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United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

for HCRS use only
received FEB 1 1985
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Badin Multiple Resource ~~Nomination~~ Area

and/or common Badin Historic District

2. Location

street & number ____ not for publication

city, town Badin ____ vicinity of congressional district 8

state North Carolina code 37 county Stanly code 167

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
x district	____ public	x occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
____ building(s)	x private	____ unoccupied	x commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	x educational	x private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	x religious
____ object	____ in process	x yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
	N/A	____ no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name multiple ownership

street & number

city, town ____ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stanly County

street & number

city, town Albemarle state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HAER has this property been determined elegible? ____ yes x no

date 1974 x federal ____ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Badin, North Carolina, in Stanly County is located near the shore of Badin Lake, a body of water formed by the damming of the Narrows of the Yadkin River.

Construction of the residential, institutional and commercial structures in Badin was begun in 1912 by the Southern Aluminum Company of America. In 1926, according to the Sanborn Insurance Company map, the village was comprised of 1,094 structures. In 1981, 527 of these structures remain, along with 157 post 1926 buildings. 567 have been demolished.

A planned community built to serve the workers of the construction crews and the workers of the aluminum reduction plant, Badin was divided into two distinct neighborhoods, one Negro (or "Colored" on the Sanborn map), now called West Badin, and one White. The two sections are divided physically by the Alcoa Plant and Highway 740.

Architectural elements which unify the two separate villages can be seen primarily in the institutional and public buildings, in street signs and landscaping. A unifying element is the handsome, variously patterned brick work in the public buildings, featuring stretchers of warm red brick with dark glazed headers. The street names in both Badin and West Badin are prominently marked by 6 ft. granite columns at each intersection. Alcoa encouraged landscaping efforts and today Badin residents take pride in the thousands of azalea bushes and mature trees which thrive in the villages.

The irregular street plans of the villages follow the gently hilly streets which are canopied by mature deciduous trees. The houses in Badin are well cared for, the yards landscaped. The houses are well-spaced with lots of room for greenery and trees, and from its origin, the town has been known for it gardens.[1] The sidewalks and curbed and guttered streets are immaculate. There is a European flavor in the remaining rock walled open storm drains. Today a walk down the several dirt alleys reveals a profusion of small vegetable gardens, chickens and penned hunting dogs.

It is interesting to note that the street names in the village of Badin are primarily those of trees: Pine, Walnut, Poplar, Hickory, Chestnut, Magnolia, Elm, Maple, Spruce, Cedar, Apple, Cherry, Pear and Holly. In contrast, those of West Badin are named primarily for Civil War heroes and early 20th century political figures, possibly an attempt to inspire patriotic sentiments in the black citizenry. Street names include: Sumpter, Jackson, Grant, Lee, Sherman, Lincoln, Dewey and Roosevelt.

Quadraplexes, duplexes, and small bungalows comprise the primary housing stock in Badin, with smaller duplexes and bungalows (and no quadraplexes), comprising the majority of West Badin's housing. Both sections boasted fine school buildings and while West Badin's school is abandoned and vandalized now, the Badin School, with intrusive additions, still functions as an elementary school for the community.

Handsome churches were constructed on both sides of town and continue to have active congregations. In Badin they include the imposing Baptist Church on Falls Road, the Presbyterian Church on Spruce Avenue, and the Methodist Church on Pine Avenue, which began as a frame structure that was later brick veneered, then replaced in 1974 by a new structure.

Original churches in West Badin include the First Baptist Church on Roosevelt Road, and the McDonald's Chapel AME Zion Church on Dewey Street. The original Colored Community Headquarters is now being used as the Second Baptist Church.

Small commercial districts were constructed in both sections of town. Both are now largely abandoned. In West Badin empty store fronts form a bleak entrance into the village, while in Badin, those remaining are in good condition, but unused. Retail traffic is now centered in the nearby town of Albemarle, or in Charlotte, forty miles away.

The former Badin Hospital built by Alcoa, has been adapted to serve as the company's Personnel Department and medical services are now provided in the 500-bed Stanly County Hospital in Albemarle.

Today the two villages remain racially separate: Badin is White, and West Badin is Black. While West Badin contains some fine public buildings, the original housing stock is in need of general maintenance. West Badin also lacks the sidewalks, curbs and gutters of its neighbor.

The predominant styles of residential buildings in Badin can be divided into two major categories: housing built by the French-owned Southern Aluminum Company between 1912 and 1915 and residences constructed by Alcoa between 1915 and 1920. The French company housing, designed by the architectural firm of Goodrich and Pierson of New York, consisted of row house quadraplexes, duplexes, a superintendent's residence on Henderson Street, and a Club House for single male employees and visitors. Alcoa's residential units were designed by the Pittsburgh firm of G. H. Giesey and consist largely of small four and five-room bungalows. [2]

The striking four-apartment quadraplexes "(were) of a design then popular in France (and) were built in an area now served by Boyden Street (named for a mayor of Salisbury, Archibald Henderson Boyden), Kirk Place, Spruce Street, Maple Street, Nantahala Street, Willow Street, Falls Road, Cedar Street and Holly Place." [3]

Originally Alcoa owned, controlled and rented the units, but since the 1930s they are individually owned and great attempts have been made to individualize these row houses. For example, a section of yellow vinyl siding may lie next to asbestos siding, next to the original white clapboard, or next to grey clapboards. Each front and rear yard is differently landscaped with a number of dissimilar plantings. But rather than creating a busy jumble, the effect is rather like a contemporary block of townhouse apartments.

The quadraplexes share many original architectural features with variances occurring primarily in the rooflines. These two-story rectilinear, one bay deep units have a centrally located projecting shed roofed screened porch which provides access to the two central units. Projecting screened or enclosed end porches provide access to the end units. Each apartment has its own centrally located brick chimney. Windows are six-over-six sash and are often paired or grouped in threes. Rooflines vary from the cross gables of the quadraplex at 27-33 Cedar, to the high hipped roof of 36-38 Cedar (originally a quadraplex, now a duplex), to the gable roof of 17-23 Holly Place with a center ridge that runs parallel to the street and whose end gables slope steeply to form the roofline of the projecting end porches. Trim is simple on these clapboard sheathed houses, often only exposed brackets supporting the gable ends.

A large number of the smaller single family bungalows shown on the 1926 Sanborn map are gone, some disassembled and moved outside of town. According to Mr. A. J. Rice, retired Alcoa engineer:

> "(Alcoa), as soon as it had acquired the holdings of the Southern Aluminum Company, made a definite effort to furnish housing for its employees, which at the time was necessary because there were then few private automobiles and fewer good roads on which to use them. Several hundred houses were built in the white and Negro parts of town ranging in the white town, from seven room 'bungalows' to three room cottages and in the Negro part of town, from three room to four room cottages. As transportation facilities increased, as construction work dwindled and more efficient labor-saving equipment was developed in the plant, the necessity for housing in Badin became less acute so that in the Depression years of the early 1930s, practically all of the smaller cottages were sold 'as was' to be dismantled and removed from the premises. This opened a large area of the white town which already had water and sewer services, to the building by individuals of better homes on larger lots, laid out and sold to them by the Company."[4]

The house at 15 Holly Place is typical of the approximately 100 single family bungalows which comprise the bulk of the surviving factory housing in the White section of Badin. These bungalows are located primarily along Pine Avenue, Spruce Avenue, Cedar, Willow, and Falls Road. Number 15 Holly Place is one-story, three bays wide, four bays deep, clapboarded, with an engaged front porch with simple porch posts and railings.

In many cases, on this bungalow type, the front porch is either screened in or has since been enclosed. The hipped roofs, with exposed rafter ends, are oriented longitudinally in order to make the best use of the narrow lots. Two rather squat interior brick chimneys pierce the roof. Many have small centrally located or recessed and offset back porches. While it is readily apparent that all of the remaining houses are of the same basic design, they have been individually owned for approximately forty years and they are now differentiated in appearance by replacement siding and roof coverings, and by their treatment of the front porch, landscaping and various paint colors.

Perhaps the most architecturally distinctive residences in Badin are located on Henderson Street across from the Badin School. Typical of these are the single family dwellings at 48 and 50 Henderson Street. These 1½ story, five bay wide, double pile, clapboard structures are reminescent of the French Colonial style with their low pavilion type roofs which feature central shed dormers with four small one-over-one sash windows. Six-over-six windows are paired in the end gables, which are accented by vertical board and batten siding and decorative brackets supporting the overhanging roof. The roof is crowned by an offset interior brick chimney. Paired six-over-six sash windows flank the projecting engaged central screened porch, with a simple railing and balusters, sheltering the recessed main entrance. These dwellings are in excellent condition.

Also notable are the three duplexes on Henderson Street. The two-story symmetrical duplexes are of simple, but pleasing proportions, and contain many of the characteristic elements found in Badin including the projecting engaged screened porches and recessed main entrances. A gabled dormer, featuring paired six-over-six sash windows, projects from each face of the steeply sloping gabled roof. Each has exposed rafter ends and simple supporting brackets. A ribbon of four six-over-six sash windows light the first floor and three six-over-six, the second floor. Each half has an end chimney of brick with a modest corbelled cap.

The Club House (now the Stanly County Country Club) is set amidst a pine grove on a hill commanding a view of the village. It was constructed 1912-1914 by the French Company. The main Club House and an annex (built by Alcoa after 1915) are connected by an open colonnade. Both the Club House and the annex are three-stories, sheathed with white clapboards. Both structures have a profusion of six-over-six sash windows, often paired or in groups of three.

The main Club House is built in a modified U shape with the central portion facing north with east and west wings projecting at 45 degree angles. The graceful one-story wraparound porch, supported by Doric columns is cool and shady. The central block has a trio of bay windows projecting on the second-story elevation. Shed dormers project from the roof of the central block and east and west wings. The entrance consists of a pair of glass doors flanked by sidelights and a transom. Entrance to the east and west wings is also through French doors. Replacement asphalt shingles cover the roof with its central brick chimney. Wooden lattice infills between the brick piers of the low foundation.

A covered Doric columned arcade topped by a simple balustrade connects the Club House to the three-story annex. Its most prominent features are the identical three-story verandahs at both ends, with their exterior stairs forming strong diagonal lines, reminescent of resort architecture. The spacious first and second-story porches are surrounded by simple balustrades and are supported by Doric columns. There is a smaller balustraded third-story porch supported by posts. As in so many of the smaller Badin dwellings, the rafter ends are exposed. The annex's many windows are again paired, or in bands of three, but they differ from the commonly found six-over-six sash types. These are more deeply inset and consist of six small panes clustered near the top, with three long panes beneath. The annex retains its original slate roof and rests on a stuccoed foundation.

The remaining original commercial buildings in Badin, largely vacant, but in good condition, are grouped along Falls Road, Walnut and Pine Streets, the most prominent being the "Commercial Block" at the corner of Pine Street and Yadkin Court. This is a large, rectangular handsome structure distinguished by its size, prominent corner site and fine brick work. The red brick with dark glazed headers are laid in Flemish bond with brick pilasters dividing the retail units, cornice corbelling and row of bricks set on end over the groups of three eight-over-eight second-story sash windows. Access to the second floor space is through paired double doors in the base of the tower-like units. These entrances are further marked on the second-story by a large arch-headed opening in the stairwell containing paired fully glazed doors below a fanlight, the doors open onto a small wrought iron balcony.

Echoing many of these elements on a smaller and more modest scale, is the Badin Radio Shop on Falls Road. The two store fronts are divided by a thin bay containing an entrance to the stairs to the second level. The door to the entrance is topped by a fanlight, flanked by brick pilasters, simple corbelled cornice and a row of bricks set on end over the paired one-over-one sash second-story windows.

The commercial structures built along Falls Road are, for the most part, in very good and nearly original condition with few modern signs and no modern facade replacement materials to mask their utilitarian purposes as first floor commercial space and second floor office space. These buildings are still maintained by Alcoa.

It should be noted that Badin once boasted a fine community theatre. This building "which dominated the early Badin landscape" was built by Alcoa in 1917-1918 and dedicated by Governor Thomas Walter Bickett on Memorial Day, 1918.

An afternoon of speeches and music, culminating in a dance in the spacious 'ballroom' on the second floor of the building. This space was later used for many activities. Two or three lodges originally met there. Frequent community dances were held there and, with the installation of movable netting around the floor, basketball games were played there. The theatre floor was commodious. Together with its large balcony, it would seat about 700 persons. This building was said to be the largest theatre between Richmond and Atlanta when it was built. Periodically, plays were held by local talent and many road shows stopped by for a one night stand. School assemblies were held there. In between and regularly there were 'moving picture' shows.

The use of the theater declined as the automobile gave the population more mobility. Eventually the theatre was abandoned and the Masonic Lodge was the sole tenant. In 1959 the building was torn down; it was replaced on the site by the new Post Office building.

The Badin Hospital, built in 1916-1917 and set back from Falls Road on a large landscaped lot, is a one-story brick (Flemish bond with glazed headers), Y-shaped building resting on a quarried stone foundation. The central portion, one bay deep, serves as a foyer with the two wings extending at angles to the rear from it. A full width pedimented porch has square posts supporting a closed pediment with a circular louvered bull's eye ventilator. The porch balustrade is of characteristically plain, slender, closely spaced balusters. The six bay wings are lighted by six-over-six sash windows, each with flat granite arch centered by a keystone. The end of each wing features a stuccoed pediment accented by white trim with a bull's eye ventilator. A central door flanked by paired windows provides access at the wing ends. The Badin Hospital, adapted for use as Alcoa's Personnel Department, is a handsome building. The grouping of the windows, granite lintels, stuccoed pediments, coursed bases and Flemish bond lend the former Hospital a distinct elegance.

No company town could be complete without the company built churches, and several examples of the sure hand of the Badin masons remain. Perhaps the most imposing structure in Badin is the Badin Baptist Church on Falls Road. An earlier frame building (the Ebenezeer Baptist Church) occupied the site and was a well known landmark. The site was later flooded when the dam was built and the new church was built closer to the road. The present large brick church was built in 1918-1919 under the leadership of Rev. Arnett. (Arnett planned to establish a church school there, hence the relativily large class room space. The school was never started). Stylistically the church contains many elements of Roman Classicism, but its basic classical symmetry is somewhat obscurred by the ecelctic busyness of the brick pattern and use of white painted stucco as accents against the red brick.

Built on a raised first floor or podium and approached by a broad, steep flight of stairs, the main facade features a large two-story projecting portico with pediment supported by four fluted Ionic columns. A white painted Greek cross is set in a brick circle in the center of the pediment. Fluted Ionic pilasters bracket the panelled double front doors with stained glass transom, which are flanked by transomed rectangular stained glass windows. Above these are stuccoed rectangles centered by bricks laid to form a diamond. Surmounting these are stained glass hemispherical windows. On either side of the prominent portico are fanciful brick work, two-story rectangular panels with a center circle enclosing a white stucco diamond. At each corner of the panel are diagonal white squares. The church is crowned by an octagonal dome (creating a domed sanctuary). Round ventilators and hooded loud speakers, each outlined by a white rectangle, alternate on each lower panel of the dome. The overall shape of the church reflects the Greek cross and the right and left elevations are identical, with double door side entrances sheltered by smaller classical pedimented porches supported by fluted Ionic columns and pilasters. The multitude of stained glass windows, round rectangular and hemispherical, are accented with white trim.

A more modest example of Badin's classically inspired churches is the Presbyterian Church on Spruce Avenue at Falls Road, a temple form building with three Doric columns supporting the pediment. The rafter ends are exposed along the cornice. The two identically panelled double front doors are separated by the center column. Each doorway is framed by a replacement, broken pediment surround. A small rectangular stained glass window tops each door. The five side bays, marked by flat pilasters, contain stained glass windows with sidelights.

Alcoa constructed schools in both West Badin and Badin which share several design characteristics including the plan: a central section topped by a cupola and symmetrical flanking wings. Both schools were operated for some years by Alcoa, but then the buildings and land were deeded to the County. The West Badin School was abandoned when the County high schools were consolidated and racially integrated in the 1960s. It remains vacant and derelict. The Badin School building with its later additions, is still in use as Badin Elementary School, a part of the Stanly County school system.

The central portion of the one-story brick Badin Elementary School on Henderson Street is hip roofed with an octagonal dome-covered louvered cupola. The projecting entrance contains double glass and flush panel front doors with sidelights. The doors are topped by a leaded tracery glass fanlight, which is in turn outlined by a four course brick arch with keystone. Decorative brick corbelling outlines the entrance cornice. The rooflines of the identical wings echo the pavilion style of the houses across the street. Every fifth course of the brick work is alternating glazed header and stretcher. The ends of each wing have a center panel of herringbone brick. The walls appear to be largely glass, with long ribbons of nine pane windows amply lighting the central and wing sections.

West Badin

In West Badin the bulk of the surviving original housing consists of two types of bungalows and one duplex type.

One bungalow type, typified by 704 Roosevelt Street is one-story, L-shaped, three bays wide, three bays deep, covered with clapboard with an engaged, full facade screened porch. This bungalow and several others in West Badin retain their original dark slate roofs. Windows are six-over-six sash. Trim is plain with simple brackets supporting the overhanging rafter ends. The rafter ends are exposed along the front and rear elevations. Other bungalows of this type are found primarily on Washington and Mayo Streets.

An example of the second bungalow style can be seen in 417 Jackson Street. It is one-story, two bays wide, two bays deep, with shallow gable front roof and central chimney. Rafter ends are exposed along the side elevations with the gable end centered by a bracket. The structure's most prominent feature is an offset, projecting, fully screened porch which shelters the main entrance. Its roofline echoes that of the main roof, with exposed rafter ends and central bracket. A variation of this type can be seen on Grant Street with a nearly full width screened porch with the entry stairs at the side.

The structure at 228-226 Lincoln Avenue is representative of the duplexes. It is one-story four bays wide, two bays deep, with slate covered gable front roof, central brick chimney, clapboard siding, high brick foundation, exposed rafter ends with brackets. The porch is nearly full facade, hip roofed, with exposed rafter ends. Seventeen additional duplexes of this type are found on Roosevelt and Wayne Streets.

The small cluster of original one-story brick commercial buildings in West Badin have been altered and now stand vacant and vandalized. They do show some fine masonry work which is evident in both Badin and West Badin, with the use of distinctive dark glazed headers.

In West Badin surviving institutional structures built by Alcoa include churches and the Badin Colored School. Prominent among these are the Baptist Church on Roosevelt Road and McDonald's Chapel AME Zion Church on Dewey Street, both Gothic style elements.

The Baptist Church with its steeply pitched, slate covered roof, is of brick, laid in 1-6 common bond with dark glazed headers. Asymmetrical in plan, the one-story church's main feature is an offset square corner tower with flat roof and stucco and brick frieze band. The tower is ventilated by tall thin louvered openings with rounded arches. The main double door entrance is set in a lancet arch with keystone: a quatrefoil is set in the doors' fanlight. A large lancet arch window with heavy muntins and frosted glass dominates the main facade. Smaller windows mark the four bay depth.

McDonald's Chapel AME Zion Church is also built on the Gothic theme with somewhat classical variations. Its central projecting tower set in the front facing gable end and bracketed with discordant classical returns, is topped with corbelled crenelations. The main entrance's double doors now replaced with the present glass and aluminum doors is set in a lancet arch with stained glass transom. The belfry is ventilated by paired lancet arch louvered openings and is flanked at the first-story level by stained glass Gothic windows which are repeated in the five bay deep building. One interior and one exterior chimney extend high over the moderately pitched gable roof.

The Badin Colored School (West Badin) has a two-story central block marked by a granite string course, a hipped roof topped by a handsome Greek lantern. One-story hipped roof wings project from the sides of the two-story block, the double front door with fanlight rests under a classical pediment. Trim is simple with boxed eaves and white reveals around the six-over-six sash symmetrically placed windows. Two pairs of simple tall brick interior chimneys extend above the roof of the central portion. When the school was dedicated in 1925, it was "topped with an aluminum-shingled roof that was the first of its kind ever assembled in North Carolina."[6]

Narrows Dam and Power Plant

At the time of its completion in the summer of 1917, the Narrows Dam was the world's highest overflow type dam. It was designed by James W. Rickey, chief hydraulic engineer of the Aluminum Company of America. Rickey was a native of Ohio, trained as an engineer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Before working for Alcoa, Rickey served the Northern Pacific Railroad and two power companies in Minnesota.[7] The concrete dam he designed at the Narrows of the Yadkin River is 216 feet high and 1654 feet long. The dam creates a head of 177 feet, a reservoir of over 5300 acres, and a shoreline of 115 miles. Badin Lake, created by the dam, is a popular recreational center in the southern Piedmont. The Narrows power plant is a handsome one-story building nine bays wide with a gable roof and six-foot raised monitor. The building stands 160 feet in length and 60 feet wide, 80 feet high on the riverside and 40 feet high on the gateside. The frame and roof-truss system of the plant is steel with a concrete floor and brick and concrete walls. The brick walls, terra cotta tile roof, and large arched windows gives the building a Spanish Revival appearance. Three steel penstocks convey water to the turbine engines that provide power for five generators with an overall capacity of 96,500 kilowatts. Alcoa generates alternating current through small aluminum cables to rectifiers near the potrooms at the Badin Works, one and one-half miles west of the power plant, where it is converted to direct current for use in the pots. A steel railway and pedestrian triple span Warren lattice truss bridge connects traffic from the west side of the river to the power plant. Also visible at this site are the remains of the French construction projects.

Survey Methodology

The base point used in surveying the historic/architectural resources of Badin was the Sanborn insurance company map of 1926 (the only one in existence for Badin). Produced approximately 50 years prior to the survey, the map was used for purposes of comparison with the existing structures. Oral history was also a major source of information, as was a 1977 volume entitled "Recollections of Early Badin," by A. J. Rice, an Alcoa engineer who arrived in the community in 1917. From these sources, it was apparent that there had been little new construction in Badin since 1926.

The findings of the survey were broken down into the following categories: commercial, institutional, and residential--both single and multi-family. The three areas nominated are distinct geographically, as well as in character. There are no natural links between the town and the Narrows Complex, which remains virtually unaltered. The West Badin Historic District, erected by Alcoa for its black employees, and the Badin Historic District, constructed for white workers by the Southern Aluminum Company of America, are separated by Highway 740 and the Alcoa Plant. Structures located between the Badin Historic District and the Badin Lake were built in the 1950s, and the industrial complex was extensively altered and modernized in the 1960s. Therefore, these buildings were not included in the nomination.

Definition of Assessment Categories

P - Pivotal — Those properties which, because of their historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics, play a primary, central or "pivotal" role in establishing the qualities for which the district is significant.

C - Contributing — Those properties which, while not pivotal, are supportive of, and contribute to, the historical, architectural, cultural and/or archeological characteristics for which the district is significant.

F - Fill — Those properties of later construction, but of similar use, character and materials, which have neither an especially positive nor an especially negative impact on the general characteristics of the district.

I - Intrusion — Those properties, clearly different in use, scale or materials, which have a definite negative impact on the historical, architectural, cultural and/or archeological characteristics for which the district is significant.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	X landscape architecture	X religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	X engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	X industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates N/A **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The town of Badin and the Narrows Dam along the Yadkin River represent important developments in the history of engineering, industry, and community planning in North Carolina. The Narrows Dam was the largest hydro-electric facility ever built in North Carolina and highest concrete dam constructed in the country when it was completed in 1917. The chief economic activity of the town--the production of aluminum ingots--introduced a new industrial process into piedmont North Carolina and began a pattern of industrial diversification in a state traditionally dominated by the textile, tobacco, and furniture industries. The town of Badin, planned by a French company and completed by the Aluminum Company of America, is distinct both for the quality of its housing for workers and for its racially integrated work force.

Criteria for Assessment:

A. Badin's history is associated with the growth of industry in North Carolina's Piedmont and with the diversification of the industrial base of the region; it is also illustrative of the role of outside investment in North Carolina.

B. Badin is associated with individuals prominent in local industrial history--such as E.B.C. Hambley who conceived of the hydroelectric dam at the Narrows of the Yadkin River--and with individuals of national and even international importance--such as Andrew Mellon who founded ALCOA and located a branch of its operation at Badin.

C. Badin's architecture represents a distinct form of company town, one designed by a foreign company and completed by a Northern corporation, offering a revealing contrast to the typical mill village of the Piedmont.

"The River Yadkin," wrote historian William Winterbotham in 1796, "is reduced . . . about twenty-five miles to the southward of (Salisbury), to the width of eighty or one hundred feet. For two miles it is narrow and rapid . . . (and) in this narrow part, shad are caught in the spring of the year by hoop-nets . . . as fast as the strongest men are able to throw them out. Perhaps there is not in the United States a more eligible situation for a large manufacturing town."[1] A full century passed before a plan emerged to harness the industrial potential of the Narrows. Badin, the industrial community that grew up at the Narrows, owes its existence to this ambitious plan for regional development in the Piedmont.

An English mining engineer, Egbert Barry Cornwall Hambley, first proposed the idea to develop the Narrows in 1898. Hambley had settled in Salisbury in 1887 after working as a special engineer for several successful engineering firms in London. His work took him around the world and introduced him to important business contacts as well as the latest technological innovations. Hambley's connections with British industrialists and capitalists helped him attract capital to the Salisbury region. From 1887 to 1890 he served as consulting engineer for no less than eight British mining companies all located in North Carolina, and was managing director for a company in Montgomery County. During this same period, he also became identified as a promoter of business and industry of various sorts in the Salisbury vicinity, including a railroad, a utility company, a cotton mill, and a bank. One contemporary claimed that "(Hambley) has been more successful than any other resident of the State in inducing men with large means residing elsewhere to make investments in North Carolina." [2]

In the late 1890s, Hambley turned his attention to the general problem of regional development and specifically to the question of providing power for the burgeoning industrial activity of North Carolina's central piedmont. He established contact with several investors in New York and Pennsylvania. In 1898, reports of a company organized to develop the water power at Yadkin Falls began to appear in local newspapers and trade journals. Early in the following year, Manufacturer's Record reported "a party of Northern capitalists are inspecting the falls of the Yadkin in Stanly county. They propose the establishment of an electric power plant for the distribution of power to Albemarle, Salisbury and Concord."[3]

Only a few decades earlier such a proposal would have been unthinkable. Three major problems preventing such a project were geography, lack of technology, and insufficient capital. The site of the proposed dam was more a "natural curiosity" than a candidate for manufacturing or a source of electric power. For the better part of the nineteenth century, local residents had used the area to "fish for shad or rock fish with small nets affixed to staffs."[4] The single most interesting feature of the area was the stretch of river just above the falls known as "the Narrows". This feature was a deep gorge through which the Yadkin ran for three and one half miles.

> At the upper end, before reaching the Narrows, the river is nearly or quite 1,000 feet wide, from which it suddenly contracts, entering a narrow ravine between the hills, which rise abruptly on either wide with rocky and almost perpendicular banks and through which it pours with great violence . . . No description can do justice to this place which is one of the most wonderful spots that can be found in the South.5

For all its splendor, the Narrows posed enormous physical problems for potential development. Although it would be possible to build a dam above the Narrows, "no one would think of locating a large establishment right in a gorge of the mountains, in such an inaccessible place and on the rocky bank of a river, where it is liable to overflow in times of high water." The cost of constructing a canal along the Narrows or around the hills would be prohibitive and there was little room along the banks below the Narrows for a mill or manufacturing village. A census report in 1880 concluded that "but a very small proportion of the total power at this place is practically available." Even as late as 1899, the Manufacturer's Record acknowledged that the location was "one of the finest in the South, but its remoteness from transportation lines has heretofore been one of its greatest drawbacks."6

The development of long-distance power transmission helped overcome the problems of geographical isolation. The Narrows and Falls of the Yadkin offered little to potential investors as the site of a single manufacturing unit, but the area attracted renewed interest as a possible source of electric power in the last decade of the nineteenth century. By this time, electric power transmission had gained widespread acceptance as a safe, economic, and convenient means of driving machinery in manufacturing facilities. The cost of installing, maintaining, and operating electrical plants compared favorably with steam power plants, and the clean energy of electricity was particularly attractive in comparison to the grimy conditions associated with steam power. The first hydroelectric facilities in the United States had appeared in New England in the early 1890s with plants designed to run machinery at the site of the power dam. In the mid-1890s, power companies throughout the country constructed dams and power plants that could transmit electrical power over longer distances. During the latter part of 1895, for example, the Anderson Water, Light, and Power Company in Anderson, South Carolina began to transmit electricity generated by water power from the Seneca River over a distance of six miles, the first significant distance transmission plant in the South. In 1898, the Fries Power and Manufacturing Company constructed North Carolina's first hydroelectric facility to drive textile mills, streetcars, and small manufacturing plants in the adjoining towns of Winston and Salem. The Fries dam and powerhouse, (operated today by Duke Power Company) located at Idols on the Yadkin River several miles north of the Narrows, transmitted electric power thirteen and one half miles to a substation in Salem. In that same year, Joseph A. Holmes, state geologist for North Carolina, offered the opinion that the Narrows and Falls of the Yadkin might indeed be suitable for similar development: "A dam at the lower end," Holmes speculated,

> . . . would back water but little above the upper end of the gorge and would flood hardly ten acres of cultivable land. The bed and banks of the river are of solid rock, and there is also at hand an ample supply of stone suitable for the construction of such a dam. Immediately below this point the river widens out to such an extent that there would be but little loss of power from high water. From this point the power could be transmitted by electricity to suitable points on the Salisbury and Norwood branch of the Southern railroad, about five miles distant, where manufacturing establishments could be located or the power could be transmitted to Lexington, Salisbury, Concord, or Charlotte . . .[7]

Holmes's proposal closely followed the plan actually devised by E. B. C. Hambley. Through his experience as an engineer and his familiarity with the Yadkin region, Hambley had recognized the possibility of long distance electric power transmission and the potential of the Narrows and Falls of the Yadkin as a power source. His ability to attract large quantities of investment capital was perhaps equally important to his appreciation of the natural resource and the new technology. He had organized the North Carolina Power Company in 1899 with a $5 million capital stock plus $2.5 million in bonds. At the same time, he engaged the interest of George I. Whitney, a financier from Pittsburgh and a member of one of that city's most prestigious brokerage houses, Whitney and Stephenson. More important, Whitney was a director in Union Trust--the Union Transfer and Trust Company--and a financial confidant of Andrew Mellon, builder of a fabulous financial and industrial empire. In 1898, Mellon and Whitney had engineered the consolidation of most coal mines in the Monongahela River valley, so that by 1899, their company, River Coal--Monongahela River Consolidated Coal and Coke Company--controlled ninety-six out of one hundred and two mines in the valley and forty-four boat companies. For his work in this prodigious undertaking, Whitney received large blocks of stock in seven subsidiary operations and generous loans from Union Trust, the bank created and dominated by his partner Mellon.[8] With his wealth steadily increasing and his desire for his own industrial empire growing, Whitney purchased controlling interest in Hambley's North Carolina Power Company in 1899 and formed the Whitney Development Company. E. B. C. Hambley served as general manager of the Whitney Company's operations in North Carolina and established his headquarters in the Gold Hill mining district, where a subsidiary of the development company, called the Whitney Reduction Works, operated two mines in northwest Cabarrus County.

The reduction works in the Gold Hill mining district was only part of the Whitney Company's bold and far-reaching plan for resource development in the central Piedmont, a plan which included promotion of mining, manufacturing, real estate, and utilities. In addition to the Whitney Reduction Works, the company created other wholly-owned and operated subsidiary enterprises including the Rowan Granite

Works at what became Granite Quarry, the Barringer Gold Mining Company in Stanly County, the Yadkin Land Company, the Yadkin River Electric Power Company, the Yadkin Mines Consolidated Company, and the Virginia Copper and Land Company. These companies were to operate independently and also to serve as springboards for the creation of new manufacturing and power outlets throughout the region. Through the subsidiaries, the Whitney-Hambley partnership planned the construction of cotton mills and other manufacturing plants. They secured right-of-way for power lines as far away as Knoxville, Tennessee and prepared to sell electricity to those companies they did not own outright.[9]

The pivotal element in the Whitney Company's plan was the hydroelectric power dam four and one half miles above the Narrows of the Yadkin. Although the dam went through several design phases, the final blueprint called for a granite structure thirty-five feet high and 1,100 feet long, designed to create a 27,000 horsepower output. A five-mile canal would connect the dam to a power plant on the river just below Palmer Mountain. The company constructed a spur line from the dam site through New London, to its quarry in Rowan County, and on to its mines in Cabarrus County near Gold Hill. Hundreds of workers, including miners from Gold Hill as well as Sicilian masons, arrived to build the dam out of huge granite blocks, and company engineers laid out streets and boulevards for what was to become the manufacturing town of Whitney located at the construction site. The company had purchased nearly 30,000 acres in Rowan, Cabarrus, Stanly, Davidson, and Montgomery counties.[10]

The public reception for the Whitney project was understandably warm. Manufacturer's Record led the early rounds of approval, noting that by May of 1899, the company had raised several million dollars for the erection of the great dam and power plant,

> . . . while a minimum of $500,000 is set aside for the building and equipping of a strictly modern cotton mill to be operated entirely by electrical power. It is intended to be the pioneer mill of the kind in the South, the revolutionizer of the cotton manufacturing industry. It will have no expensive engine and no smokestack and no boiler plant. The company is doing nothing on paper. It will be the new mill . . . . Does not all this signify wonderful possibilities for the manufacturing and industrial interests of this section of North Carolina?[11]

In the months and years that followed, the Whitney-Hambley plan unfolded with announcements of streetcar companies, light companies, and new construction sites. Local newspapers greeted each new development with increasing enthusiasm. A Lexington journal, for instance, spoke of a "revolution of manufacturing" and predicted that Whitney and Hambley would make the Piedmont the garden spot of North Carolina, comparable to the great industrial places of New England. "The masterminds at Whitney," continued the report, "are engaged in carrying out a giant scheme to grapple with and subdue elemental nature, forcing her with many inventions to lend her untamed energy, wasted for ages, to the direction of human intelligence, that much good may result to the world of man." The harnessing of the power of the Yadkin River, observed a Concord paper, promised so much for industrial

enterprises in the Piedmont, while the Charlotte Chronicle, in April, 1906, noted that the enormity of the project was beyond the comprehension of ordinary citizens:

> The public has not yet obtained an adequate idea of the extent of the work . . . . This company will not only be sending electricity into Charlotte and other towns . . . . but will be operating factories of its own and for other people in what will be the model manufacturing town in the United States, on the banks of the Yadkin.

Despite the infusion of capital investment and an enthusiastic public, the Whitney Company floundered and ultimately failed within its first decade of existence. The first setbacks for the company came in the mines at the Gold Hill district. An accident at the Barringer mine in the summer of 1904 left eight men dead and the company in debt to families and creditors. The Barringer, the first of North Carolina's deep mines, never reopened. By 1905, the Whitney properties in Cabarrus County, the old McMackin and Isenhour mines were likewise filled with water.[12] At the dam construction site along the Yadkin, outbreaks of typhoid severely depleted the labor force each summer. Captain Hambley himself contracted typhoid in the summer of 1906, and after a prolonged illness, he died on August 13 at the age of forty-four. His death shocked the business and industrial community of North Carolina. In an editorial in the Charlotte Observer, D. A. Tompkins called Hambley's death "a most deplorable event." "Few men," Tompkins continued, "have done more for (North Carolina) in a material way, and his value to it and the extent of the loss it has sustained in his death are beyond estimate."[13] The mine disaster and death of chief engineer Hambley were serious setbacks for the Whitney operation but not nearly as devastating as the blow it suffered in 1908 when Andrew Mellon forced George Whitney into a disastrous sale of Whitney's major coal mining stocks which ultimately led the Whitney Company into bankruptcy in 1910.[14]

In 1912, the Southern Aluminum Company, a subsidiary of the French company, L'Aluminum Francaise purchased the Whitney property along the Yadkin. The French were seeking a cheap source of electrical power to produce aluminum. Ever since the development of the electrolytic process patented by Charles Martin Hall in 1886, this lightweight metal had become an essential ingredient in the growing electrical and building industries. Southern Aluminum abandoned the original Whitney dam site and decided to build its power facility directly at the Narrows a few miles downstream. The projected two hundred foot high dam would provide power to a reduction plant adjacent to the dam on the Stanly County side of the river. In the spring of 1913, the company cleared ten acres of land, poured large footings and erected steel columns. Company engineers drew up plans for a water filter plant, a sewage disposal plant, and a company town which included a sewer system, workers' housing, and a clubhouse. The town would be called Badin after the company's president, Adrien Badin, and its design would complement the geographical setting of the site.

By the time of the outbreak of the First World War in August, 1914, Southern Aluminum had completed two by-pass tunnels and some building and machine shop foundations, as well as the clubhouse, workers' housing, and the water system in Badin. The hostilities in Europe, however, precipitated the end of the construction project.

Many company engineers and technicians were reservists in the French army and left Badin for duty in France. More importantly, Southern Aluminum found its lines of credit in Europe had been redirected to support the war effort. President Badin turned to northern bankers and investment houses for assistance but found no support in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, or Cleveland. Only the Mellon interests in Pittsburgh expressed an interest in the desperate company in North Carolina. By this time, Mellon's aluminum monopoly, the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) was predominant among national producers and had reached a point of nearly perfect vertical integration. The company controlled the nations chief supply of bauxite--the ore from which aluminum is made--in Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. Alcoa could hardly mask its intentions to control the world production and marketing of this valuable metal, especially with the outbreak of war promising new and spectacular profits. The French company in North Carolina posed only a mild threat to this campaign, but the Pittsburgh firm would not pass up an opportunity to purchase a half-finished plant and company town at a bargain price. Southern Aluminum sold out to Alcoa in November of 1915 at a loss of one million dollars.[15]

The purchase of the North Carolina property was a stroke of fortune for Alcoa. The company now controlled an impressive source of cheap electrical power at a site within reasonable distance from its southern bauxite mines. Instead of producing finished aluminum, the Badin plant would manufacture only pig aluminum which would be sent to finishing plants in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Early in 1916, Alcoa's subsidiary, the Tallassee Power Company, began work to complete the dam and smelter. By August, the smelter was producing pig aluminum using power purchased from the Southern Power Company. It was another year before the Narrows dam itself generated electrical power. The construction site reflected an awesome display of men, materials, and machinery. An enormous labor force, half of whom were convicts under contract from the state, camped at the dam site. The company tapped a national network of supplies and equipment--cement from Virginia, derricks from Minnesota, mixers and crushers from Wisconsin and Illinois--to complete the project.

Once again, the attention of the southern industrial and local press riveted on the ambitious work at the Narrows of the Yadkin. Manufacturer's Record called it "a gigantic, impressive development." The Greensboro Daily News noted that Narrows was the

> . . . . largest undertaking of its kind ever attempted in North Carolina . . . It is said by many to be one of the finest pieces of construction work in the United States, and so tremendous is its appearance, a veritable mountain of concrete, that one is reminded that it has more the appearance of being the handiwork of the Supreme Architect of the Universe than that of human hands.[16]

For many North Carolinians of the period, a hydroelectric dam and its technology signaled the dawn of a new age without natural restrictions. Bion H. Butler, a well-known North Carolina journalist, called the Narrows Dam project "a revelation of what men are doing with natural forces." Butler found the sheer magnitude of the plan staggering. "After the tunnels are closed and the head is raised . . ." he wrote,

. . . and the power houses are completed and the Allis-Chalmers wheels and generators are installed, the upper end of the tunnels will be blocked up with rock and cement, and the gorge from the dam up will give way to a lake that will drown out the river entirely. The river will stop.[17]

On June 17, 1917, the final closure in the dam was made and a month later, Badin Lake had reached a sufficient level to begin generating power--nearly 125,000 horsepower--to run the plant which included pot rooms, a carbon plant, and machine shops and the village. Badin Works employed one thousand workers, black and white, many of whom were veterans of the Whitney construction and mining projects. "Not only North Carolina but the entire South will be benefited by this great development," observed the Manufacturer's Record. "The completion of the plant will give to the South leadership in the aluminum industry . . . (and) mark a very important event in the broadening of Southern industrial development, and especially in the manufacture of the finer class of goods requiring skilled labor."[18]

The company town of Badin emerged over a ten year period that coincided with the construction of Alcoa's power facilities and reduction works. The French company, L'Aluminum Francaise, laid out the town and began construction late in 1913. A New York architectural firm, Pierson and Goodrich, provided the design for the town and most of the company buildings and residences. During this time, the French completed only a few buildings including a main office, a garage, a laboratory, a club house for single male employees and visitors, and a residence for the plant manager. They constructed several public service systems including water and sewer lines, electrical distribution lines, and a filter plant.[19]

In addition, the French managed to complete single family residences along Henderson Street and began work on approximately 150 apartments within the original townsite bounded by what is now Spruce Street on the east, Badin Lake on the north, Honey Ditch on the south, and the main highway (NC740) on the west. The French suspended this construction activity shortly after the start of hostilities in Europe in 1914 and further development at the townsite was not resumed until 1916. During the first year that Alcoa controlled the properties at Badin, the company concentrated most of its efforts at the dam site at the Narrows. Residential construction consisted chiefly of shanties and temporary structures for the scores of laborers that had been recruited from rural areas, prisons, and foreign countries.[20]

By the end of 1916, the company turned its attention to continuing the development of the company town at Badin. The first step in this redevelopment activity was to complete the apartments begun by the French three years earlier. Bungalows along Tallassee Avenue and cottages on Pine Avenue were built. A woman's annex to the main club house provided additional housing for teachers and office staff.[21] Public buildings, including a hospital, a twenty room school, and a theater, were also constructed at this time. The hospital, a two-story, twenty-five bed facility, boasted a

dining room, a kitchen, a laundry, fifteen rooms for patients, three offices, an operating room, an x-ray room, scrub room, two waiting rooms, sun parlors, and porches. The theater was perhaps the most dominant building in the town and was reputed to be the largest of its kind between Richmond and Atlanta. It served as a cultural and social center for the community until its demolition early in 1959.[22]

A series of brick commercial buildings, designed by the Pittsburgh firm of G. H. Giesey Associates, was constructed to serve the small industrial community that had at last been permanently settled in the fall of 1917. The Giesey firm also provided the design for many small bungalows built by the company after World War I. The original designs for these structures called for four to seven room cottages in the white section of Badin, while in the black section, West Badin, Giesey's designs called for three and four room cottages.[23] A five room house sold at that time for nearly $1500 while monthly rents varied from $4.50 for cottages to $6-$10 a month for apartments. [24]

The last residential development at Badin during Alcoa's first decade was in West Badin or "The Quarters," a section reserved for black workers and their families. The company had made a special effort to attract black workers and aimed much of its recruiting literature to the southern rural black audience. "Badin offers," said a 1920 company brochure, "greater economic, educational, moral, and social development to the colored laborer than any other community in the United States." As proof of this statement, the company offered illustrations of a church erected in the black community for $10,000 and the proposed brick school, dedicated in 1925 by Andrew Mellon and other dignitaries, both black and white. The company provided a black physician, nurse, and welfare worker for social services for its employees and generally offered duplicate services found in the white community.[25] Naturally, the company maintained clear lines of distinction between the races. Blacks generally worked in less skilled occupations and were not offered supervisory positions at the plant. Nevertheless, living conditions, wages, and cultural opportunities for black workers and their families were considerably greater at Badin than at other company towns throughout the South.

Unlike most company towns in the South, Badin was truly a melting pot of workers from many backgrounds. Naturally, large numbers of white and black workers had been poor farmers from the southern Piedmont; others, trained in masonry and construction trades had been recruited from Italy; many of the engineers and plant supervisors migrated from northern technical institutes or corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh. One of those engineers, Mr. A. J. Rice, described the scene in Badin when he arrived in October, 1917:

> "We rocketed along in the small train, following the outlines of a channel or canal, on a roadbed just a few feet above the water, past some higher ground on the river side of the track, which I later learned was known as Palmer Mountain. Turning a long curve to the right, I saw across the water of an inlet, a great number of shacks, looking more like bee-hives than houses, scattered over a hillside. This was another eye-opener to me, which I later learned to be the Hardaway Construction

Company's former camp. A mile or so further we reached the station of Badin, a typical small railroad station with a horse-drawn "hack" for passenger transportation available for anyone who wished to ride rather than walk to his destination."[26]

Alcoa divided its Badin facility into two departments, electrical and mechanical, and two plants, carbon and aluminum. The electrical department was responsible for the installation and maintenance of motors, cranes, alternating current generators, transformers and rotary coverters as well as the repair of motors and wiring. This department also erected and maintained large power transmission lines, street light systems, and telephones. The mechanical department designed, produced, and erected steel buildings, repaired machinery, and fitted pipes and iron castings.

The carbon plant manufactured carbon electrodes necessary in the production of aluminum by mixing finely ground coke with tar or pitch before being pressed into blocks and baked. The aluminum plant housed the furnace where the production of aluminum took place by reducing the ore under extremely high temperatures. Because reheating a pot after a period of cooling is time-consuming and expensive, the operation of the aluminum plant was--and still is--continuous, requiring three eight-hour shifts.[27]

A small business district grew up around the aluminum plant by the early 1920s. One of the first major buildings completed was called the Commercial Block at the corner of Pine Street and Yadkin Court. Alcoa built the building to furnish space for a shoe store, a men's clothing store, a grocery, and a meat market. The company's Property Office and drafting room, a ladies' clothing store and hat shop, a photographic studio, and a residential apartment occupied the second floor. Across the street stood a frame building with several "stalls" for a tailor shop, a cobbler, and a notions store. This building site is now occupied by the union hall of the Aluminum Workers of America.[28]

The union had won certification by a narrow margin in April, 1940, and built on that core of support over the next twenty years. Today, wage and benefit plans for Alcoa's workers are decidedly superior to those offered workers in nearby textile mills and furniture factories. Until the formation of the union, the forceful personality of S. A. Copp, superintendent of Badin from 1923 to 1946 dominated the community. Copp's retirement came at a time when the union had become a stronger presence and when company policy no longer required a self-supporting company town in Badin.[29] The emergence of modern labor-management relations coincided with the decline of the company town.

The Narrows Dam was to be the first of four hydroelectric facilities constructed by Alcoa along the Yadkin River. A dam at Yadkin Falls, 112 feet high with a capacity of around 29,500 kilowatts was completed in 1919. In December, 1927, the High Rock power project went "on stream" with a dam 100 feet high and a power plant capacity of 33,000 kilowatts. The fourth and final dam, at Tuckertown, was not constructed until the early 1960s after protracted negotiations with the Federal Power Commission. This dam generates around

42,000 kilowatts. The entire power complex produces over 200,000 kilowatts and covers over 23,000 reservoir acres.[30]

Alcoa maintained the same facility at Badin for over forty years until the late 1950s when it became apparent that the plant and equipment had become outdated and inefficient. The modernization called for complete dismantling of the original eight potlines and installation of two modern 50,000 ton potlines at a cost of $20 million. This work was completed in 1966 and resulted in a doubling of production for the Badin Works.

Even with the introduction of modern equipment, the basic function of Badin Works has not changed. It begins with alumina, a powdery substance refined from bauxite. Alcoa's bauxite is now mined in Surinam, South America and shipped to a refinery in Mobile, Alabama. At Badin Works, the alumina from the Mobile plant is dissolved in a molten mineral called cryolite. An electric current is passed through this solution so that oxygen is given off from the alumina, leaving aluminum to settle at the bottom of large electrolytic "pots". Molten aluminum is removed from the pots every twenty-four hours and taken to the Ingot Department where it is cast in ingots. The ingots are shipped to Alcoa plants worldwide for further processing. The production of aluminum ingots remained the primary activity of Badin Works until 1978 when the company announced plans to construct a $10 million facility for a continuous casting process which would produce heavy gauge sheet aluminum bringing the melted aluminum one step closer to a finished product. [31]

The productivity and prosperity of the Badin plant did not result in the expansion or enhancement of the company town at Badin. On the contrary, the fortunes of the commercial and residential districts began a sharp decline evident by the middle 1920s. A decline in orders after the first World War led to layoffs of many workers and a reduction in the local population. The company constructed no new housing after 1925. Of greater importance was the general dispersal of the Alcoa's working population with the increased accessibility of the automobile and the improvement of rural roads. In addition, a decline in new construction work and the introduction of labor-saving equipment placed a limit on the need for new workers in the area. By the early 1930s, many of the smaller company cottages were sold to be dismantled and removed. In the white section of Badin, this cleared area soon became the location of newer housing built privately after World War II. Much of the land remains vacant today. The same pattern developed in West Badin so that by 1965, Alcoa owned only one house in the white section and a handful of cottages in West Badin.[32] Today, Alcoa recruits workers from a five county area and the population of Badin has declined from 5000 in 1926 to around 1500 today. Over 1000 residential structures stood in Badin in 1926 while only around 650 are standing today, most of those built before 1926 by the company. [33] Even more dramatic than the decline of the residential section has been the disappearance of the commercial and cultural facilities in Badin. Symbolic of this decline was the demolition of of the Badin Theater in 1959. A United States post office stands on its site.[34]

In recent years, Alcoa has purchased various commercial structures along Falls Road and demolished these buildings for parking lots to accommodate its 800 workers, most of whom commute from nearby towns and rural areas. As long as the aluminum plant continues to operate, and there are certainly no plans to suspend operations, some sort of a settlement will continue in Badin. However, the village is today occupied chiefly by Alcoa retirees. Its population has decreased over the past twenty years and its commercial base has almost vanished. The growing concern among residents and those who want to preserve the little community is that "the city by the lake" could revert once again to a sort of wilderness in the future.

FOOTNOTES --

[1]Salisbury Evening Post, 14 April 1977.

[2]A. J. Rice, "Recollections of Early Badin," (unpublished, 1978), 14; hereinafter referred to as Rice, "Recollections."

[3]Rice, "Recollections," 5.

[4]Rice, "Recollections," 14.

[5]Rice, "Recollections," 10-11.

[6]"Tarheel Alcoan," XIII, No. 3, (May-June, 1975).

[7]Badin Bulletin, (August, 1920).

FOOTNOTES --

[1]William Winterbotham, An Historical, Geographical, Commercial and Philosophical View of the United States of America, and of the European Settlements in America and the West Indies, (Tiebout & O'Brien, New York; 1796), Vol. III, P. 201.

[2]Charlotte Observer, 14 August 1906.

[3]Manufacturer's Record, 27 January, 6 May 1898.

[4]Seventh Census, 1850: Montgomery County, Mortality Schedule.

[5]U. S. Department of the Interior. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, XVI, 60, hereinafter referred to as Tenth Census.

[6]Tenth Census, 60.

[7]Joseph A. Holmes, Waterpowers of North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1899), 180-181.

[8]Harvey O'Conner, Mellon's Millions (New York: John Day Company, 1933), 56, 65ff; hereinafter referred to as O'Conner, Mellon's Millions.

[9]Brent D. Glass, "Egbert Barry Cornwall Hambley," William S. Powell, ed., Dictionary of North Carolina Biography; (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming), Vol. III.

[10]Glass, "E. B. C. Hambley," and Concord Times, 28 September 1906.

[11]Manufacturer's Record, 5 May 1899.

[12]The Dispatch (Lexington, N.C.), 14 February 1906; Concord Times, 20 April 1906; quotation from the Charlotte Chronicle is taken from the Concord Times, 27 April 1906; Salisbury Post, 26 September 1965; Richard Knapp and George Stinagle, "Preliminary Report on Gold Mining Technology," (unpublished, 1974), 180.

[13]Charlotte Observer; 14 August 1906.

[14]O'Conner, Mellon's Millions, 76.

[15]C. Vann Woodward, Origins of the New South (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951), 305; O'Conner, Mellon's Millions, 91-92.

[16]Greensboro Daily News, 1 July 1917.

[17]News and Observer (Raleigh), 10 February 1917.

[18]Manufacturer's Record, 4 November 1917.

[19]Badin Carolinian, III, (March 1954), 4-6.

[20]Salisbury Post, 26 May 1974.

[21]Tallassee Power Company files, property of the Stanly County Historic Properties Commission.

[22]Stanly News, August 16, 1940.

[23]A. J. Rice, "Recollections of Early Badin." (unpublished, 1978), 14; hereinafter referred as to Rice, "Recollections."

[24]Badin Bulletin, September, 1920.

[25]"Prospectus for Badin," (n.p.,n.d.) North Carolina Collection.

[26]Rice, "Recollections," 2.

[27]Rosemarie Hester, "Badin, North Carolina," (unpublished, 1980), Southern Oral History Program, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 16, hereinafter referred to as Hester, "Badin."

[28]Rice, "Recollections," 13.

[29]Hester, "Badin," 14-15.

[30]Rice, "Recollections," 13.

[31]Stanly News and Press (Albemarle), June 13, 1980.

[32]Rice, "Recollections," 14.

[33]Sanborn Insurance Company, Badin, 1926.

[34]Charlotte Observer, December 11, 1958, (In the mid-1950s Alcoa divided the Carolina Aluminum Company, formerly the Tallassee Power Company, into two separate corporate entities - Yadkin, Inc., which operates the hydroelectric facilities and Badin Works of Alcoa which is responsible for the aluminum plant, the carbon plant and other production facilities).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See continuation sheet

Quadrangle name Badin and New London **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References See continuation sheet.

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/titie Brent D. Glass and Pat Dickinson

organization Stanly County Properties Commission **date** May, 1981

street & number 112 Third Street **telephone** 983-1623

city or town Albemarle **state** N. C.

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** April 8, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

See continuation sheet for listing date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

OMB 1.24-0018
EXP 12-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Badin Multiple Resource Area
State North Carolina

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
1. Narrows Complex	Substantive Review	for Keeper	accept Patrick Andrus 10/12/83
		Attest	
2. West Badin Historic District	Substantive Review	for Keeper	accept Patrick Andrus 10/12/83
		Attest	
3. Badin Historic District	Substantive Review	for Keeper	accept Patrick Andrus 10/12/83
		Attest	
4.		Keeper	
		Attest	
5.		Keeper	
		Attest	
6.		Keeper	
		Attest	
7.		Keeper	
		Attest	
8.		Keeper	
		Attest	
9.		Keeper	
		Attest	
10.		Keeper	
		Attest	