workers cut pieces for Ideal American Jigsaw puzzles in the evenings.

The loss of the monopoly and the Depression ended the mills' expansion. Permanent lay-offs and short-term strikes occurred at Whittier Mills, which had begun to lose money on its Georgia operation. In 1934, the year of the General Textile Strike throughout the country in which so many southern millworkers participated, "Boss" Whittier left Whittier Mills. J. J. Scott of Scottdale Mills near Decatur became general manager at the request of the Whittier Mills Board of Directors in 1934. Scott divided his time between his own mills and their competition at Whittier Mills in the town of Chattahoochee. Scott put the mill back into the black and in 1936 placed Hanford Sams in the manager's position of both his mills. Sams eventually became vice president of the Whittier Mills board of directors under president Scott, who had taken over that position from Sid Whittier in 1936.

During the 1940s, the new management and wartime contracts brought renewed economic stability to the mill and the village. The employees' newsletter, Whittier Mills & Silver Lake News, reported on the prowess of the company baseball team with detailed accounts of winning seasons, playing against Clarkdale Thread Mill and Celanese (of Rome), and in 1948, the construction of new bleachers for the fans. That year the Osborne family were the big stars: the father, "Tiny," was once a major league player for Chicago and Brooklyn in the National League; "Jeter," one of his seven children, played in the Southern League for the New Orleans Pelicans; and another son, "Bottles" played for Rochester (AAA ball) and Birmingham in the Southern Association.

Major changes occurred in the 1950s. In 1952 the City of Atlanta annexed Chattahoochee, an unincorporated township since its foundation. During the mid-1950s the New Englanders decided to sell the Chattahoochee operation. Corporate records indicate that J.P. Stevens sold Whittier Mills in 1954 to Scott Dale Industries which included J.J. Scott, H.G. Simmons, Hansford Sams, Donald Hill and Miriam Duncan, and which ran the mills until they were closed. Shortly after the mills' sale, starting in 1957, the village houses were offered for sale to the tenants/employees; some for as little as \$2,000. At the same time Butler Way was extended to occupy the old baseball diamond site; and because the 1897 houses had yards much larger than those built in 1927, several houses were moved there to create more equitably sized lots.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Unable to compete with foreign imports and affected by the generally adverse conditions in the domestic textile market, Whittier Mills was closed by Mr. Simmons who, weeping, told 600 workers to go home on May 15, 1971. By mid-1971, Whittier Mills had closed for good following a decade of increasing competition from cheap imports. Company officials cited the problem as ". . . the accelerating flood of imports from low wage countries into our textile market. Added to this problem is the shortage of textile workers in this area."

For the next two decades, the mill buildings went unused. Several were burned by arsonists in 1986 and the owners proposed to turn the site into a landfill in 1980. Over the protests of local residents, the remaining structures were demolished in 1988 leaving only the original mill tower which housed offices and a water tank for fire protection and the storehouse.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Rooney, Don and Laura C. Lieberman. History of Whittier Mills Village. 1993.

Williams, Bett Addams. Historic District Information Form. June, 1995. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental Information.

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

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 30 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 16	Easting 733045	Northing 3744341
B)	Zone 16	Easting 733188	Northing 3743907
C)	Zone 16	Easting 733429	Northing 3743989
D)	Zone 16	Easting 733185	Northing 3743717
E)	Zone 16	Easting 732874	Northing 3743517
F)	Zone 16	Easting 732604	Northing 3743894
G)	Zone 16	Easting 732680	Northing 3744224

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Whittier Mills Historic District includes the historic resources and acreage associated with the development of the Whittier Cotton Mills and Silver Lake Mills and the associated mill village. The historic district is bordered by the mill site and the rail line to the north and west, properties along Butler Avenue to the east, and properties along Maco Street to the south.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** July 23, 2001

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

name/title Don Rooney and Laura C. Lieberman
organization Whittier Mills Village residents
street and number
city or town **state** **zip code**
telephone

() **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
(X) **other: Residents**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Whittier Mills Historic District
City or Vicinity: Atlanta
County: Fulton
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December, 1998

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 23: First Baptist Church of Chattahoochee; photographer facing north.
- 2 of 23: Fulton County health facility; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 23: Parrot Avenue; photographer facing west.
- 4 of 23: Butler Way; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 23: Fabin Street; photographer facing east.
- 6 of 23: Butler Way; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 23: Butler Way; photographer facing north.
- 8 of 23: Butler Way; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 23: Wales Avenue; photographer facing west.
- 10 of 23: Whittier Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 11 of 23: Mill tower, mill site; photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 23: Mill storehouse; photographer facing northwest.
- 13 of 23: Layton Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
- 14 of 23: Parrot Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 15 of 23: Parrot Avenue; photographer facing northeast.

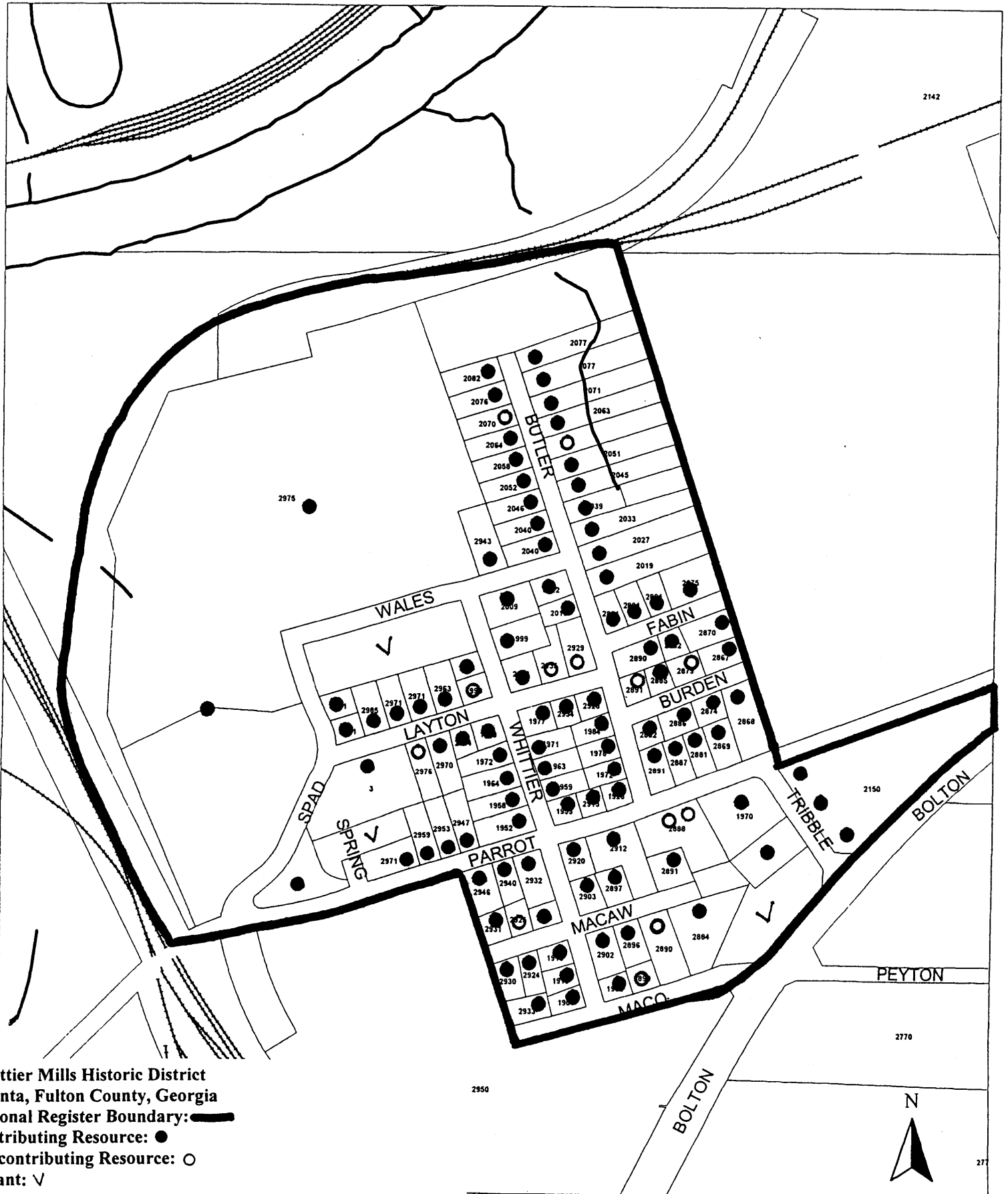
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

- 16 of 23: Parrot Avenue; photographer facing south.
- 17 of 23: Parrott Avenue; photographer facing west.
- 18 of 23: Parrot Avenue; photographer facing south.
- 19 of 23: Macaw Street; photographer facing west.
- 20 of 23: Macaw Street; photographer facing east.
- 21 of 23: Maco Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 22 of 23: Maco Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 23 of 23: Whittier Avenue; photographer facing northwest.

Whittier Mill National Register Historic District



Whittier Mills Historic District
 Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
 National Register Boundary: **—**
 Contributing Resource: ●
 Noncontributing Resource: ○
 Vacant: √
 Scale: 1"=250'
 North: ↑



Whittier Mill National Register Historic District

