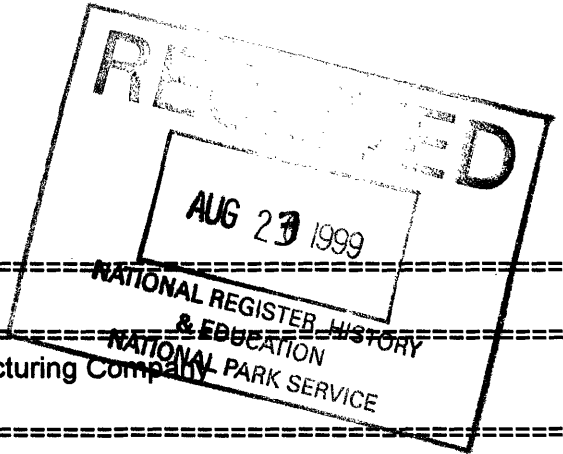


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form**

X  New Submission   Amended Submission



**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

Historic Resources of Valley, Alabama, and the West Point Manufacturing Company

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Historic Development of Valley, Alabama, and the West Point Manufacturing Company, 1866-1949.

**C. Form Prepared by**

name/title Julie Turner (consultant) and Trina Binkley/Susan Enzweiler/Blythe Semmer (Alabama Historical Commission)

street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone 334-242-3184

city or town Montgomery state AL zip code 36130-0900

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Richard B. Brown* Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6-24-99  
Signature and title of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

*Edson H. Beall* 9/24/99  
Signature of the Keeper Date  
*for*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**CONTEMPORARY GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW**

The City of Valley, Alabama, is located in the geographic region of Alabama and Georgia known as the Chattahoochee Valley. In 1980, the residents of Valley combined the unincorporated textile mill communities of Langdale, Riverview, Shawmut, and Fairfax into one incorporated city known as Valley. Each of these mill villages was historically associated with the West Point Manufacturing Company. The community continues to be closely tied to West Point-Pepperell today. The Chattahoochee Valley community is situated on both sides of the Chattahoochee River near the fall line. A geologic formation, the fall line was once the edge of the continent and is characterized by a distinct drop of hundreds of feet in a few miles. As a result, the river at the Chattahoochee Valley courses over rapids and shoals. The fall line is also typically the northernmost point river traffic can navigate. The terrain of the Chattahoochee Valley is characterized by rolling hills. Though today three distinct cities (Valley, AL; Lanett, AL; and West Point, GA) comprise the Chattahoochee Valley, the historical development of the region created essentially one community largely associated with the development of the West Point Manufacturing Company. A visitor to the Chattahoochee Valley cannot distinguish between communities at a glance. Even the Chattahoochee River fails to provide a distinct boundary between the cities. Indeed, Valley and Lanett are so integrated with their Georgia neighbors that the communities remain in the Eastern Time Zone where the Alabama border generally demarcates the Central Time Zone. As a single community, Valley's historic context is shared with Lanett and West Point and directly associated with the development of the West Point Manufacturing Company.

**THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY PRIOR TO 1866**

Before the Chattahoochee Valley became associated with the textile industry in 1866, West Point, Georgia, served as the center of trade along this portion of the Chattahoochee River. The small community of Bluffton (later Lanett) occupied the Alabama side of the state line. Though Creek Territory, the region experienced white settlement early on in the first decades of the 1800s and much trade and traffic passed through the general area. The site of West Point appears to have been settled very early as a community due to its location on the Chattahoochee River and proximity to the Five Notch Road which connected the principal Creek town of Coweta with the Cherokee capital of New Echota. As early as 1685, English traders visited the Creek town, Ocfuskooche Tallahassee (Old Town) in the proximity of present-day West Point/Lanett. The Creeks abandoned the site around 1790 moving westward to the Tallapoosa River. The community of Miller's Bend existed at the site in 1826 and became designated as a U.S. Post Office by 1827. The community adopted the name of West Point in 1832 after having been known as Franklin for a short time (Turner 1994, 4-5). However, most of this area was Creek territory and the increased frequency and numbers of white settlers were making an impact by the early 1820s. Land hungry, whites created dramatic developmental pressures in Indian territory which resulted in many physical disputes with Native Americans. Indians retaliated against these encroachments creating even more tense situations. The federal government's solution was a series of treaties which removed the Native Americans westward. The 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs ceded a large amount of Creek lands in Georgia and much of their territory in Alabama. Between 1836 and 1837 approximately 20,000 Creeks were forced from their lands in eastern Alabama.

The coming of the railroad in the 1850s dramatically affected the development of the Chattahoochee Valley. In 1854 the Atlanta and West Point Railroad was completed through Georgia to West Point where it connected with the Montgomery and West Point Railroad through Alabama. As was often the case, the two railroads meeting in West Point had different gauge tracks for the first few years (Turner 1994, 7-8; Fretwell 1987).

The Civil War brought limited military action to the Chattahoochee Valley. One week after General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Colonel Oscar H. LaGrange led federal troops on a march through the region. Unaware of the war's end, Colonel LaGrange's troops took Fort Tyler, straddling the state line at West Point, destroyed the two bridges over the Chattahoochee River, and proceeded east into Georgia. Rebuilding began immediately after the war. The two bridges were quickly rebuilt and within a year the railroads had fully recovered. During this period of recovery, two groups of West Point entrepreneurs steered the history of the Chattahoochee Valley in a new industrial direction by establishing two cotton mills powered by the river's current (Turner 1994, 8-9).

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**Historic Development of Valley, Alabama, and the West Point Manufacturing Company, 1866 - 1949**

The early beginnings of the West Point Manufacturing Company occurred during a period of great transition. In 1866 prominent Chattahoochee Valley merchants and planters organized two textile mills, the Chattahoochee Manufacturing Company (Langdale) and the Alabama-Georgia Manufacturing Company (Riverview), a year following the close of the Civil War. During this period of Reconstruction, the South's economy was shifting away from the antebellum cotton plantation system into a far more complex dynamic between planters, merchants, and the new industrialists. The postbellum years also brought a transition in the development of the Southern textile industry from antebellum beginnings to post-1880 "mill fever."

Based largely upon the 1921 work of Broadus Mitchell, The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South, historians have generally considered 1880 as the beginning of the Southern textile movement. Indeed, a period of booming "mill fever" swept the South after 1880 leading to the eventual domination of the national textile industry during the early 20th century. However, these boom years remained connected to the industry's antebellum beginnings. In many ways, the postbellum years bridged these two periods of development and the West Point Manufacturing Company represents a significant foreshadowing of the preeminence of the Southern textile industry.

**AMERICAN TEXTILE DEVELOPMENT BEFORE 1866**

In the American colonies, small textile production was undertaken to meet local consumption needs. After the American Revolution, the industry began slowly. Alexander Hamilton in his *Report on Manufactures*, published in 1791, indicated that the United States had an established textile industry. However, there was only one cotton factory in the country where spinning was done by water-powered machines. This factory had only 72 spindles and was less than one year old (Stanwood 1902a, 19). It was probably the textile mill of Samuel Slater, a mechanic who emigrated from England in 1789. He is considered by historians to be responsible for the initial development of the textile industry in the United States because of his expertise on English technology and manufacturing systems. After his first successful mill opened in 1790 in Rhode Island, cotton mills developed throughout New England, especially in Massachusetts and Rhode Island (Vogel 1993, 8-11; Copeland 1966).

Between c. 1807 and 1825, the construction of cotton mills increased in the United States due to political tensions with Great Britain resulting in embargoes, tariffs, and war (Copeland 1966, 4-14; Vogel 1993, 29-30). The War of 1812 cut off the U. S. from its foreign textile suppliers, stimulating development of a national cotton manufacturing industry. By 1850, it was the leading industry in the country (Stanwood 1902a, 19). The textile industry employed 32,295 males and 62,661 females. The value of its manufactured product amounted to \$65,501,687 (USC 1860, ix). The 1860 census reported that "the growth of the culture and manufacture of cotton in the United States constitutes the most striking feature of the industrial history of the last fifty years." By this time, the industry had spread to 29 states. It provided jobs to 46,859 males and 75,169 females. The value of its manufactured product had jumped to \$115,681,774 (USC 1860, ix).

The textile industry developed more slowly in the antebellum South than in the North. There were a number of reasons for this. Until about 1830 the Southern frontier rapidly shifted in a fervor of westward expansion. The Chattahoochee Valley region of Georgia and Alabama, for example, remained Creek territory until 1825. As late as 1836, this area remained an unstable frontier white settlers, fraught with tension between whites and the last Creeks resisting forced removal (Fretwell 1980, 207-245; Griffith 1988, 260-268). Secondly, the South's economy remained firmly entrenched in agriculture. There was also a spirited debate in the antebellum South over whether cotton mills were a benefit to southern society. Proponents argued that mills would provide employment for poor whites. Such employment would serve the planters' economic interests since wage earners are consumers. The social order would be maintained because poor whites living in mill villages would be supervised. On the other hand, opponents countered, industry as a whole was not desirable. Industrial workers were subject to exploitation and abuse. Agrarian interests feared that these workers would congregate in cities. They would rise up as a southern proletariat class to challenge the planters' well-ordered society (Flynt 1989, 20).

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Although the antebellum South remained dedicated to an agrarian way of life, industrial development did occur, beginning early in the 19th century. Cotton mills spread westward with white settlement. Dr. John Shecut established a cotton mill in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1808. Georgia's first mill was founded near Washington in 1810. That same year, the Antioch Factory was established between Madison and Monticello which would have been the western frontier at the time (Copeland 1966, 4-14; Vogel 1993, 29-30). The 1810 census recorded 22 cotton mills in the Mississippi Territory, which included Alabama. Typical of southern mills before 1830, each of these examples remained in business only a few years. These mills appear to have been much like grist mills and saw mills of the period. Using machinery forged by local blacksmiths, they produced coarse cloth for the everyday needs of the immediate community (Fretwell 1980, 207-245; Griffith 1988, 260-268).

According to historian Randall Miller (Miller 1978, ii), "contrary to popular belief, Southerners did not neglect manufacturing. Southern investment in manufacturing compared favorably with that of the Midwest, the other developing agricultural region in the United States." Nevertheless, manufacturing remained secondary to agriculture, particularly cotton cultivation. As long as the price of raw cotton remained high, as it did in the 1820s and 30s, Southerners looked for no other investment. However, when cotton prices fell, planters invested in textile mills. According to Miller,

The concern for cotton manufactures grew out of the planters' dissatisfaction with the frequent and annoying fluctuations in the price of raw cotton, crop failures, the dramatic decline of cotton prices in the 1840s, and out of this, the growing irritation and embarrassment over the South's slavish dependence upon a hostile North for basic goods and services. The need to diversify the economy was recognized by the planters, encouraged by them, and finally supported by their patronage and investment. (Miller 1978, 2)

The industry thrived in the South between 1850 and 1860, but production continued to be relatively small scale, meeting the local needs of an agrarian society. However, the Southern textile industry in the decade before the Civil War appears to have been far more stable and diverse than previously characterized by historians. Of the Southern states, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama exhibited the strongest mill development before the Civil War and would continue to do so into the 20th century.

Many factors hampered industrial development in antebellum Alabama. These included an inadequate transportation network, a general distrust of corporations, an unstable banking system, and limited investment funds (Rogers 1994, 177, 285). Despite these obstacles, the textile industry gained a foothold in the state. The first mill was established in the Tennessee Valley in 1818. The Tallassee Factory was opened in 1845, and Autaugaville had a cotton mill by 1850. Other mills dating from the antebellum period included the Dog River Mill near Mobile, the Fish Pond Factory on Elkhatchie Creek in Tallapoosa County, and a mill on Socapatoy Creek in Coosa County (Flynt 1989, 21-22). Daniel Scott's Tuscaloosa Manufacturing Company in Bibb County was the center of an extensive textile mill operation with 25,000 spindles and 50 looms. Jones M. Gunn operated a steam-powered mill in Dallas County with 1,152 spindles. During the Civil War, he sold osnaburg for Confederate uniforms at \$1 to \$2 per yard. The Bell Factory in Huntsville, the Globe Factory in Florence, and the Decatur Factory in Decatur ran a combined total of 5,500 spindles in 1850. Eight years later, Martin Weakley and Company in Florence operated 23,000 spindles. Small operators were also found in Montgomery, Mobile, and DeKalb Counties (Rogers 1994, 176-177).

Perhaps the best-known of Alabama's antebellum industrialists was Daniel Pratt, a New Hampshire native who came to the South in 1819. Pratt founded his first cotton mill in 1846 (Flynt 1989, 20). He ultimately established a large industrial complex at Prattville, in Autauga County, which included a textile mill with 2,800 spindles and 100 looms (Rogers 1994, 175). Pratt located his mill and mill village in the country because he feared the corrupting influence of cities and the rise of a class consciousness. Furthermore, rural Autauga County could readily supply cotton and other farm products plus poor whites needing employment. Initially, Pratt employed 160 men, women, and children. He preferred families but would also hire single women and children. In 1850, his 73 female employees averaged nine dollars per month in wages and his 63 men averaged sixteen dollars per month. His workers lived in a mill village comprised of a day-care center,

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a school for workers' children, and 65 cottages available for low rent. Pratt financially supported local churches, allowed no sale of liquor, and required the village children to attend Sunday school (Flynt 1989, 20).

The last decade of the antebellum period witnessed the greatest prosperity for American textile mills in the era. New England mills totaled 3.8 million spindles, 73 percent of all those in the U.S., and thus dominated American production. This region's production remained concentrated in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which together possessed 48 percent of all U.S. spindles.<sup>7</sup> In the southern states in 1850, Georgia led production with 35 mills and manufacturing products valued at \$2,135,044. Georgia's value of products was more than double that of its nearest competitor, North Carolina, which had 28 mills and a value of products worth \$831,342. In 1850 Alabama had 12 mills which employed 346 males and 369 females. The state's value of products totaled \$382,260 (USC 1850). In 1860, Georgia was still the largest manufacturer of cotton goods among the southern states, exceeding one million dollars in the value of its products. However, three other southern states—Virginia, North Carolina, and Alabama—also exceeded the one-million-dollar mark. The increase in value of products for the first two states amounted to no more than 3 percent. For Alabama, the rate of increase was 161 percent (USC 1860, xiii).

The textile industry was Alabama's second largest industrial employer by 1860. The state had 14 mills with over 1,300 employees. Most of the mills averaged about 94 operatives. Following the industrial trend that had been established in England and New England, Alabama's textile labor force that year was 59 percent female (Flynt 1989, 19; Rogers 1994, 177, 285).

This labor force was diverse. According to at least one Alabama historian, poor, native-born whites had an aversion to manual labor, which they associated with slavery. However, some poor whites were mill operatives. In Mobile, French and Irish immigrants worked alongside native-born whites. Slaves were also used in some mills during the 1850s. White males found other employment opportunities in sawmills and gristmills or as mechanics. Therefore, in the antebellum period, textile work was generally left to white women, children, or male slaves (Flynt 1989, 21-22).

Previously, the Southern textile industry of this period has been characterized as small-scale production of coarse cloth for a strictly local market that primarily provided crude clothing for slaves. A closer examination of the Georgia textile industry in 1849-50 disproves this characterization. Of 35 mills operating, at least six have been documented as producing goods for regional and national distribution. The Milledgeville Manufacturing Company, located in the state's capital of that time, produced sheeting, yarn, and mattresses in addition to osnaburg. The company marketed its textile goods in New York, New Orleans, Charleston, and Savannah. Two factories located in Athens on the Oconee River bear mentioning. The Princeton Manufacturing Company, established in 1836, produced shirting, bed-ticking, linsey-woolsey, jeans, and checks noted for superior quality for markets in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, New York, and Philadelphia. The Athens Manufacturing Company manufactured similar textiles sold in Augusta, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans, as well as at home. The Roswell Factory also sent goods throughout Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee.

The Coweta Falls Factory in Columbus, Georgia, and the Troup Factory near LaGrange, Georgia, prove to be of particular interest in establishing the significance of the development of the West Point Manufacturing Company. These two notable antebellum cotton mills operated in close proximity to the Chattahoochee Valley. The Coweta Falls Factory, established in 1844, sent goods to New Orleans and Mobile as well as throughout Georgia and Alabama. The Troup Factory, sited on Flat Shoals Creek in the same Georgia county which would later claim the West Point Manufacturing Company, produced cotton goods sold principally in adjoining counties, but also sent to Philadelphia, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans. The Troup Factory was noted for the "considerable quality" of its goods (White 1849). Typically, the founders of the Troup Factory converted an old grist mill building into a cotton factory in 1848. The mill continued to operate successfully until 1902 when the business relocated to a new facility in LaGrange as Park Cotton Mills.

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These antebellum textile mills did not develop in isolation but rather within earshot of the South's most influential industrial advocates. South Carolina's William Gregg is perhaps the best known antebellum textile advocate. In 1846, Gregg's Graniteville Mill became the largest textile mill in South Carolina and probably in the South. The four-story building constructed of coursed granite housed 9,245 spindles when the entire state had contained only 20,000 spindles in 1840. In addition to the size of the mill, Graniteville is credited with the establishment of another precedent for the southern textile industry. At the time of construction, Gregg built a 150-acre mill village containing around 100 Gothic Revival cottages, two churches, an academy, a hotel, and several stores. William Gregg widely advocated building textile mills in the South as well as setting a successful example. He was not alone. In 1858, Enoch Steadman who established the Sumner Manufacturing Company in Gallatin, Tennessee, published The Southern Manufacturer: Showing the Advantages of Manufacturing the Cotton in the Fields Where It Is Grown (Vogel 1993, 33, 42).

Although the overall number of mills in the South decreased between 1840 and 1850, new mills were built in the three states which would eventually dominate southern textiles: North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The sharpest increase in mill building occurred in Georgia. The state contained only 19 mills in 1840 but 35 in 1850. Southern textile manufacturing experienced general stability during the 1850s.

Clearly the seeds for large-scale textile development in the South were planted during the antebellum period. The Civil War redirected the South's industrial efforts, however, and it would be twenty years before the momentum shifted again.

**1866 - 1873 EARLY BEGINNINGS OF THE WEST POINT MANUFACTURING COMPANY**

Historians still debate the effects of the Civil War on the southern textile industry. Although one source claims few mills survived the war, by 1870 the South contained 151 cotton mills—only 14 fewer than in 1860. For the South this represented an 8 percent decline in the number of mills; however, the number of spindles, which dictate production, remained steady. Nationwide, the number of textile mills dropped by 12 percent from 1860 to 1870, but the number of spindles increased significantly. Therefore, it appears the southern textile industry adhered to the national trend and suffered no more than the industry as a whole during the war decade. Whereas some mills were surely lost during the war years, new mills were built soon after the war's end.

An Alabama historian contends that the Civil War had a drastic impact on the state's textile industry because its labor force declined from 1,312 in 1860 to 744 by 1870 (Rogers 1994, 285-286). Nevertheless, the number of mills in the state and the total value of their products indicates how well Alabama's textile industry weathered the war. In 1850, the state's 12 mills manufactured sheeting, yarn, batting, and so on that was valued at \$382,260.00 (USC 1850). Ten years later, on the eve of the Civil War, Alabama's 14 textile mills produced cloth goods worth over one million dollars (Rogers 1994, 177). By 1870, Alabama had 27 mills, and the value of its textile products was \$1,178,765.00 (USC 1870, 478-479). The number of Alabama's textile mills had dropped to 18 by 1878, but the number of looms had increased by one-third and the increase in spindles was even greater. Most of the postbellum growth in the state's textile industry occurred in the Chattahoochee River Valley. It spread from the antebellum manufacturing center of Columbus, Georgia, across the river to Langdale and Riverview, Alabama (Flynt 1989, 93).

Rebuilding began immediately after the war in the Chattahoochee Valley and surrounding area. In West Point, the two bridges destroyed by Union troops were quickly rebuilt. Indeed, Georgia's railroads recovered fully within one year of the war's end. The climate of Reconstruction in general influenced the southern attitude toward mill building. Benjamin Harvey Hill (1823-1882), one of the most noted Southern statesmen of the post-bellum period, lived in LaGrange, Georgia. Immediately after the war, Hill worked to ensure fair treatment under Reconstruction rule. He personally intervened in a significant confrontation to prevent federal authorities from seizing the stored cotton of an Augusta man. His success put a stop to similar seizures across the state. Such cotton represented the South's limited capital at the time. More than one planter rushed to sell the warehoused cotton which had not made it to market during the war years.

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As an orator, Hill influenced the nation's view of the South as becoming stronger and more progressive after the war, planting the seeds for the "New South" which would emerge after his death. Emancipation and the dissolution of the plantation system dramatically changed the South's social and economic structure. According to historian E. Merton Coulter, "The disorganization of agriculture and the rising feeling that [Georgia] might best enter the new age by breaking with its agrarian past, led Benjamin H. Hill, Henry Grady, and other Georgians, either new or remade, to call for the industrial age (Coulter 1960, 355)." In other words, industrialization was the stepping stone to progress and profits.

In this spirit, two West Point men, James W. McLendon and George Huguley, used the money they made from selling cotton immediately after the war to establish separate textile mills in the Chattahoochee Valley. In 1866, long before "mill fever" swept the South, the cornerstones of McLendon's Chattahoochee Manufacturing Company (Langdale) and Huguley's Alabama-Georgia Manufacturing Company (Riverview) were both laid on the same day by the same people. The governor of Alabama presided over two public ceremonies only a couple of miles apart on August 1, 1866. The cotton mill at Langdale was a conversion of Elisha Trammell's grist mill building with two additional stories added to it. For many years, the community that grew up around this mill was known as the "Upper Mill" or the Trammell Mill community. In Riverview, it is not clear if the cotton mill incorporated the Campbell grist mill into itself or if it was built on the site where the grist mill once stood. Riverview was known in its early years as the "Lower Mill," the Huguley Mill, or the Campbell Mill community (Langdale Mill 1953/1954, 8-9). Each mill initially produced a coarse cloth called osnaburg for use within the region.

Both mills were organized with limited local capital which dictated relatively small-scale production for a local market. This was representative of how southern textile mills were established in the postbellum period. Local entrepreneurs got the industry reestablished and, after achieving a certain level of success, attracted northern capital (Hall 1987, 30). As was quite typical in southern textile development after the Civil War, limited capital also meant using secondhand machinery disposed of by northern manufacturers as they modernized (Lanier 1955, Andrews 1987, Fretwell 1987). At least two additional Alabama mills were established shortly after the Civil War. The Rock Mills Cotton Factory in Randolph County, neighboring Chambers County to the north, was also started in 1866. In Tuscaloosa County, the Kennedale Cotton Mill was organized in 1868. Each of these mills remained in operation in 1872 when a total of 14 mills existed in Alabama. The textile industry in Georgia remained stable in the post-war years. In 1860 the state contained 33 mills, and the 1870 census recorded 34 operating textile mills.

In general throughout Reconstruction, the anti-North sentiment which developed throughout the 1850s and during the war persisted. In addition, new federally imposed taxes made a difference. Immediately after the war, Congress levied a cotton tax on raw cotton shipped outside of newly established southern tax districts. If cotton stayed within the tax district where it was grown, it would not be taxed. Needless to say this new tax encouraged Southerners to process the raw cotton without shipping it to avoid the tax and keep the profits. By 1868 Northern manufacturers realized the unexpected effect of the cotton tax and urged Congress to lift it (Vogel 1993, 35-36). New state laws throughout the South also encouraged industrial development. For example, the Reconstructionist Alabama Legislature enacted changes in corporate law which protected investors. Prior to 1867, stockholders in Alabama held unlimited liability in a corporation which made investment risky business. The new law limited individual stockholder responsibility (Wiener 1978, 148-152).

During the post-bellum era, United States textile manufacturers typically continued to produce coarse cloths such as sheeting and shirting, drill, tick, denim, stripe, duck, and bagging (Copeland 1966, 21). Many southern mills continued to manufacture osnaburg, also a coarse cloth. Between 1870 and 1880, the overall number of textile mills increased very little in the South. However, the number of spindles increased by 60 percent. In 1872, the Alabama-Georgia Mill (Riverview) operated with 3200 spindles and 96 looms and the Chattahoochee Mill (Langdale) had 2200 spindles and 64 looms. However, a national economic depression from 1873 to 1878 created difficult conditions for mill building in the South. Established mills frequently struggled to stay in business. At the two Valley mills, used equipment along with inexperienced labor and management led to many early problems. The economic crisis of 1873 brought these problems to an insurmountable point and both mills shut down operations (Lanier 1955, 10).



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**1873 - 1886 EARLY LANIER PERIOD**

Although both the Alabama-Georgia Manufacturing Company and the Chattahoochee Manufacturing Company suspended operations in the 1873 economic depression, both mills recovered through the leadership and influence of Lafayette Lanier. Though not an original stockholder, after 1873 Lafayette Lanier maintained an active interest in both mills as unrelated businesses. Through marriage to George Huguley's daughter, Lanier became even more closely associated with the Georgia-Alabama Manufacturing Company (Riverview).

After obtaining the controlling shares of the Chattahoochee Manufacturing Company (Langdale) by trading a piece of property during the 1873 shutdown, Lafayette Lanier led the company through four significant changes while continuing to utilize only local capital. Though preceding the "mill fever" boom of the 1880s by several years, the changes prescribed by Lanier in 1873 would become typical of the textile industry of the New South.

Production problems centered mainly around the Chattahoochee Mill's second-hand machinery. After almost eight years of use, the machinery which had been discarded from Northern mills in the first place was in poor condition and constantly causing production delays. Rather than holding a conservative line during the national economic crisis, Lanier boldly invested in new machinery to relieve production problems. In cases where the old machinery could be salvaged, he had it retooled at the family iron works in West Point.

While addressing the problems associated with the mill machinery, Lanier realized the need for greater expertise and knowledge of textile manufacturing. The Chattahoochee Mill's workforce consisted primarily of local, unskilled, white men, women, and children who had abandoned tenant farming within the surrounding area. Through an English mill machinery manufacturer, Lanier first employed William Lang and then his father, Thomas Lang. Both were experienced cotton mill men from England. Thomas Lang converted the looms to producing single-filling duck for which Lanier found a ready market (Lanier 1955, 11; Langdale Mill 1953/1954, 9).

Other Southern factory owners shared Lafayette Lanier's concern over adequate and skilled labor. With the increased spindlage and production of the 1870s, Southern mill owners worried about maintaining an adequate work force for the first time. Initially, the required labor came from the local area, but as mills expanded, a labor shortage seemed imminent. As with the Chattahoochee Mill, the need for skilled labor also became a pressing issue. Lanier was not the first to look toward the British Empire, the world leader in textile manufacturing, for expertise. In 1870, the superintendent of the Augusta Factory in Augusta, Georgia, brought over a boatload of operatives from Scotland. According to Broadus Mitchell, "Foreign-born operatives transplanted to Augusta supplied many of the mills throughout the South, particularly in the Carolinas, with skilled superintendents and overseers (Mitchell 1921, 200-201)."

In another visionary move, Lanier switched the mill's production away from the conventional osnaburg to a canvas-type material called "flat duck." Traditionally, the greatest demand for duck went into the sails of Clipper ships, "some requiring 12,000 to 15,000 yards of duck for one set of sails (Lanier 1955, 11)." As steamships replaced the Clippers, the expanding American frontier provided a tremendous new market for duck. "There canvas or duck was needed for tents, for covered wagons, and for many other purposes. Millions of yards were used for housing railroad workers during the building of the five transcontinental lines between 1865 and 1893 (Lanier 1955, 12)."

Hand in hand with the conversion to duck, Lanier engaged a Boston selling agent, N. Boynton and Company, to market the new product beyond the local region. An experienced textile brokerage house, N. Boynton and Company began in 1845 as a ship chandlery, furnishing ships with sails and other supplies. As the market demand shifted, so did the broker, and the company was well equipped to market the Chattahoochee Mill's products.



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These four visionary changes made through the leadership of Lafayette Lanier, represent the significant connecting threads between the South's early textile development and the dramatic "mill fever" years after 1880. By 1880 Lafayette Lanier and his brother Ward Crockett Lanier owned 70 percent of the Chattahoochee Manufacturing Company stock. At that time, the Laniers reorganized the company as the West Point Manufacturing Company.

This reorganization fit right into the pattern of southern textile development which began in 1880. Southerners, believing that progress was tied to industrialization, founded or reestablished cotton mills in their communities in the late 19th century. Generally, these entrepreneurs got financial backing and tremendous support from the middle-class professionals in their towns. Once these cotton mills achieved some success, they attracted northern capital for expansion and other development purposes (Hall 1987, 24, 30).

Conventionally, historians view 1880 as the beginning of the Southern textile movement, based upon the 1921 work of Broadus Mitchell, The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South. A period of booming "mill fever" swept the South after 1880 and eventually led to the southern states' domination of the national textile industry by the early 20th century. The number of textile mills in the South increased from 161 (1880) to 731 (1910) during this time. In 1880, the southern states possessed only 21 percent of the nation's textile mills. By 1910, the South claimed a full 60 percent of United States mills.

Several factors in the last 20 years of the 19th century led to the expansion of cotton manufactures in the South. A six-year-long, national depression ended in 1879. Southern merchants and large landowners, who were usually one and the same, were making money from commercial agriculture and looking for investments. Cotton mills, along with banks and railroads, seemed like sound investments (Hall 1987, 26). Perhaps even more fundamental to the rise of the South's textile industry were the availability of cotton and a labor force to work in the mills (Stanwood 1902b, 5).

The International Cotton Exposition held in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1881 provided another strong impetus to southern cotton manufacturing. Though often referred to as the starting point of the southern textile movement, the Exposition actually resulted from changes already taking place in southern industry. The Exposition ran for three months, from October through December of 1881. According to historian Alice Galenson, when initially proposed the exposition had nothing to do with promoting southern textile development:

The International Cotton Exposition of 1881 was first proposed by a northern businessman, Edward Atkinson, with the idea of improving the condition in which raw cotton reached northern manufacturers. . . . However, some southerners realized the much greater potential of such a fair, and the Constitution was soon recommending that it be used to show the South's advantages for manufacturing and to attract capital. (Galenson 1985, 75, 76)

The 1881 Exposition included exhibits from 33 states and six foreign countries (Galenson 1985, 77). Among these was a joint exhibit by the West Point Manufacturing Company and the Alabama-Georgia Manufacturing Company displaying "good quality soft and hard thread duck (Fretwell 1980, 294)." As part of Georgia's "New South" attitude, the Exposition became a crucible for southern development. It was a southern response to the highly acclaimed Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. It echoed "New South" ambitions to shed the defeatist skin of the Civil War and to develop the untapped wealth of the region. As stated by Georgia historian E. Merton Coulter, "The purpose of the exposition was not merely to show what Georgia and the South had done, but especially to fire the soul of the people with the desire to go forward in manufacturing (Coulter 1960, 408)." It did indeed spark a desire for southern cotton manufacturing and not just in the South. The Atlanta Exposition initiated a flow of northern capital into southern mills. During the Exposition, advertisements by northerners seeking southern manufacturing partners began to appear in newspapers throughout the South. Broadus Mitchell summarizes the Exposition's significance:

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The International Cotton Exposition, held in Atlanta in the closing months of 1881, occupies a significant place in the history of Southern cotton mills. It accomplished two things: first, it drew together the South's apostles of a new industrial order into confirmatory exchange of views and plans, and afforded concrete, tangible encouragement to already forming aspirations; second, it opened the eyes of the North to the field of investment that lay in the South, breaking down intersectional economic and political barriers of prejudice. (Mitchell 1921, 122)

Textile mill development took off in Alabama and throughout the South. In 1880 and 1890, Georgia led the southern states in the amount of capital invested in cotton mills. By 1900, however, it had been surpassed by South Carolina and North Carolina. Despite the dominance of the industry by the Carolinas and Georgia, Alabama also held a respectable position in the region. The growth of cotton manufacturing in the state was phenomenal with the capital invested almost quadrupling in the 1890s (Stanwood 1902b, 16). A few mills were scattered across the central and northern portions of the state. However, most of Alabama's cotton mills were clustered in the Chattahoochee Valley, the Birmingham region, and Huntsville (Flynt 1989, 93).

During the 1890s, southern cotton mills prospered whereas northern mills experienced financial instability to the point of periodically closing down. In the South, on the other hand, mills never curtailed production and a great number of them ran 24 hours a day. Existing mills were enlarged and numbers of new mills were constructed. This prosperity was based in part on having the raw material at hand and a cheap labor force. In the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, almost one-third of each state's cotton crop was used by the mills in that state. Mills in both North and South Carolina spun over 50 percent of the cotton grown in those states (Stanwood 1902a, 20-21; Rogers 1994, 286).

Alabama had 13 textile mills in 1890 with a total capitalization of \$2,853,015 and 2,088 operatives. Ten years later, in 1900, the development of the West Point Manufacturing Company stands out as a significant example of the transition of the southern textile industry from the limited industry of the antebellum years to the booming "mill fever" years. The Company's development over 14 years prior to 1880 exhibits every characteristic of the "mill fever" boom across the South. These characteristics became especially notable under the leadership of Lafayette Lanier after 1873, years before the southern textile movement is conventionally considered to have begun.

**1886-1906 PERIOD OF PROSPERITY & EXPANSION**

Three events in 1886 significantly influenced the future development of the West Point Manufacturing Company. With his father-in-law's death in 1886, Lafayette Lanier became treasurer of the Alabama-Georgia Manufacturing Company (Riverview) and assumed its leadership. At the time, the two textile mills remained two separate companies.

In the same year, potential disaster struck the West Point Manufacturing Company. Fire destroyed the company's sole mill building at Langdale. In the face of adversity, Lafayette Lanier chose to rebuild and expand. To do so he sought large-scale northern capital. Seeking outside capital for mill building or expansion became a common practice during the booming years after 1880. Lanier raised the necessary capital through the company's selling agency, N. Boynton and Company of Boston. As a result, the new board of directors became controlled largely by northern entrepreneurs rather than local interests. A majority of the directors of the new board were Boston residents, connected with N. Boynton and Co. The treasury of the reorganized corporation was moved to Boston, where Horace S. Sears was made treasurer. Most directors' meetings for many years were held in Boston, but stockholders' meetings were held in Langdale (Lanier 1955, 13-14).

These events initiated a new period of development for the West Point Manufacturing Company which stretched to 1906 under Lafayette Lanier's leadership. It was a period of prosperity for the company characterized by reorganization and expansion with northern capital. Similar development occurred throughout the South and also within the immediate area. Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and North Carolina remained the top four southern textile states. With the "mill fever" boom after 1880, Alabama mill development lapsed behind the other three states. Because of Alabama's less

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intensive textile development after 1880, the development of the West Point Manufacturing Company fits much more readily into the context of mill development in Georgia rather than Alabama. Indeed, although the mills and villages associated with the company are located in Alabama, the corporate offices have always been maintained across the state line in West Point, Georgia, creating a significance which stretches beyond the confines of either state alone.

With stronger capital, the West Point Manufacturing Company expanded while still under Lafayette Lanier's leadership. In 1892 the two neighboring textile mills which shared common beginnings and leadership joined forces with the Alabama-Georgia Mill (Riverview) becoming a subsidiary of West Point. The Lanett Cotton Mills was also incorporated in 1892 as a subsidiary of the company. In 1895, the Lanett Bleachery and Dye Works and the Chattahoochee Valley Railroad became incorporated as associated companies. Expansion continued to the turn-of-the-century with a second mill constructed at Lanett (Lanett No. 2) in 1899 (Lanier 1955, 13-14). A listing of Georgia textile mills in 1900 included the Lanett Cotton Mills as associated with West Point, Georgia. The Lanett Mills at that time contained 1500 looms and 56,000 spindles at a capitalization of \$500,000. The only other mill listed in Georgia with more spindles was the J.P. King Manufacturing Company in Augusta with 1812 looms and 60,288 spindles at a capitalization of one million dollars (Georgia 1901, 337-338).

The period of Lafayette Lanier's leadership also marked the expansion of mill villages in the Valley. These villages reflected the changing industrial climate that powered the "mill fever" boom in the southern states. Although manufacturing was traditionally centered in urban areas, new extractive and manufacturing districts followed water power and raw materials into unsettled areas. According to historian Margaret Crawford, "The construction of new towns became an essential part of industrial investment... Each industrial district established its own standards for working conditions and community life that shaped a characteristic physical and social order" (Crawford, 29). Southern textile manufacturers had experimented with constructing mill villages for their operatives since the antebellum period, but the village landscape became a characteristic part of the southern textile industry after the boom during the late nineteenth century. Around 1900, 92 percent of southern textile worker families lived in villages owned by their employers (Hall, 114).

In Alabama, mill villages were often built just outside the city limits of towns. Historian Wayne Flynt notes that "[The mill village's] location on the periphery of southern towns was as much symbolic as physical. They attended their own churches and school, traded at their own commissary, and courted their own kind" (Flynt, 92). Separation from town life was both a practical and planned result of mill village construction. Long work hours and limited access to transportation made it difficult for mill workers to shop in town and mill-owned stores allowed workers to buy on credit or scrip advanced against wages (Flynt, 101). Mill-owned stores of course gave mill owners additional control over their workers. As mill owners began providing more amenities for their workers, the separation continued. Mill village children attended their own schools, and textile workers worshiped at their own church, often a "union church" for all denominations built by the company (Flynt, 100). Women and children coming to work from farms enjoyed mill village life with its variety of activities, improved housing, and proximity of neighbors. They had particularly experienced the isolation of rural life and appreciated churches that offered Sunday school and youth activities, as well as the village's recreational programs like baseball teams and dances (Flynt, 98).

The architecture and plan of southern mill villages often reflected the rural lifestyle that many mill operatives led before going to work at the mill. The village housing, unlike the brick mill buildings, "was derived from traditional sources and built from native building materials. Most southern textile mill villages were relatively small, due to the small size of the mills that built them, and as a result many preserved a distinctly rural flavor" (Ver Planck, 19). Relatively large lots allowed operatives to grow their own food and keep animals to supplement their wages. Houses were constructed by local carpenters who built without blueprints, relying on their knowledge of local building practices as they repeated the same plan multiple times (Ver Planck, 19). Although there were separate sections for African American workers and skilled workers and supervisors, everything in the mill village was sited for compactness and within walking distance of the mill building and community buildings. In the era before automobiles, lack of transportation helped define the mill village's compact and self-sufficient landscape.

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Although rural whites who were frequently former tenant farmers constituted the majority of mill operatives, African American men also worked in the mills at tasks like moving bales of cotton. Black women were only offered jobs cleaning, never operating equipment like white women did. African Americans were also employed in positions outside the mills maintaining company property. The Langdale mill village includes examples of a skilled black mason's work, including a stone bridge. Mill owners provided blacks with housing separate from whites, on the periphery of the village. In the Valley these areas were frequently known as "lines." As Dorothy Morris notes, "The company accommodated the whites' expectation of separation of black and white communities." The company also provided separate churches and schools for blacks (Morris, Leak).

The West Point Manufacturing Company chartered the Chattahoochee Valley Railroad in 1895 to provide freight and passenger service to the Valley mills and villages. Prior to the railroad, the river served as the connecting link between the mills. Lafayette and Ward Crocket Lanier had established the Chattahoochee Navigation Company in 1884. Barges such as the "Belle Lanier" ran up and down the river hauling freight between the two original mills. Occasionally, the activities of the Navigation Company were considered newsworthy by Troup County's LaGrange Reporter. In 1883 during the expansion of the villages, the newspaper noted the "Belle Lanier" making two trips each day. In addition to other freights, "she is taking down the lumber for the twenty-three operatives' houses (LaGrange Reporter 1883)." The building of the new mill and bleachery and dye works at Lanett prompted the company to construct a rail line since transportation by barges would not be adequate (Chattahoochee 1971, 33). A rail line would also make it easier for the Company to bring in raw materials and ship out finished products from all their mills. The charter authorized the rail to have terminals at Lanett and Langdale and by January 1897, a ten-mile line ran from West Point, Georgia, to Riverview (Chattahoochee 1971, 33; Owen 1921, 233). Eventually the line connected with the Atlanta & West Point and Western of Alabama railways and at Standing Rock, Alabama, with the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic Railroad at West Point. This gave the West Point Manufacturing Company a direct connection with two large railroad lines and ultimately, competitive freight rates. Lafayette Lanier became the railroad's first president and Horace Sears of N. Boynton and Company, the northern financial partner, became treasurer. Just as the barges had replaced freight wagons, the Chattahoochee Valley Railroad replaced the barges as the most efficient, modern means of transportation. At the time of construction, the West Point Manufacturing Company held four mills in the Valley. The Chattahoochee Valley Railroad ultimately traversed 41 miles and offered both competitive freight rates and passenger service (Lanier 1955, 18). Passenger service was discontinued in 1932 because of the increased popularity of the automobile. The railroad continued to run well into the twentieth century: "During 1942, a peak year, the railway handled 13,464 car loads, averaging 43 cars a work day, with a total freight tonnage of 335,102 (Chattahoochee 1971, 36)."

The development of the railroad coincided with another significant technological advancement, the shift to electric power. Initially, rivers such as the Chattahoochee and its shoals along the Fall Line governed the siting of the mills. Gradually steam replaced raw water power in the South. The technology for steam power had been available since around 1830, but in many places, such as the Chattahoochee Valley, simple water power remained the cheapest and best source of driving the turbines. In 1880, only 16 percent of the South's textile mills were powered by steam. The number jumped significantly by 1890 to 48 percent. By 1900, the majority of southern mills, 64 percent, were powered by steam (Galenson 1985, 158). However, by the turn-of-the-century hydroelectric power began superseding steam. By the 1890s, long-range electric power transmission became possible and the first large, all-electric textile mill was built in Columbia, South Carolina (Galenson 1985, 158; Carlton 1982, 46; Power and Brown 1990). In Valley, as elsewhere, the conversion to electricity overshadowed the role of the river in industrial development.

In the late 1890s, the mills at Langdale and Riverview converted to steam power (Service Division 1955, 3). This conversion probably occurred after the Chattahoochee Valley Railroad was in operation. Steam engines were available as early as the 1880s but until railroads accessed small towns, coal to run the engines was expensive and hard to get (Hall 1987, 47). Steam was a more dependable source of energy, however, than water power. It allowed mills to be located near urban areas and it made it easier to construct large, integrated spinning and weaving operations. Steam power enabled southern cotton mills to be even more competitive against northern companies. It only made good sense for the West Point Manufacturing Company to adopt steam power (Hall 1987, 48).

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By 1895 "mill fever" had a firm grip on the South and the area surrounding the Chattahoochee Valley. In the tradition of the 1881 Exposition, Atlanta hosted a second, larger fair in 1895, the Cotton States and International Exposition. The mill building momentum carried on with few excuses for motive now other than success. Newspapers in every community frequently spread the hype. In Troup County, Georgia, as was typical throughout the South, northern investors boosted the interest of local residents when it came to building mills. An 1895 visit to nearby LaGrange by such investors gave rise to the establishment of that city's first textile mill, Dixie Mill. Many LaGrange citizens invested in the mill including Fuller E. Callaway, who would provide the most significant leadership for the textile development in the county, outside of West Point. Within a year Dixie Mills experienced serious financial and production problems. Fuller Callaway assumed a leadership role to pull the mill out of trouble. As Lafayette Lanier had done two decades earlier in West Point, Callaway replaced the secondhand machinery responsible for production problems and contracted with a northern selling agent to market the mill's products. Within two years Dixie Mills recovered (Whitley 1989, 53-75).

By 1922, Troup County contained 15 large-scale textile mills (including the seven West Point Manufacturing Company mills) making it one of Georgia's top textile-producing counties. Located within a few short miles of each other and within the same county, two families—the Laniers and the Callaways—established two of the South's strongest textile empires.

**1906-1933 PERIOD OF PROSPERITY & EXPANSION**

As Lafayette Lanier's health declined, his son George Huguley Lanier (1880 - 1948) assumed leadership of the West Point Manufacturing Company in 1906. Since 1873, Lafayette Lanier had been the active leadership behind the Valley mills. Though he shared responsibility with his brother, Ward Crockett Lanier who served as president from 1887 to 1896, Lafayette really ran and managed the mills. The historic marker located near Langdale Mill expresses the significance of his leadership well: "The business genius, enterprise and vision of Lafayette Lanier, (1845 - 1910), president 1896 - 1910, were largely responsible for the industrial and civic development of 'The Valley' (Historic Chattahoochee 1980, 20)."

George Huguley Lanier became the third generation of the family to assume the helm of the Valley mills. He also represented a new breed of southern textile mill men. Textile mills had risen to the status of "big business" by the early 20th century and a whole new field of technical education opened up with it. G.H. Lanier began his textile education laboring in the mills, learning from the bottom up. He studied for two years in the North at the Philadelphia Textile School. Then he gained experience as superintendent of the Pepperton Mills in Jackson, Georgia, for three years. He then returned to Valley to assume the management responsibilities of the West Point Manufacturing Company and its subsidiaries (Lanier 1955, 18-19).

Around 1910 Alabama ranked ninth nationally in value of cotton goods with 51 establishments producing products worth \$22,211,748. The state had the highest percentage increase for the decade in product value among the ten leading states (USC 1910, 38-39). The 1910 United States Census records 13,282 wage-earning cotton manufacturing operatives: 3,611 spinners, 2,791 weavers, and 6,880 others in Alabama. Textile mills provided one-fifth of all of Alabama's manufacturing jobs before 1923 and one-third by 1931. The number of people employed in cotton mills rose steadily from 3,636 in 1890, 9,049 in 1900, 12,723 in 1910, 12,723 in 1910, 16,020 in 1920, 23,443 in 1925, and 55,000 in 1947. Between 1914 and 1930 the textile industry ranked first among all contributing to Alabama's economy, both in value of products as well as number of employees (Flynt 1989, 93).

The period of development from 1906 to 1933 under George Lanier's leadership is characterized by a gradual conversion to hydro-electric power and continued expansion through planned mill communities.

Around the turn-of-the-century, electricity became a cheaper, more flexible, and more consistent energy source than water or steam power. An electric mill could be built anywhere since it did not rely on water power. The first all-electric textile mill in the country (it required no shafting or belts) was located in the South. Until circa 1900 it was the only mill of its kind in the country (Hall 1987, 48; ES-1900C, 29).

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Early in the twentieth century, Langdale Mill had a need for more, but less expensive, power. West Point had the dam at Langdale rebuilt and a hydro-electric plant constructed. This project was completed in 1908 when the 3,000 kilowatt plant began operation. A line was extended to Shawmut making the Shawmut Mill Division the company's first manufacturing unit operated entirely by electricity. At this time, Langdale still relied partially on steam power. Sometime later, a 2,300 volt line was run from the Langdale hydro-electric plant to the Riverdale Mill in Riverview. This was primarily done to supply electric lighting to the mill, which was still using oil lamps. At this time the Riverdale Mill still relied entirely on water power. Shortly after Riverdale gained electricity, electric lights became available for the first time in company-owned housing. It was free to the employees until 1931 (Service Division 1955, 3-4).

Since the output of electricity varied with the water flow of the Chattahoochee, the West Point Manufacturing Company constructed a steam plant at Langdale in 1912. Its generator augmented the production of the hydro-electric plant. The following year, the company added another boiler and more generator equipment. This was the beginning of the electrification of all the company's mills and villages in Alabama. In 1912-1913, the Lanett Mill and its village received electricity. The new mill at Fairfax received electricity in 1916. By 1918, all of the plants, except for roughly half of the Riverdale Mill, were electric. West Point constructed and placed in operation another hydro-electric plant for the Riverdale Mill in 1919. This mill became an all-electric factory in 1925-1926. (Service Division 1955, 3).

With the establishment of the Fairfax Mill, the company began diversifying production. Fairfax was designed for towel manufacture. After a brief diversion to the manufacture of Army duck and crash toweling during World War I, Fairfax began a transition to all toweling. In 1919 huck and terry looms were installed, followed by jacquard terry looms in 1925. By November 1926, Fairfax produced only towels and toweling (Fairfax, 2-3). Two years later, the West Point Manufacturing Company purchased the Martex name from W.H. and A.E. Margerison of Philadelphia, who had been leaders in the toweling industry since the turn-of-the-century. The Martex name, known for high quality, gained international recognition as a part of the West Point Manufacturing Company (Fairfax, 3). The company also established the West Point Utilization Company at Fairfax to productively use cotton waste as stuffing material. The West Point Manufacturing Company also converted all production to hydro-electric power during this period and built the necessary facilities.

During the expansion of the textile market in 1900-1920, mill villages became increasingly organized. Flynt notes that "There was great competition for a hard-working, reliable work force. One big attraction was the quality of mill life. Workers could and did move around from mill to mill" (Flynt, 98). Especially in the South, where the mill industry was almost exclusively rural, mill owners discovered that providing housing for workers was a necessary part of attracting and keeping workers from a labor pool that was predominantly white, native-born, and rural (Ver Planck, 17). The period during and immediately following World War I also marked the peak of welfare work. Owners in need of a steady work force in these prosperous times began programs that would provide services to operatives while re-educating them in the ways of responsible workers. These programs included public health clinics, group insurance schemes, YMCAs, day-care centers, and village beautification projects (Ver Planck, 26). They also motivated the construction of community buildings, baseball fields, and improved worker houses.

Under the leadership of the Laniers, the company constructed and maintained all components of the villages--houses, stores, schools, and churches. The company established and ran hospitals. Its public kindergarten system was the first of its kind in Alabama (Leak). During the Depression, when workers' hours were drastically cut to one or two days a week, the company brought in fresh fish every week to distribute to the mill families. Responsible families were extended credit at the company store. West Point initiated the "mill charities" program at this time. All employees, no matter how they managed their wages, had an automatic contribution deducted from their pay for these charities. Thus, the company had funds to help needy families and also contribute to the community library, hospital, and local Boy and Girl Scout troops (Morris).

Professional planners and landscape architects became involved in mill village design during this period. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, reformers, architects, and the emerging professions of city planning and

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landscape architecture had coalesced around the concept of scientific planning for company towns, an impulse that was part of the larger current of urban and industrial reforms in the Progressive era. The West Point Manufacturing Company built two new mills and villages—Shawmut and Fairfax—in rapid succession during this period. Significantly, the new villages were laid out as planned communities and incorporate a number of landscape elements such as parks, green spaces, and boulevards. The company laid out the Shawmut mill and village in 1907 and Fairfax in 1915-1916. Both were planned by design professionals and distinguish between residential, community, and mill complex areas within the whole. Shawmut was the first comprehensively planned village in the Valley. Lockwood, Greene & Company, a textile engineering firm, designed the mill buildings. The designer of the mill village plan is unknown, but the plans were executed by local civil engineer George D. Allen. Shawmut's formal, axial plan contrasts with the more organic appeal of Fairfax's curvilinear streets and naturalistic landscaping. Fairfax's designer, William B. Marquis, was a landscape architect influenced by the City Beautiful and garden city movements of the early twentieth century. Thus, his plan emphasized landscaping and the separation of community buildings and residential spaces with their own common areas. The two later Valley mill villages reflect the new company towns of the twentieth century made possible when an electrified industry chose rural locations away from sources of water power.

**1933-1949 LARGE SCALE EXPANSION**

The final historic period of development associated with the West Point Manufacturing Company, from 1933 to 1949, was marked by general prosperity and large-scale regional expansion. At the height of the Depression, George Lanier further expanded the West Point Manufacturing Company. He continued to expand the production of the West Point companies during World War II and the postwar period until his death on September 17, 1948. In 1933, the company expanded beyond the Chattahoochee Valley for the first time by acquiring the Dixie Cotton Mills in nearby LaGrange, Georgia. At the time Wellington-Sears (N. Boynton and Co. reorganized) owned Dixie Cotton Mills and needed capital.

Textile manufacturing was a vital part of the Alabama economy in the 1930s. In 1939, Chambers County had a population of 42,146 with 21 manufacturing establishments. Eight of these produced cotton broad woven goods. This figure was equaled only by Tallapoosa County and exceeded only by Calhoun County (13 mills) and Talladega County (11 mills) (USC 1940-III, 50, 59). Statewide, the textile industry was outranked only by the food and kindred products, iron and steel, and automobiles and automobile equipment categories. However, textiles employed the greatest number of manufacturing wage earners (USC 1940-II, I, 280). This group of 28,326 workers was employed in 50 establishments owned by 13 different proprietors (USC 1940-III, 54).

In the Valley, the mills of the West Point Manufacturing Company continued to expand production. Langdale began the decade of the 1930s with 33,856 spindles producing cotton duck and had increased to 38,352 spindles by 1940. Riverdale increased from 13,000 spindles producing duck in 1930 to 15,690 spindles producing wartime crash toweling in 1940. Shawmut decreased slightly with 30,192 spindles in 1930 and 26,184 in 1940. Finally, the Fairfax mill weathered the Depression decade with approximately 31,500 spindles. It produced crash and towels, continuing as the home of the Martex brand (Textile Directory Listings, HAER).

The Depression of the 1930s marked the end of the era of mill village construction. Events and social changes in the first half of the twentieth century eventually led to the demise of the mill village system. The labor strikes of the 1920s and 1930s irreparably damaged the relationship between labor and management. Workers had grown increasingly frustrated with the "stretch-out" whereby they worked longer hours or without breaks without an increase in pay. Textile workers were, with miners and timber workers, the lowest paid industrial workers in the state. Average mill wages in 1930 were only \$13 per week for 10 to 12 hour days (Rogers, 482-483). Although employees of the West Point Manufacturing Company did not participate in the United Textile Workers Union strike of 1934, which began in Alabama, the experience soured the paternalistic atmosphere that had fostered welfare capitalism activities throughout the region. About 23,000 of the state's 35,000 mill workers participated in the strike, closing 28 of Alabama's 40 mills. The strike failed, however (Flynt, 111). In the South, "Mill owners violently resisted the strike and fired all strikers and evicted them from their houses. Mill owners began to consider mill villages to be liabilities as concentrated recruiting grounds for union organizers" (Ver Planck, 29).



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Union organizers did attempt to organize operatives in the Valley in the 1930s. Dorothy Morris recalls that "the climate was very tense. Employees had to sign the 'yellow sheet' and dared not discuss unions with even their closest friends. There were those employees who were fired for the least suspicion of even inquiring about the benefits of joining the union. They lost their jobs, their homes, and were told to be out by a certain time."

The management hired guards armed with sub-machine guns to intimidate organizers, and no strikes occurred in the West Point mills (Leak). The Depression and union drives left some workers angry and resentful. They worried that their children would not have better lives than they due to illiteracy, poverty, and a lack of opportunity in the mills (Flynt, 108). The system that had once seemed to provide progressive benefits for industrial workers was increasingly perceived as a dead end. Other factors contributed to the end of the mill village system. Automobiles gave mill operatives freedom to travel outside the village or even live outside the mill community. A labor surplus and New Deal legislation requiring mill owners to pay higher wages also undermined the economic rationale for the mill village system (Hall 1987, 356). Additionally, modern mill managers "began to question the long-standing tradition of paternalism" (Ver Planck, 29). Some mill companies began selling their houses to workers during the Depression, but most companies did so in the 1940s and 1950s (Flynt, 100). The West Point Companies offered their houses for sale to their employees beginning in 1953. The company magazine noted the vast improvements in the yards and the house exteriors as mill operatives became home owners (Homes 1955, 1).

World War II brought increased prosperity as the company met wartime demands. In 1942, new facilities were built for the prosperous Utilization Company at Fairfax. Production of duck and other products used in the war effort ran the mills seven days a week, around the clock. The role that textile manufacturing played in the war fostered a great deal of employee pride, and workers wore red, white, and blue pins symbolizing their commitment to the American forces. Security at the mills also increased during the war, and chain-link fences were constructed to ensure only workers on company payroll were admitted to the mills (Leak, Morris). World War II prosperity marked a high point for the company. Its stability through the Depression and War led to a surprising flip-flop in financing. In 1945, the West Point Manufacturing Company bought its selling agency, Wellington-Sears, which had been responsible for the company's earlier financing. In doing so, the company also acquired Wellington-Sears' subsidiaries which included two South Carolina textile mills (Lanier 1955, 19).

The company continued to expand during the postwar years. Returning GIs sought out their old jobs in the mills, and others moved to the Valley after the war. The company built a row of four-room cinder block houses on G.I. Street for returning soldiers and their families (Morris). Throughout the South, the industry changed rapidly as did technology and the nation after World War II. By 1950, Alabama had 72 textile mills employing 54,000 workers. The largest company was Avondale Mills Corporation, owned by Donald Comer, which ran 10 mills in the northern and east central portions of the state. In 1947 this conglomerate employed 7,000 and used 20 per cent of the state's cotton crop (Rogers 521-22).

Most southern mills began divesting themselves of village properties in the 1950s. The West Point Manufacturing Company began selling its village housing to residents in 1953. In that year the company sold 1900 village houses and lots to its employees (Lanier 1955, 24). The era of the cotton mill village's importance in the South had passed. In 1965, the company merged with the Pepperell Manufacturing Company, founded in 1844 in Biddeford, Maine, to form the West Point-Pepperell Manufacturing Company (Fretwell 1987, 74). In the early 1980s West Point-Pepperell merged with J. P. Stevens to form West Point Stevens, making one of the largest textile manufacturing companies in the world. However, by the 1980s, West Point Stevens was the target of a hostile takeover by an outside investment group who sought to gain controlling interest in the company, which they did in the late 1980s. Because of this buyout and other financial problems, the Company was forced to sell off assets. West Point Stevens sold Shawmut and Langdale mills to Johnson Industries, the Chattahoochee Valley Railway right-of-way, and many of the Company-owned village public buildings to sympathetic individuals or the City of Valley. It was at this time that the Valley Historic Preservation Commission was created in an effort to preserve, promote, and protect the historic resources of the mill villages. Today Johnson Industries still owns Shawmut and Langdale, and West Point Stevens, Fairfax and Riverview. Both companies are good corporate citizens; however, the era of paternalistic involvement is over in Valley.

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**F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES**

**NAME OF PROPERTY TYPE:** Textile Mill Villages and Associated Resources

**DESCRIPTION:**

The historic textile mill villages of the Chattahoochee Valley are associated with the development of the West Point Manufacturing Company. These mill villages are located on the west side of the Chattahoochee River in Alabama along the Fall Line. The villages were developed by the mill owners as self-contained communities to provide for the large workforce required to operate the mill. 19th-century mill villages were unplanned, vernacular groupings of residential, community, and industrial resources that evolved over a period of time. 20th-century mill villages were planned with a great majority of their buildings constructed during a discreet period of time.

Many of the resources surveyed in preparation for National Register listing are residential. Although the period of significance extends from 1866 to 1949, the majority of the residential resources date from approximately the last two decades of the 19th century and the first three of the 20th century. Only two of the districts, Langdale and Riverview, existed earlier than 1880 and none of the earliest period of residential architecture is known to exist.

Historic residential resources are one-story and of wood-frame construction. The majority originally had clapboard wall treatment, but a significant number of the dwellings have been covered with modern siding materials such as asbestos, Masonite, aluminum, and/or vinyl. This occurred after 1953, when village housing was divested from West Point Manufacturing Company and sold to the operatives. House foundations were brick piers that later became filled in with brick to make a continuous foundation. This foundation work was done in all of the mill villages more than fifty years ago, but the exact years have yet to be determined. All of the mill houses had some form of front porch – full width, recessed, partial width, corner – creating outdoor living spaces during the hot months of the year. Additions during the historic period were made to the rear and many times were shed-roofed. These additions generally added kitchen, more sleeping space, or incorporated areas for indoor plumbing as it became available. Privies were used in the villages until the early 1920s, when the gradual addition of bathrooms occurred.

Both the exterior and interior of the mill houses were rather sparsely decorated and painting was done every four or five years by the Company. A typical four-room house contained a “company” room for entertaining visitors (though it might also contain a bed), as well as two bedrooms, and a kitchen that doubled as a dining room. Highly skilled workers and mill managers or superintendents occupied larger, better built houses in prominent areas of the mill villages. In addition, manager housing was usually located in an area where they could easily keep track of worker movement within the village. Unless the mill company landscaped the lots, front yards were often bare dirt, following a common southern vernacular tradition called “swept yards” in which rural yards were kept free of vegetation by regular sweeping with strawbrooms. As time passed, plantings of sunflowers, asters, zinnias, and flowering trees were often added. Almost every backyard had a vegetable garden, and many had chicken coops or a milk cow as well.

19th-century houses are generally side-gabled with either exterior or interior chimneys and had full width front porches. Many were originally duplexes, so they contained two front doors flanked by single windows. These houses were generally situated close to their neighbors and to the road on smaller lots than the 20th-century houses. There is a much greater variety of types of 20th-century houses in the four Valley mill villages. Forms range from gabled-wing, front-gabled, side-gabled, and hip/pyramid-roof cottages and contained anywhere from three to six rooms. Some resemble bungalows. Chimneys were still used, both on the interior and exterior, depending on the house type. Little company-generated new construction occurred after 1940, except the one-story concrete block houses built for returning G.I.'s in Riverview.

The textile mill and its associated resources are generally centrally located within the village. The mill buildings are large, rectangular plan, multi-story, brick buildings with uniform fenestration (mostly filled in). Architectural ornamentation tends to be minimal. The mill is typically accompanied by auxiliary buildings, structures, and sites such as water or electric powerhouses, water reservoirs, water tanks, offices, cotton warehouses, employee or guard shelters, and/or testing buildings.

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The mill villages also include community-related resources such as parks or "green" areas; recreational resources like baseball fields and stands, auditoriums, gymnasiums, swimming pools; and commercial and civic resources such as multi-use stores that incorporate Masonic rooms used by a variety of fraternal organizations, Boy and Girl Scout huts, kindergartens, schools, city halls, post offices, and churches. In the 19th-century villages these resources were somewhat centralized, but also scattered among the residential resources. In the 20th-century villages community-related resources were mostly centralized around the mill complex with the residential resources on the outer edges.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The historic mill villages of Fairfax, Langdale, Riverview, and Shawmut in Valley, Chambers County, Alabama, are significant primarily (but not exclusively) in the areas of INDUSTRY and SOCIAL HISTORY under National Register Criterion A and COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT under Criterion C for their significance at the local level. Architecture under Criterion C should not be considered until a professional-level survey can be conducted (see Section H). The period of significance for this cover document extends from 1866, the first year of mill operation and construction, to 1949, the National Register's fifty-year cut off date.

**CRITERION A: INDUSTRY**

The Valley districts are eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for their industrial associations, as they contain four intact historic textile mill complexes and associated industrial resources. Riverdale and Langdale Mills originated in 1866 along the Chattahoochee River to take advantage of the natural power of the water. The original Riverdale Mill building is still extant; however, Langdale's was mostly destroyed in 1886 due to fire and rebuilt soon afterward. Both mill complexes contain buildings from the 1880s up to the mid-20th century. Shawmut and Fairfax Mills were constructed in 1907 and 1915 respectively. These 20th-century mills ran on electric power and as such, were situated inland from the Chattahoochee River since the placement of the mill was no longer limited to its proximity to water for its power source. Shawmut and Fairfax contain buildings from the first two decades through the middle part of the 20th century. Mill resources include various types of textile processing and manufacturing buildings such as those used for weaving, spinning, bleaching, spooling, carding, picking, and cloth storage. The mill complexes also contain power-related resources (hydroelectric power houses and electric power houses), water reservoirs and filter houses, warehouses, cotton waste buildings, offices, and other miscellaneous resources such as water tanks and guard houses. These resources tell the industrial history of each mill and demonstrate the progressive industrial development of the West Point Manufacturing Company from the mid-19th century through the 20th century.

**CRITERION C: COMMUNITY PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT**

The Valley districts are eligible for listing under Criterion C for community planning/development as they contain examples of vernacular, unplanned mill villages that originated in the 19th century and evolved over a period of time, and 20th-century planned mill villages with the great majority of the buildings constructed during a discrete period of time. Riverview and Langdale represent two good examples of an unplanned mill village, in that these mill villages were not planned by professional designers, rather they were laid out by the company and local builders and developed over time during different periods of expansion and prosperity. The earliest core areas of these villages convey characteristics of "mill hill" villages as defined by Margaret Crawford in *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns* in that they have a rural location near a water source, village informally laid out by local carpenters/builders according to local traditions, similar type houses situated close together on roads that lead out from the mill generally on a hill, and community buildings near the mill or interspersed with the houses.

The houses at Riverview are sited according to the topography of the area with raised and lowered yards, distinguished by rock retaining walls and steep stairs helping to provide more level building lots. The mill complex is situated at a sharp bend in the Chattahoochee River and forms the northern border of the district. Roads radiate out from the mill with Middle Street being the oldest; Lower, Reservoir, and School Streets constructed next; California developing through the middle decades

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of the twentieth century; and G. I. Street the final building program in 1947. Several community buildings are extant and interspersed within the village in a random order. The village at Langdale is bisected by U. S. Highway 29, creating a north-south axis with streets placed within the constraints of the topography of the hills. The mill complex and the oldest houses are located on the eastern side of Highway 29, while the western side contains turn-of-the-century and later houses as well as many of the community buildings. The mill complex is centrally located within the village along the River with groups of early housing on roads that extend from the mill to the north and south. Most of the housing dates from the late 1880s up until 1920 and corresponds to various boom periods at the mill. Like Riverview, the earlier houses were placed on the hills around the mill so that some houses are on raised yards (some are even placed on very steep inclines) and some are on slightly lowered yards. Very dramatic turn-of-the-century examples of these raised and lowered yards can be found on the western side of U. S. 29 to the north and western sides of the school.

However, around the turn-of-the-century, progressive era reform trends promoted planned mill environments to encourage better living and working conditions which in turn would make a happier and less transient work force. Shawmut and Fairfax have many of the ideals of the "new" company town promoted by these reformers. Both were planned to be independent mill villages, further promoting the decentralization trend in "new" company towns and West Point Manufacturing Company's own internal policy; were planned by trained design professionals; have a deliberate layout and design of their physical elements (Shawmut employs a formal, axial layout, while Fairfax has a more informal, curvilinear plan); incorporate a variety of landscape elements from open green spaces and parks, to tree-lined streets, medians on some streets, house yards large enough to have chickens and a cow (there were common grazing pastures that operatives used outside of town), or personal gardens; and contained relatively discrete areas for the mill complex, commercial and social/community resources, and residential buildings. The 20th-century planned mill villages of Valley reflect the community planning traditions associated with the City Beautiful and informal garden city movements, as articulated by Frederick Law Olmsted, Daniel Burnham, and other prominent architects and landscape designers of the first two decades of the twentieth century. Principles of City Beautiful community design included comprehensive planning by professionals, the close coordination of architecture and landscape design, the concentration of public buildings in prominent locations. The garden city movement also promoted professional design in addition to informal, naturalistic settings including contour planning and curvilinear streets, extensive landscaping with communal spaces, and planned areas of industry, community resources, and houses.

Built in 1907, Shawmut was the first fully electric and comprehensively planned village in Valley. Lockwood, Greene & Co., the well-known textile engineering firm, designed the mill. Although it is unclear who the designer was, the mill village was laid out as a planned community with the work executed by West Point, Georgia, civil engineer George D. Allen in the City Beautiful style. Shawmut has a formal, axial plan orientated on a cardinal north-south axis with the mill at the farthest point south. The layout of the village emanates from a circle located directly in front of the mill from which eight residential streets radiate. The main boulevard (23rd Avenue), a wide street with a planted median strip, is aligned on axis with the mill and has some larger homes near the circle that were supervisors' residences. The eight radiating streets intersect with an irregular-shaped hexagon which acts as the limit of the formal plan. The Chattahoochee Valley Railroad tracks bound the eastern edge of the hexagon, with an oval-shaped street (originally Boulevard Street) at the far edge of the plan which contained the entire village. The community buildings were located around the central circle. Shawmut boasted the only modern hotel and cafeteria in the Valley mill towns, both of which were owned by the mill.

Fairfax was the second comprehensively planned community created by West Point Manufacturing Company and the only one in the City of Valley whose designer has been positively identified. Fairfax was planned as a toweling mill and constructed in 1915-1916. The architect of the mill was a Mr. Agnew (or Agnue); the contractor was Galveston Construction Co.; and William B. Marquis (MLA, 1912, Harvard School of Landscape Design) laid out the village. At the time, Marquis was a designer and supervisor for P. J. Berckmans Co., an Augusta, Georgia, nursery. In 1919, Marquis joined the nationally prominent landscape architecture firm of Olmsted Brothers, in Brookline, Massachusetts. The layout of Fairfax village reflects Olmstedian and garden city movement community planning traditions. The highlights of Marquis's Fairfax plan are a sizable circle placed between the mill complex and the major community buildings and a separate open area, analogous to a village green, located due west of the mill. The community's main street, Boulevard, makes a loop from U.S. Highway 29 on the east, wraps around the mill with a pivot at the circle, and returns to 29. The curving residential

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streets of Fairfax mostly branch from Boulevard, often forming loops and adding greatly to the informal charm of the community. West Point Manufacturing Company pursued community beautification by retaining many pine trees along the streets in Fairfax and later transplanting from a nearby farm three-inch and four-inch oak tree seedlings, which continue to provide graceful shade today. The company also graded and ditched the streets, which were originally dirt and later gravel.

**CRITERION A: SOCIAL HISTORY**

The Valley mill villages are also eligible under Criterion A for social history as they contain the educational, religious, residential, and social/recreational resources built for the workers by the West Point Manufacturing Company. For those villages located in isolated, rural areas, the construction of new towns became an essential part of industrial investment and at a minimum included housing, a school, at least one church, a company store, and various recreational activities for its residents. This kind of broad paternalistic support by textile companies was done under the cause of social responsibility, also known as welfare capitalism or welfare work, and ranged from providing decent housing, improving working conditions through better mill design and hours, enhancing employee morale with social programs and resources, financial self-improvement, and active athletic and recreational programs and facilities. Companies provided these things because they were needed, but also to exert further control over the workers, squash negative impressions of mill environments, attempt to deter the great amount of transiency among mill workers, increase productivity by making a happy worker, and keep union support at bay.

In Alabama, the West Point Manufacturing Company was one of, if not, the best proponents of social responsibility of its workers. Historian Wayne Flynt writes that it "instituted a diverse program of social welfare for its white labor. It supplemented county school funds in order to maintain a nine-month school term and made available free kindergartens and lyceum courses. Community halls were open three times a week for a variety of meetings, programs, and films. The company built swimming pools and bathhouses and provided life insurance to each employee. But such extensive welfare commitments were an exception to the rule." Local historians in Valley concur that the West Point Manufacturing Company took care of its workers. Under the leadership of the Laniers, the company constructed and maintained all components of the villages — houses, stores, schools and churches — for both whites and blacks. The company established and ran hospitals. Its public kindergarten system was the first of its kind in Alabama. During the Great Depression, when workers' hours were drastically cut to one or two days a week, the company brought in fresh fish every week to distribute to the mill families. Responsible families got extended credit at the company store. West Point also initiated the "mill charities" program at this time. All employees, no matter how meager their wages, had an automatic contribution deducted from their pay for these charities. Thus, the company management had funds to help needy families and also contribute to the community library, hospital, and local Boy and Girl Scout troops. West Point truly did see itself as a great paternalistic entity and promoted social welfare programs and constructed buildings for its workers in each village including single- and multi-family dwellings, company stores, Masonic lodges, schools, kindergartens, auditoriums, movie theaters, baseball fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, Boy and Girl Scout huts, churches, a library, and hospitals/health clinics.

The Valley mill villages contain good collections of industrial architecture, vernacular mill house types, and miscellaneous stylistically-influenced buildings. The majority of the industrial resources at the mills are constructed of brick with either brick, stone, or concrete foundations; are rectangular in plan; and contain large banks of windows to take advantage of natural air and light when needed, or contain virtually no windows when that was desired as well. Mill housing varies from period to period but historically was virtually all one-story. Side-gabled frame duplexes (most later converted to single family spaces) were constructed from 1866 to the turn-of-the-century with gable end or interior chimneys of brick or stone, brick or stone pier foundation (most often filled in at a later date), two doors with two windows on the front facade, and a full width porch. Early twentieth-century house forms range from gabled-wing, front-gabled, side-gabled, and hip/pyramid-roof cottages; some resemble bungalows. All are frame construction with brick foundations and chimneys, full- or partial-width porches, and anywhere from four- to six-room interior plans. There are some minimal traditional houses built during the 1930s and 1940s and a great collection of 1947 rectangular-plan, concrete block houses for returning World War II soldiers in Riverview. Stylistic influences include the Colonial and Classical Revivals and a singular example of Depression Modern. Commercial resources are generally two-story brick with the storefront bays containing large display windows and entrance doors and the upper facade areas having regular fenestration.

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**REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Textile mill villages and associated resource properties should retain integrity of their historic materials, form, design, setting, and location sufficient to convey their historic character and function. Due to the utilitarian nature of these resources, additions and modernizations are expected. Such alterations must not obscure the overall design of the main historic facade, and the historic core should remain evident from the exterior. In the case of the mill buildings, windows were frequently bricked-in or boarded during the mid-twentieth century due to the addition of air-conditioning to the mills. This is acceptable if the fenestration pattern is still distinguishable. In the case of residential resources associated with mill villages, acceptable alterations may include: minor changes to windows, doors, and porches which do not affect the rhythm of the facade or streetscape; the application of synthetic siding; and secondary additions which do not adversely affect the overall form and design. The villages should retain integrity of historic design, street patterns, and historic landscape elements. Properties should be good to excellent representatives of mill villages of the Chattahoochee Valley associated with the West Point Manufacturing Company as determined by overall integrity and significance. The registration requirement used in assessing this property type are consistent with National Register criteria.

**G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:** City limits of Valley, Chambers County, Alabama

**H. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS**

The multiple property listing of "Historic Resources of Valley, Alabama, and The West Point Manufacturing Company" marks a continuation of efforts to document and list the historic textile industry-related resources of the four mill villages of Fairfax, Langdale, Riverview, and Shawmut in Valley, Chambers County, Alabama. An architectural survey was conducted of the four mill villages by local volunteers in 1990 which identified 1194 buildings, sites, and structures. These surveys were conducted following state guidelines and given some technical assistance from the Alabama Historical Commission. These surveys are the basis for the inventories within the district nominations for each village. Different survey teams were assigned to each village so typology terms differ slightly from village to village; however, good descriptions were completed. The surveys attempted to document all substantial buildings, sites, and structures within the historic boundaries of each mill village; outbuildings were not recorded.

In 1993 and 1994 a private consultant, Julie Turner, was contracted by the City of Valley to complete the forms for listing the four villages on the National Register under a Multiple Property Cover Document. The consultant conducted historic research on the history of West Point Manufacturing and the four mill villages and prepared draft documents of a Multiple Property Document and four historic districts using the volunteer survey for the inventories. The consultant, through her research, determined the historic contexts. Additional research and survey was needed to meet the National Park Service standards for listing, so in 1996 the Alabama National Register Coordinator, Trina Binkley, and division Historian Susan Enzweiler began gathering additional information. In the fall of 1998 the National Register Coordinator took the 1990 volunteer survey and checked each village for accuracy, corrected misinformation, and plotted new maps. Time did not allow for a new survey, so detailed typology work was not done. In 1999 the National Register Coordinator and new division Historian Blythe Semmer prepared the "Historic Resources of Valley, Alabama, and The West Point Manufacturing Company" Multiple Property Cover Document and four historic district nominations: Fairfax, Langdale, Riverview, and Shawmut. Property types developed were based on the 1990 volunteer survey. Integrity requirements were based on the 1998 on-site review by Trina Binkley of the 1990 volunteer survey information. As nearly all mill housing has been altered to some extent, important elements of form and configuration of the mill cottages was given hierarchy over materials when making contributing and noncontributing determinations.

The current document and survey are sufficient to meet National Register and basic programmatic needs. More in-depth treatment of the mill village history and the housing typology are both warranted and necessary for a full understanding of the resource and to ensure protection for those components whose history is not readily visible. The current document does not address in any substantial way the important roles of women in the mill village, nor documents the important African American resources in Valley. Currently the City of Valley, using Certified Local Government grant monies, has plans for a two-phased project to conduct a technical survey, develop detailed property type analysis, and perform an in-depth historic context on the area by a professional preservation consultant familiar with textile industry history and resources. This project will also update the National Register documentation at that time.

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