United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 16000008 Date Listed: 2/11/2016

Property Name: Louisville Cotton Mills (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

County: Jefferson State: KY

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

2·11·2016

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10: Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary increase area is bounded on the south by Ash Street, on the east by McHenry Street, on the west by the railroad right-of-way, and on the north by the original nomination boundary.

Boundary Justification

The boundary increase adds the 1941 administration building as well as the entirety of the historic property, reflecting the complete historic property associated with the Louisville Cotton Mill.

The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file/Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Park Service

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NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Louisville Cotton Mills (Boundary Increase, Additional Documentation)

other names/site number Louisville Textile, Inc., Fincastle Fabrics, JFCZ-11

Related Multiple Property Textile Mills of Louisville, Kentucky

2. Location

street & number 1318 McHenry Street NA not for publication

city or town Louisville NA vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** _X_ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X_ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

Signature of certifying official/Title **Craig Potts/SHPO** Date 12-18-15

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2-11-2016

Louisville Cotton Mills (Boundary Increase, Additional Documentation) — Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY — County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Textile Mills of Louisville Kentucky

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Processing/Extraction:
Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement: Art Deco

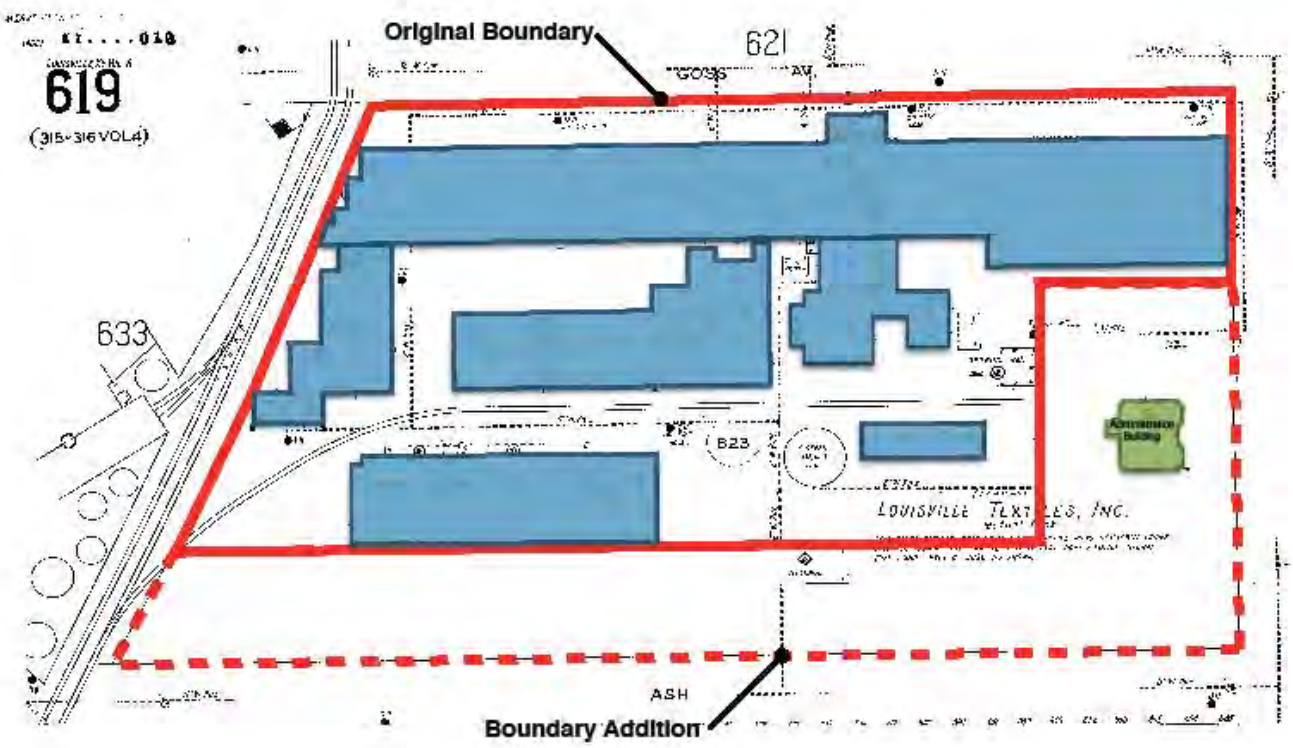
Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:
walls: Brick, Stone, Concrete
roof:
other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

This nomination proposes an increase in the boundary of an industrial complex listed in the National Register, the Louisville Cotton Mills (Site number: JFCZ-11; NRIS: 82001560). The proposed additional acreage will add a single building, the Administration Building, to the property. The Administration Building is located close to the south corner of the complex. An L-shaped area of the Louisville Cotton Mills property, which contained the Administration Building, was excluded from the previous National Register nomination, because the building was not old enough, having been built in 1941, to qualify for listing in 1982 when the Louisville Cotton Mills was nominated (see map 1). The Administrative Building became an integral component of the mill's operation and resulted from the evolution of the original company, Louisville Cotton Mills, as it became Louisville Textiles, Inc., and then Fincastle Fabrics. The original nomination listed an area of 5.13 acres; this nomination proposes the listing of that additional area, approximately .5 acres, which includes one contributing building.



Louisville Cotton Mills Boundary Addition Map

History of Ownership of Louisville Cotton Mills Property

Seller's Name	Buyer's Name	Deed Book #	Page #	Date of Deed	Purchase price
Life Association of America	Louisville Cotton Mills Co.	317	296	6/1/1888	$22,500
Louisville Textiles, Inc.	Pennsylvania Furniture Co.	3620	586	2/2/1960	
Pennsylvania Furniture Co.	United Industrial Syndicate	3731	501	1/2/1962	
United Industrial Syndicate	Fincastle Investment Corporation	4214	65	8/9/1968	$425,000
Booker-Price Corporation	JTJ, LLC	10166	0658	11/13/2013	$2,200,000
JTJ, LLC	Mill Lofts Owner, Llc	10313	0411	10/16/2014	$2,200,000

Character of Louisville Cotton Mills site

The property is in Louisville's Schnitzelburg neighborhood, located 3 miles southeast of downtown. The neighborhood was platted immediately after the Civil War, but development did not flourish until 1891, when the streetcar line extended to the corner of Goss and Texas Avenues, three blocks south of the nominated site.

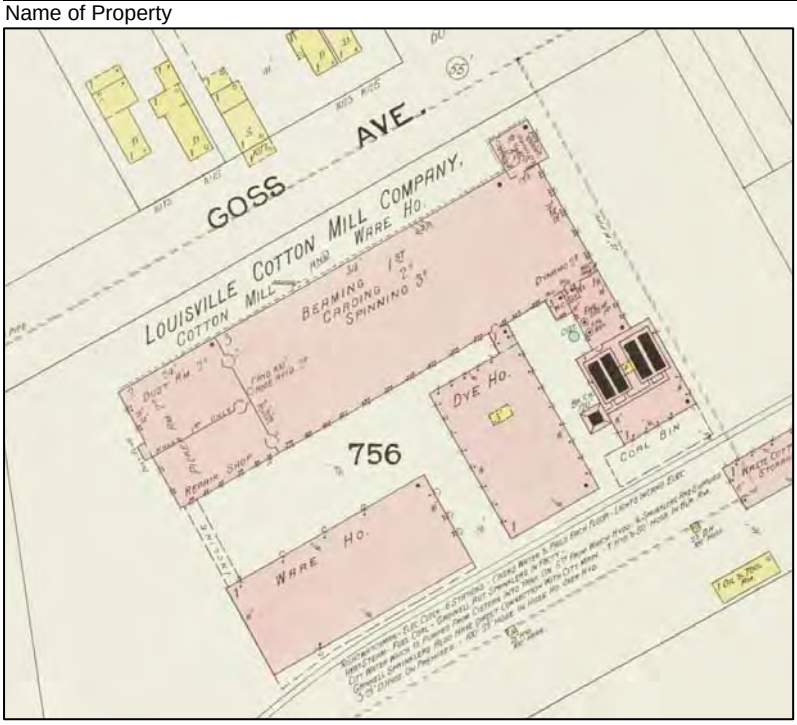
During the Period of Significance, the property was surrounded on three sides by city streets—McHenry and Ash Streets and Goss Avenue, and on the fourth side by the L & N Railroad. These streets continue to define the perimeter of the site, as does the rail line, now known as CSX. The site does not conform to cardinal directions. McHenry Street, to which the Administration Building fronts, runs northeast-southwest. Within the site, the buildings' fronts and sides run parallel to the streets at the perimeter.

Evolution of Constructed Buildings on Site until Present

To help understand the role and function of the Administration Building to this functionally-related complex, the following briefly outlines the changes that the site has undergone since it began as the Louisville Cotton Mills in the 1880s. The author has relied on Sanborn Maps to provide the majority of information on the site's changes over time.

Phase I

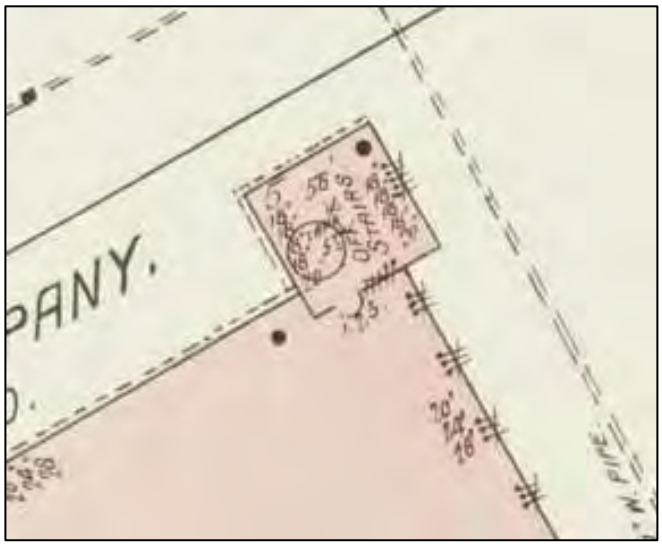
The original cotton mills were contained on a single site within approximately three buildings and several additional support structures. Cotton bales would arrive by train to the rear of the warehouse, aligned with a railroad spur along the south side of the complex. From this warehouse the cotton bales would be transferred to the main mill building along Goss Avenue on the north side of the site. The bales would be processed first in the picker room, where dirt and debris would be removed from the cotton. After being cleaned the cotton was then carded, beamed, spun, woven, and eventually finished. Beaming, carding, and spinning all occurred in the main building, with a separate dye house located to the south next to the warehouse, and connected to the mill building by a small connector. Products made at the plant were shipped off to other manufacturers, who created finished cloth products available to individual and commercial consumers.



1892 Sanborn Map showing entire mill complex

Aside from the three primary buildings on the site, there was a separate structure for furnaces, boilers, and engines along the southwest side of the site. Immediately behind this structure was a coal bin, which aligned with the railroad spur along the rear of the site. The location of this support building was important, because it kept the power running along one side of the production building, as indicated on the 1892 Sanborn map, showing belt holes on the second floor. At the very far corner of the site, on the south side of the railroad spur and at its terminus on the site, were a waste cotton storage structure and a barrel storage structure. Keeping waste here kept it from interfering with the production process.

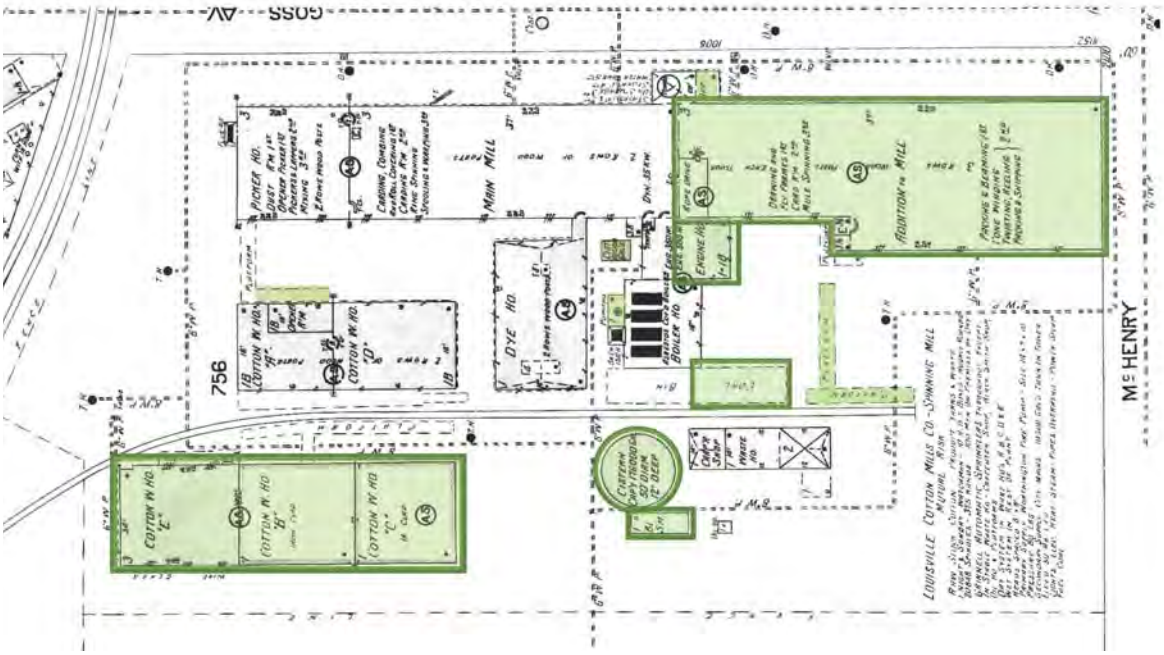
Originally the administration offices were contained within the original mill production building along Goss Avenue. What is now the center tower of the production space along Goss Avenue was originally a corner tower. This space is labeled as office space in the 1892 Sanborn map.



1892 Company office Location

Phase II

Before 1905, the mill complex expanded significantly. D.X. Murphy & Brothers was hired to plan the expansion in 1904. The original three-story main building was lengthened from the center of the block to McHenry Street, with the new portion significantly wider than the original portion of the building. This additional space contained drawing and fly frames on the first floor, additional carding space on the second floor, and mule spinning on the third floor. At the far side of this addition the extra space was used for packing and beaming, cone winding, twisting, and reeling, as well as packing and shipping. This additional mill space was also connected to exterior platforms along the rear of the building, which provided additional access to the rail spur as well as access to shipping yard along the southeast side of the site. This addition caused the mill to occupy the entire original site, reaching the corner of McHenry Street and Goss Avenue.

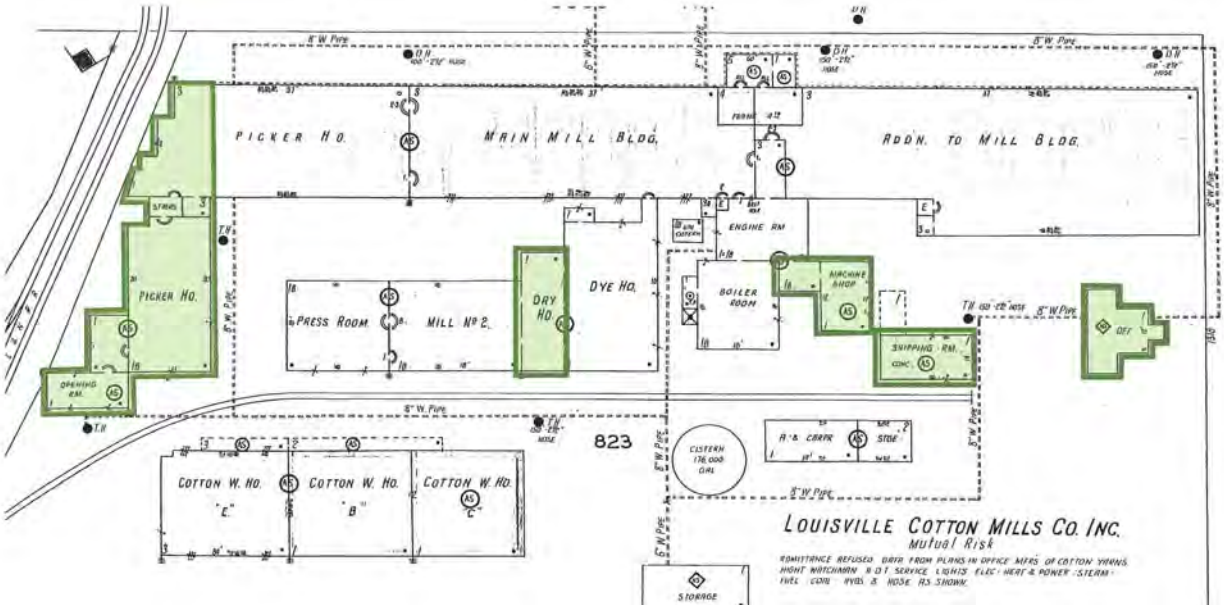


1905 Mill Expansion

During this expansion the engine room was upgraded from a single 250 horsepower engine to a 350 horsepower engine and a 500 horsepower engine. The engine room was also significantly expanded to accommodate the new engines, the coal bin was doubled in size, and two new cisterns were added, one with a capacity in excess of 175,000 gallons. Additionally, a new cotton warehouse was constructed to the rear of the original warehouse, on the other side of the railroad spur, more than doubling the available storage space. New repair shops and waste houses to the rear of the complex.

Phase III

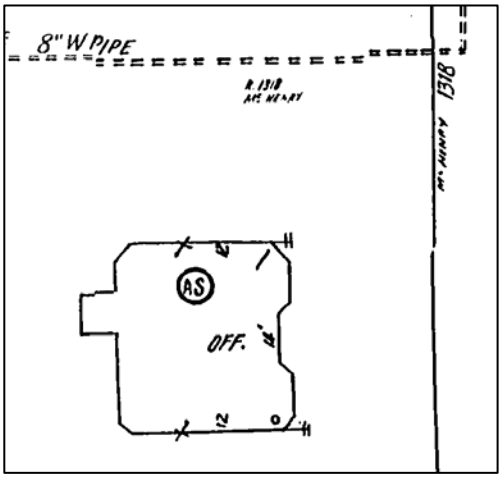
The mill complex expanded again prior to 1928, with an expansion to the west, completely up against the railroad, and to the south, following the curve of the railroad and the existing spur through the center of the site. This new expansion was largely expansion of the picker house, which would have been badly needed with the previous increases in storage space as well as the increase in production that was occurring. These expansions also were necessary as the process became more mechanized and more space was needed for automatic bale opening and cleaning.

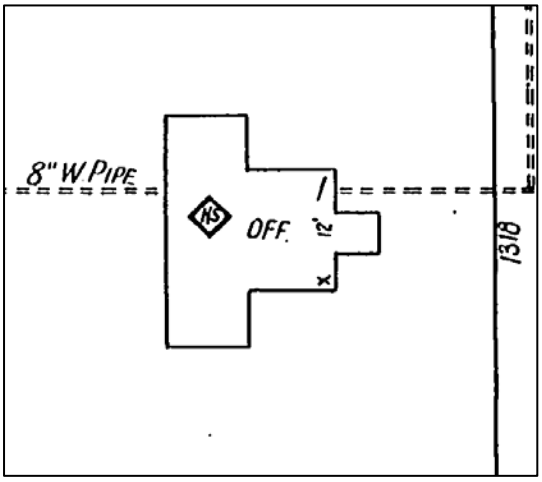


1910-1928 Additions to the mill complex

Further emphasizing the more mechanized process was the addition of a machine shop connected to the boiler and engine rooms along the southeast side of the site and the removal of the shipping platforms and replacement with a concrete shipping room. At this point trucks would have begun to play a much larger role in shipping and receiving and the infrastructure and layout of the site reflects this.

During this same expansion the original warehouse buildings, previously identified as Warehouses "A" and "D," were connected to the dye house by a dry house and were converted to an additional mill, identified as "Mill No. 2" and a press room. This additional mill is likely the area that handled consumer goods and worked with synthetic fibers, like rayon, which the company was beginning to use more frequently. Another conversion was the waste fiber and barrel storage space at the far corner of the site. These buildings were now converted to a carpenter's shop and storage space.





New office constructed in 1910

In 1910 a new administration building was constructed, removing the offices from the main mill building.[i] The new building was located along McHenry Street and relatively isolated from the main mill complex. The only documentation of this new building is the original 1928 Sanborn Map and the Carron's Directories of Louisville, which reflect a change in address, in 1910, from Goss Avenue to McHenry Street. The administration building that stands today is not the original administration building constructed along McHenry Street. After 1941, the original free-standing administration building was demolished and a new administration building constructed further to the southwest. This newer building is considerably larger than the original and was the only building of the complex left out of the original nomination.

Exterior Description of Administration Building

The Administration Building is a single story, Art Deco style commercial building of brick, with stone detailing along the roof line, beneath the windows, and along the foundation. The layout, from the exterior is completely symmetrical, with a central entrance surrounded by low relief stone columns extending above the roofline. The building plan is square, except for corners that are chamfered and inset, softening the edges. Large window openings are located to each side of the main entrance. The sides of the building both have unevenly spaced windows. The rear of the building has a protruding exit corridor, as well as the only original windows remaining in the building.

Front facade of Fincastle Administration Building

The ornamentation around the entrance is the most prominent Art Deco flourish. The center bay is inset from the rest of the front facade, with the north and south bays mimicking their exterior chamfered corners and returning to low relief stone columns. These columns extend above the roofline into a rounded groove-divided cats paw. The bay then continues to step inward from these columns and downward, from the tops in a louvered pattern, terminating at a central relief depicting a worker at a spinning wheel and loom. Above the worker, within the depiction, is a castle turret wrapped with a banner with "Fincastle Fabrics" printed onto it. The front opening is a space the width of a single door, though there is glass block located on the inside, behind

[i] Carron's Directory (1909) provides a Goss Avenue address and in 1910 the company has a McHenry Street address.

the siding, which extends from both sides to the top of the opening. A non-historic brick and wood front porch has been added and extends beyond the front entryway and the rest of the front facade.

The only remaining original windows are located along the rear (west) facade. These window openings are of different sizes than all of the other openings. The remaining window openings have all been reduced significantly in size, with a single undivided window installed near the sill and the rest of the space in-filled with vinyl siding.

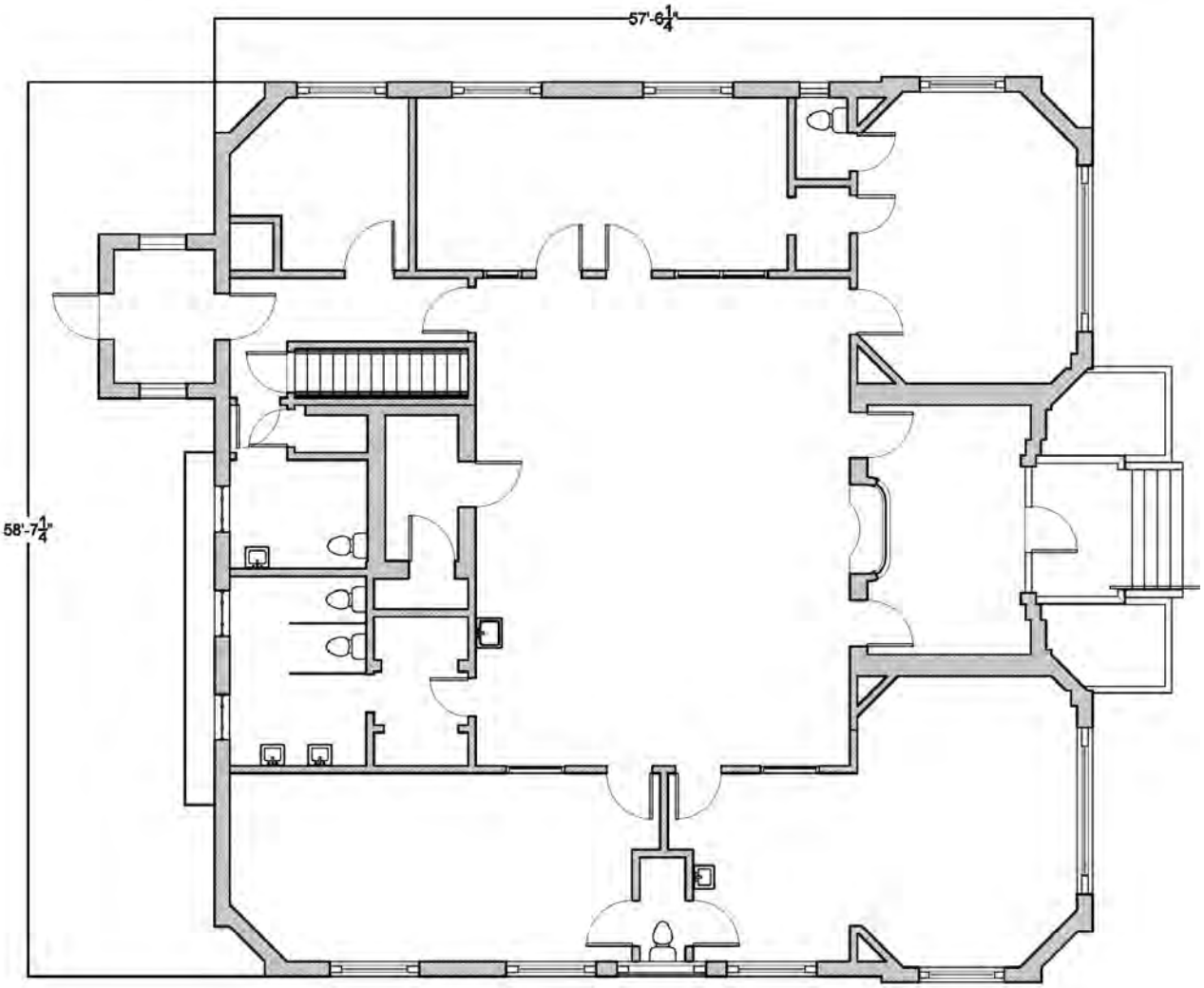
Rear facade windows

Rear of building

Main Entry Room with Reception Window

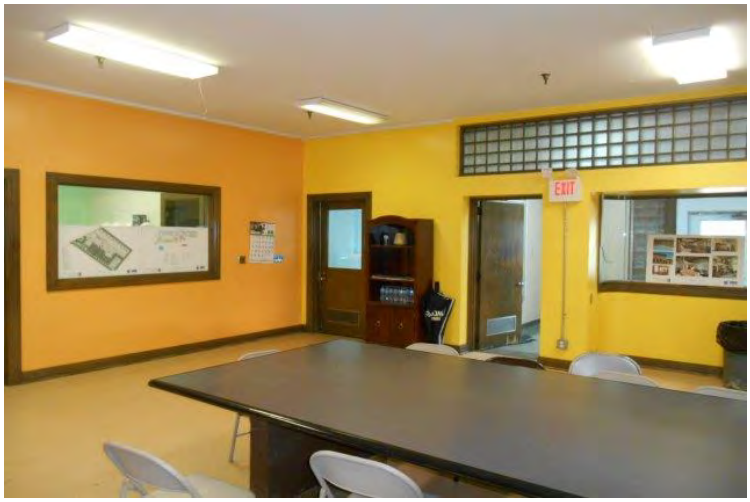
Interior Description of Administration Building

The existing interior consists of a front entryway and waiting room, with two doors on either side of a curved glass receptionist's booth. Beyond this waiting room, located in the center of the building, is a large open office space. Along the sides are doors and windows to smaller offices, extending from the front of the building to the rear. In the center rear space is a safe, accessed from the center room, and bathrooms, as well as a staircase to the basement. An exit corridor extends out the back of the building along the north side of the rear facade. Much of the interior materials are intact, though a number of windows, most doors, and fixtures have been replaced over the last several decades and during the time the building was used as a daycare facility.



Changes to the Administration Building since the new Period of Significance

The administration building has changed little in terms out layout since its construction through the end of the period of significance. The layout appears to have been largely retained to the current period, which consists of a general lobby space, offices around the perimeter of the building, with offices and kitchen space in the rear, and a large center secretary pool. It is likely that a single wall was removed between several of the perimeter offices, creating a larger single space on the south side of the building. Aside from layout, the front staircase was very visibly changed with new brick planters and decking. The windows have changed substantially, but Property Valuation Administration records indicate that the glass block windows, which have been largely removed, were retained up until sometime in approximately the 1990s. Based entirely on the condition of the floor materials, it is likely that the vinyl tiles and carpet were installed sometimes after the 1970s, but the actual date could vary widely. In any event, the newer carpet and vinyl tile are not original and do not contribute to the significance of the building.



Historic Photo of Main room in center of building **Same room, today**

The entire Louisville Cotton Mills complex is undergoing a tax credit rehabilitation. The administration building, being added to the listed complex, will also undergo tax credit rehabilitation by the same owners.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Period of Significance

Original nomination: 1889, 1904, 1915

Current nomination: 1888-1967

Significant Dates

1888, 1904

1941, 1967

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is the years in which the Louisville Textile Mill was open and runs until it closed. During that span of time, it remained a significant company within Louisville's textile industry.

Criteria Considerations: NA

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Louisville Cotton Mill complex (Site Number: JFCZ-11; NRIS: 82001560) meets National Register Criterion A. It is a significant plant within the textile industry as it shifted materials, regions, and products, from the late-1880s through the late-1960s. The property is being evaluated within the historic context "Textile Industry in Louisville Kentucky, 1880-1970." The Louisville Cotton Mill began as a cotton textile producer in a city of woolen textile producers. The mill was the first cotton mill in Louisville and remained by far the largest cotton mill until it was closed in 1967. The contextual investigations below reveal three factors that mark any mill as significant: high employment, strong capitalization, and longevity. The Louisville Cotton Mill exhibits all these factors. It survived the shift in textiles from wool to cotton, the contraction and migration of the industry from the North to the South, the Great Depression, and the major changes in American consumer habits after World War II. Its provides a significant story among Louisville's many industrial concerns.

Historic Context: Textile Industry in Louisville Kentucky, 1880-1970

The American Textile Industry

The history of textiles in America is older than the United States. Before large cities began to develop, most textiles were made at home, of natural fibers, like cotton and wool. The industrial revolution, focused particularly in the Northeast, changed this, as massive mills employed thousands of men, women, and children, to mass-produce textiles of wool and cotton, in particular. This model of industry worked for decades, through the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Industry Change and Migration, 1890 - 1930

Just before the opening of the 20th century, the textile business was upset by industry-altering technological development and migration from rural agriculture to urban industry.

In the 1890s, the Draper Northrop Automatic Loom was introduced to the textile industry. The Draper loom featured an automatically-loading shuttle and an automatic stop to prevent damage if the warp broke. It more than halved the labor cost of operating a traditional loom. By 1900, more than 60,000 Draper Northrop looms had been sold and by the end of the run there were 700,000 sold.

During this same time, mills were being built all over the southeast. These mills were employing the newest technology and operating in a best practices capacity from their initial opening. In these Southern mills, fresh capital built the building and bought the newest machines in a single investment purchase.[2] These mills never experienced the lag in technology that older mills in the North experienced.

Shift in material from Wool to Cotton

After the Civil War, the wool and cotton industries existed on roughly equal footing. Both supplied rough fabrics and were labor intensive. It was not until the period from 1890 - 1920 that the woolen industry first began to experience issues that would eventually presage its falling well behind the cotton industry. In the

[2] Irwin Feller, *Diffusion and Location of Change in the American Cotton-Textile Industry*, P. 573-74

years immediately after World War I, the industry began to spiral downward.[3] This spiral was caused by competition from cotton and synthetic fibers, which appealed to consumers and occupied the same price and quality range as wool had originally, but these alternate fabrics were more widely available.[4]

In addition to the competition from synthetic fibers and readily-available cotton, the technological development of the wool and worsteds industry was significantly slower.[5] The result was an industry still heavily reliant on labor, while other industries were decreasing their reliance on labor. Some woolen and worsted mills survived, but only those that were truly at the top of the industry in productivity or possessed some other competitive advantage unavailable to other mills.

Migration to the Southeast from the Northeast

The story of most industries, when looking at the division of the nation into North and South factions, is one of cheap labor supply coupled with significant industrial capital. The North possessed these things in abundance, particularly after the Civil War, while the South did not. Over the beginning decades of the twentieth century, these things switched for the textile industry. The industry was pushed south by higher priced labor, unions, and social welfare legislation in the more-heavily industrialized areas, such as the Northeast.[6]

Capitalists in the North had spent millions of dollars building new mills, buying machinery, and employing millions of workers. When new technologies were developed, much of the northern capital that should have been used to acquire these new technologies was already invested in older technologies, which were becoming obsolete.[7] Even mills that were not already heavily invested in existing equipment still had trouble adapting to new systems, which were not as compatible with the North's wider fabrics and higher-count weaves.[8]

Despite the growing obsolescence of northern industrial infrastructure, the North maintained an advantage in the labor market because weaving was a skilled labor, and those skilled laborers were not abundant in the South. This advantage vanished with the invention of the Draper automatic loom in 1890. This new loom greatly reduced the labor cost of weaving and allowed for the substitution of unskilled labor for skilled labor.[9] A single worker could operate up to twenty Draper looms, whereas a single worker could only be expected to operate up to six non-automatic looms.[10]

Up until this time, agricultural prices in the South had remained stable, keeping the labor market stable as well, which deprived Southern mills of the strong labor supply necessary for production. But strong fluctuations in agricultural prices began to change this and Southern farms, which had been the central focus of labor, began to fail. Farmers and their families looked to the steady pay from local mills for a safer and brighter economic

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[3] Decline of the American Woolen and Worsted Industry, Himmelstein
[4] *Id.*
[5] *A Neglected Chapter in the History of Combinations: The American Wool Manufacture*, Arthur H. Cole, pp. 437.
[6] David Koinstinen, *The Causes of Deindustrialization: The Migration of the Cotton Textile Industry from New England to the South*, pp. 484.
[7] Feller at pp. 575.
[8] *Id.* at 575.
[9] *Id.* at 573.
[10] *Id.* at 574.

future. This shift away from small farms supplied Southern mill owners with a cheap and eager, if unskilled, labor force. The Northeast mills were unable to match this cheap labor, having locked in labor contracts with powerful unions. Even if the unions had not secured a minimum cost of labor, the market in the Northeast did. If textile production failed to pay adequately, workers would leave for other industries where pay was better—and southern competition was lacking.[11]

In a matter of a few decades, the Northern textile production advantage in machinery and labor had completely vanished. The South had a cheaper labor supply and access to the best industrial machinery. The migration of the textile industry to the South continued through the 1960s until it was challenged in the same way, by a cheaper labor force overseas, which also came to have access to the same modern equipment.

The Textile Industry in Louisville

The thematic nomination, Textile Mills of Louisville (NRIS 64000256), which supported the National Register listing of the Louisville Cotton Mills, gives some insight into the growth of this industry within Kentucky's largest city.

While tobacco and distilling industries dominated Louisville's industrial economy, textile production appeared early in the city's history and developed by the end of the 19th century into a thriving, multi-million dollar enterprise, employing hundreds of workers. The earliest mention of the industry appears in the 1832 Louisville Directory, which lists one woolen factory and one cotton mill. Following the Civil War, Louisville experienced a tremendous growth in commerce and industry, aided in large part by the rapid expansion of the railroads. The textile trade profited from this period of general prosperity and reached its height during the years 1880 – 1910.

Louisville was one of the largest wool markets in the country in the nineteenth century. In 1876 there were three large mills manufacturing "Kentucky jeans," a coarse, durable and cheap fabric for the working man, which was sold in New Orleans, New York, St. Louis, and San Francisco, according to a business report of that year. The 1880 Census reported Kentucky to be the nation's second largest producer of jeans cloth. By 1890, six large woolen mills were turning out seven million yards of jeans cloth a year, with annual sales of $1.5 million. Jean pants could be purchased for $1.50 a pair.

New inventions in the cotton industry made producing higher quantities and qualities of cotton yarn possible. Draper's automatic loom and the availability of cotton, as the favored textile material, caused the woolen textile industry to begin consolidating and eventually, in Louisville, to collapse in the last years of the 19th century.

Shift from Wool to Cotton

The textile industry's shift away from wool had a pronounced impact in Louisville. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were woolen mill companies operating across the city. In 1877 there were seven woolen mills operating in Louisville.[12] This number held steady through the turn of the century, remarkably with almost the exact same manufacturers.[13] Within fifteen years, nearly all of these had closed or been purchased by significantly larger out-of-state syndicates, removing direct control from local citizens.

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[11] *New England Textiles and the Region's Economy*, Monthly Labor Review, Vol. 80, No. 5, (May 1957), pp. 590.

[12] Carron's Directory of Louisville 1877

[13] Carron's Directory of Louisville 1900

Louisville Woolen Mills sold to Sweetwater Woolen Mills of Sweetwater, Tennessee for $200,000 in 1906.[14] Bradford Mills fell into receivership and was then acquired by American Woolen Mills, located in Massachusetts, which expanded its production and ran it for a number of years.[15]

Eclipse Woolen Mill, which had been one of the largest producers of jean fabric and worsteds was forced into assignment in 1905 after the cotton market exerted pressure on wool prices. Eclipse collapsed.[16] The mill building survived, but the new purchasers turned it into a general manufacturing complex, with nearly a dozen various manufacturers involved.[17] Beargrass Woolen Mills collapsed in early 1906, and was liquidated in just a few months, with its buildings being sold at auction for just $6,500.[18] In 1909 Mayfield Woolen Mills was liquidated at absolute auction and declared bankrupt in 1911.[19] Falls City Jeans and Woolen Mills, which had added new buildings and production equipment just after the turn of the century, was liquidated at auction April 20, 1915.[20] The real and personal property was divided into 628 separate lots and only 5% of the equipment sold was expected to remain in Louisville.[21]

In the span of only ten years, the only the woolen industry in Louisville had gone from amongst the largest in the world to just two, Bradford Mills and Louisville Woolen Mills. And only one of the faltering companies successfully sold itself for any significant value. Nearly every other mill had collapsed into bankruptcy and receivership.

Louisville Cotton Survives

In Louisville, wool was the initial textile material and the most significant driver of the industry, but by the turn of the century, cotton was seen as the future of Southern textile manufacturing. As was pointed out when the first mill opened, "There has been heretofore a singular neglect by the people of Louisville of this great wealth resource at their doors[.]"[22] The first cotton mill opened in 1888, and it possessed all of the strengths the South possessed and enjoyed the added benefit of strong railroad connections.[23]

Louisville did not possess all of the benefits of the South, as compared to the North, but did possess a sufficient mix to allow its cotton mill to survive and grow. New machinery was added, as were expanded operations to encompass more than a singular variety of textiles, which had been the mistake of the woolen industry, being essentially a jeans fabric trade. The industry was able to embrace the strong railroad connections to the North and the South, as well as the river, which provided cheap access for raw materials and for exports to the entire country.

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[14] *Big Price Paid For Local Plant*. Courier-Journal, June 14, 1906. Page 7.
[15] *Textile Mills of Louisville* National Register Nomination.
[16] *Eclipse Woolen Mills Co., Files Deed*, Courier-Journal, Mar 24, 1905, Page 5.
[17] *Many Plants: Will Be Located in the Old Eclipse Woolen Mills*, Courier-Journal, Mar 2, 1906, Page 5.
[18] *Sold For $6,500*, Courier-Journal, June 12, 1906, Page 8. Also, Bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, March 1906. P. 437.
[19] *Bankruptcy Proceedings of Woolen Mills Closed*, Courier-Journal, June 22, 1911, Page 12.
[20] *Woolen Mills Property Auctioned for $50,000*, Courier-Journal, April 21, 1915, Page 6.
[21] *Id.*
[22] *The First of the Cotton Mills*, Courier-Journal, May 9, 1888, Page 4.
[23] *Id.*

Louisville did not avoid the labor issues that had shaken the north. The strength of industry in the city came from a strong workforce, which was able to unionize around the turn of the century. But labor never became as high priced in Louisville as it had been in the Northeast. Rather, it tended toward the lower rates as throughout the South. The much lower cost of fuel helped counteract the slightly higher price of Louisville labor. Coal was abundant and cheap and readily available to the mills, which were in relatively close proximity when compared to the textile industries in other states.

Kentucky Cotton

Industry Consumption

Though cotton in Kentucky never reached the heights that the woolen industry did, there were a good number of manufacturing companies. U.S. Industrial Commission reports document approximately a half dozen manufacturing entities in the state by the turn of the century.[24] All of these companies were spread out along the Ohio River, located in Kenton, Henderson, Meade, Jefferson, Mason, and McCracken Counties.[25]

Emphasizing Kentucky's position in the cotton textile-manufacturing universe were the Census of Manufactures bulletins, which showed a healthy industry in Kentucky. In 1890, Kentucky mills consumed nearly 12,000 bales of raw cotton for use on nearly 43,000 spindles.[26] Louisville textile industries used a lot of this. By 1900, Kentucky possessed nearly 70,000 spindles and cotton consumption more than doubled, to just over 26,000 bales.[27] In contrast, the United States as a whole possessed over 3.7 million active spindles and consumed over 19 million bales of cotton that same year.[28] South Carolina alone, where the cotton industry was beginning to take off, possessed over 1.4 million spindles. Massachusetts, home of the textile industry, still possessed nearly 7.8 million.[29]

By 1910 Kentucky's active spindles numbered approximately 90,000 and this was a plateau for the state, remaining nearly constant for the next several decades.[30] Cotton consumption also leveled off, hovering between 20,000 and 25,000 bales over the same time period.[31] After the 1920s, the cotton consumption of Kentucky becomes harder to measure. The Census of Manufactures stopped documenting Kentucky separately from the leading states and instead included it in the aggregate of other states also consuming and producing cotton goods.

Industry Employment & Capital

According to Davison's Blue Book of the Textile Industry, there were the same roughly half-dozen cotton manufacturers in the state in 1919 as there were in 1900. Davison's Blue Book of the Textile Industry in 1902 shows only three mills capitalized at $200,000 or above.[32] These same three mills are the same three listed as

[24] Reports of the Industrial Commission, 1901.
[25] "The Blue Book" Textile Directory of the United States and Canada, 1901/1902, Davisons.
[26] W.J. Clay
[27] W.J. Clay, Census of Manufactures, 1905.
[28] Census of Manufactures, 1905.
[29] Census of Manufactures, 1905.
[30] Census of Manufactures, 1958.
[31] Census of Manufactures, 1958.
[32] "The Blue Book" Textile Directory of the United States and Canada 1901-1902.

still existing in 1922 and with equal, or significantly improved, capitalization.[33] Additionally, these three mills are three of the four remaining cotton manufacturing mills listed in 1922.

Tracking closely with capitalization is employment. There were approximately 1,800 employees in the cotton manufacturing industry in 1900.[34] In 1922, when there were only half as many companies, there were still nearly 1,300 employees, and this number grew slightly over the next decade.[35] By 1958, there were five cotton manufacturing companies in Kentucky, and few of them operated on any significant level outside of the state.

Henderson Cotton Mills, Maysville Cotton Mills, and Louisville Cotton Mills employed the vast majority of the industry. In 1922 these three companies employed 1,170 of the nearly 1,300 cotton-manufacturing employees in Kentucky. Together, these three more than quadrupled the capital of the rest of the industry in Kentucky.[36]

In 1922, Henderson Cotton Mills (see also Henderson Cotton Mill Workers Housing District, NRIS 98001495) sold to Consolidated Textile Corporation. In 1931, lacking the capital necessary to survive, the mill was closed. It was reopened in 1937 and produced various narrow product lines under different names until 1982, when the mill closed permanently. The mill never achieved the success it had during the first quarter of the twentieth century. In 1982 the mill complex was demolished.[37]

Maysville Cotton Mills produced a number of different product lines and shipped goods around the world. Similarly to Louisville Textiles, Inc., Maysville Cotton Mills, acquired early by January & Wood, who altered product lines and materials to remain relevant in a modern industry. The mill operated almost continuously from its founding, but never recovered after the Great Depression, with diminishing sales and a reduced workforce. The mill closed in 2003, with only 45 employees, and the buildings were demolished in 2007.[38]

Cotton in Louisville

Louisville Textiles, Inc. started as one of the largest cotton mills in the state and effectively grew and remained one of the largest through its closure in 1967. The cotton industry never centralized in Louisville the way the woolen industry had. There were a number of cotton manufacturing companies with offices located in Louisville, but two produced products outside of the city, one in Meade County and one in Indiana, and only maintained corporate offices within the city.

Using Carron's Directories as a guide, only a select few of the cotton manufacturers in Louisville had any stability or longevity. Of the five companies listed in 1933, only three actually had mills within Jefferson County. One of the companies failed to weather the Depression, and by the beginning of World War II, only three remained. The end of the war left only two within Louisville and only one with its own mill complex.

Individual statistics are unavailable for the smaller mills within the city, often because output, consumption, or employment was too small to be relevant.

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[33] "The Blue Book" Textile Directory of the United States and Canada 1901-1902 and 1922.
[34] The Blue Book" Textile Directory of the United States and Canada 1901-1902.
[35] "The Blue Book" Textile Directory of the United States and Canada 1922 and Cotton Distribution Supplement 1935.
[36] America's Textile Reporter, For the Combined Textile Industries (1922).
[37] Progress Edition, The Gleaner, March 30, 1996, Judy Jenkins.
[38] Toncray, Marla, *A Look Back at January and Wood, Inc. – Maysville Cotton Mills*, The Ledger Independent.

Significance Within Louisville's Cotton Textile Industry

Looking over the statistics of the Kentucky and Louisville cotton industry, three characteristics can be used to indicate significance: employment, capitalization, and longevity. Employment levels indicate two things. The first is the company's relative efficiency and scale within its geographic region and as compared to its peer companies. The second is the company's economic impact within its community. The decisions and survival of large employers most directly impacts the most local community and a strong local employer has a large economic footprint.

The second characteristic of significance is the capitalization of a company. This indicator speaks directly a company's ability to resist negative market forces, grow into future markets, and embrace technological developments. These are all important for a company to operate at the top of the market, whatever that market may be.

The third characteristic of significance is longevity. Numerous companies emerged across the city and the state and then disintegrated within only a few years or decades. Often companies closed when founders retired or died and nobody could be found to buy the company or take over management. A company's longevity, coupled with the previous two factors, is an indicator of corporate sophistication, stable leadership, and good decision-making over many years. This indicates a company's ability to see itself as separate from the people currently in control and as a future value.

Louisville Textiles Inc.

Louisville Textiles, Inc. was a significant company within the Louisville textile industry. At its height, the company employed over 750 men and women. Being well capitalized, the company effectively pivoted at the beginning of the Great Depression, buying more modern equipment and diversifying product lines and materials. Unlike Henderson Cotton Mills, Louisville Textiles, Inc. resisted selling itself until the late 1950s. By this time, the entire United States textile industry was beginning to succumb to overseas labor pressure. The company lasted for almost eighty years, changing leadership and employing generations of Louisvillians. Louisville Textiles, Inc.'s closure in 1967 marked the end of significant textile manufacturing in Louisville.

History of the Louisville Cotton Mill and Subsequent Companies on Site

Louisville Cotton Mills Co. was founded in 1889 by Richard A. Robinson, a wealthy merchant who had interest in the drug and hardware businesses as well as in textiles. Robinson made his son, William, the first president of the company. Charles J. Clarke was architect of the mill complex, which was built at a cost of $75,000.[39] The mill began with over 10,000 spindles and 180 employees.[40] By 1902 the mill had increased in size to over 14,000 spindles.[41]

In 1919 the Louisville Cotton Mills Co. created a separate entity, Louisville Textile Company, to produce Marquisette, a fabric used primarily in curtains, and lace.[42] The production of this thin, sheer fabric was

[39] *Louisville Cotton Mills Company* Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory form, JF-CZ-11
[40] *A New Enterprise's Success*, Courier-Journal, December 19, 1980, Page 6.
[41] *Report of the Industrial Commission on the Distribution of Farm Products*, Volume IV, January 1, 1901: U.S. Government Printing Office, Page 157.
[42] American Textile History Museum, Chase Catalogue, Business Records, Louisville Cotton Mills.

significant for the company as the first step in a new direction. In the following decades the company would consolidate and diversify its production, attempting to prevent it from the fate of other factories, whose singular product failed and caused complete economic collapse. This new company employed sixty skilled workers, twenty looms, and included dying and bleaching operations.[43]

After 1930

Throughout the 1920s the Louisville Cotton Mills experienced the booms and busts that were typical of the industry. The workforce grew and shrank as orders piled up or fell off. The company executives did what they could to keep the entire operation running, but the beginning of the Great Depression was simply too much.

In May of 1930 the company sought to reorganize itself and find a better foundation for continued operations. The re-organization involved combining the Louisville Cotton Company and the Louisville Textile Company into a single organization, Louisville Textiles, Inc.[44] In addition to combining the companies, the new company would seek to become a vertically integrated operation, with production, distribution, and sales all contained within a single corporation.[45] During this reorganization the new corporation found new financing, purchased new machinery, and began production of new product lines across all textile classes.[46] In addition, to make future financing easier, the company altered its articles of organization to allow it to become indebted up to $500,000.

The reorganization succeeded and the company survived and even thrived. A new product line, Fincastle Fabrics, was introduced and a new building was constructed for the new employees who would be responsible for distribution and sales. With a new building and a new workforce the mill was able to employ as many as 600 workers.[47] In 1937, the plant faced its largest season, improving sales 25% over the previous year's, due in large part to a national advertising campaign targeting consumers.[48] By this time Fincastle Fabrics was appearing across the country, Canada, South America, Australia, and Greece.[49]

During World War II, the entire textile industry shifted to military production and most consumer lines were slowed or closed. Louisville Textiles shifted 85% of its operating looms to military production.[50] This was typical of most industry during the time, and the result was a build up of consumer demand at the end of the war. In 1945, after the end of the war, Louisville Textiles faced the common problem of neither demand nor supply, but rather, excess workforce. During the war the mill had run two shifts, but when military production ceased there was only need for a single shift.[51] The company had to reduce its workforce to match demand. Soon, though, dealer shelves became bare, and consumers clamored for the drapery and upholstery fabrics, bed spreads, couch throws, and luncheon sets, as well as the ready-made draperies, significantly more manpower

[43] Textiles, Volume 14, No. 1, Page 37. January 1919.
[44] Cotton Mills Plan Revision, Courier-Journal, May 15, 1930, Page 20.
[45] *Id.*
[46] *Id.*
[47] A Sesqui-centennial History of Kentucky, Biography of Arthur H. Dick.
[48] City Plant Faces Largest Season as Year Closes, Courier-Journal, January 1, 1937.
[49] *Id.*
[50] Louisville Textiles, Inc., Anticipates Doubling Present Workforce, Courier-Journal, Section 3, Page 1, 11/11/1945.
[51] *Id.*

was needed.[52] The company took this opportunity to significantly upgrade equipment, ordering an additional $250,000 in machinery to mostly replace older or obsolete machines.[53]

In addition to purchasing new equipment and upgrading the factory, the company also began to work with synthetic fibers. These synthetic fibers were purchased as actual produced weight, not to include waste, which was standard in the cotton industry. The new machinery was also specified to work with either cotton or synthetic fibers, which would allow the company to shift production by material as necessary.[54] During this time the company began to work more with rayon and nylon fibers, which were more uniform, stronger, and offered greater flexibility in use.[55] By 1948 Louisville Textiles, Inc. was Kentucky's largest textile mill and was producing 8,000 yards of fabric on a daily basis.[56]

Company Sale

The rebirth of Louisville Textiles, Inc. had been a stunning success by nearly all accounts. The company risked massive debt to survive the hardest times, reorganized and diversified when required, and followed the industrial and consumer markets to significant profits and a position on top of Kentucky textile industry. All of this, by the 1950s, made the company a target for acquisition.

In 1954 United Industrial Syndicate, Inc., a New York investment company bought the company stock for more than a million dollars.[57] The executive staff was retained, as were all 300 mill employees.[58]

The mill continued to operate for a number of years, but in the end suffered the same fate as many American textile mills. What the South had done to the North 70 years before, Asia began doing to the American South. Cheap labor free of organization or basic protections, low shipping costs, cheap fuel, and the newest technology combined to shift almost the entire textile industry overseas.

Louisville Textiles Inc., was closed down in September of 1967.[59] The Fincastle Fabrics consumer product lines were closed down at the same time.

Evaluation of the significance of Louisville Cotton Mills in the Context Textile Industry in Louisville Kentucky, 1880-1970.

Louisville Textiles, Inc. was a significant company within the Louisville textile industry. At its height, the company employed over 750 men and women in two shifts. It was one of the three largest cotton mills in the state for its entire existence. Even at closing the mill still employed 250 people. The existence of the mill and

[52] *Id.*
[53] *Id.*
[54] *Id.*
[55] *Id.*
[56] Courier-Journal, 1/2/1949.
[57] Stock of Louisville Textiles, Inc., Sold for More Than Million Dollars, Courier-Journal, 9/16/1954, Sol Schulman.
[58] *Id.*
[59] *Louisville Textiles, Employing 250, To Close by Sept. 30*, Courier-Journal.

its large employment encouraged the development of the surrounding Germantown neighborhood and at one point the company even owned housing surrounding the mill that was provided to the employees.

Being well capitalized, the company was able to effectively resist spikes and dips in the raw materials market as well as the finished product markets in which the company sold its goods. The company was also able to effectively resist labor strife, which caused significant problems in the north. Though there were strikes and walkouts, none of these caused such a significant financial disruption that the company was ever put in jeopardy. During the Great Depression the company effectively pivoted, buying more modern equipment and diversifying product lines and materials. The complex expanded repeatedly, more than doubling in size over the company's lifespan, providing more room for raw materials and more room for production lines.

The company lasted for almost eighty years, changing leadership and employing generations of Louisvillians. The company's officers typically had long careers with the company, guiding it through good times and bad. The company was able to grow from its original industrial cotton product lines to synthetic materials, government service, and then direct consumer lines. None of this would have been possible without a corporate view that the company would have a future beyond those in immediate control. Louisville Textiles, Inc.'s closure in 1967 marked the end of significant textile manufacturing in Louisville.

In addition to these characteristics, the Louisville Cotton Mills complex is one of the few remaining sizable cotton mills in the region. Most of its peer mills have been demolished and other surviving cotton mills simply lack the same significance.

Evaluation of the integrity of the significance Louisville Cotton Mills in light of its current physical condition

The Louisville Cotton Mills are in excellent physical condition and currently undergoing a massive rehabilitation into a mixed use residential, commercial, entertainment complex. The project is taking advantage of state and federal historic tax credits

The property has strong integrity of location and setting. This amendment completes the entire mill property at its largest, while including the entire original area first developed in 1888. The setting is still much as it was previously. The mill is faced on three sides by the original shotgun type houses that were built up around it when it first opened and the area is still predominantly residential. The only portion that has noticeably changed is the Kentucky Refining Company, originally located to the west, is now gone. The train tracks still remain.

The design of the property is still almost completely intact and currently being rehabilitated. Only a few original buildings no longer exist on the site, such as the shipping room and the storage shed at the rear of the site. The site as a whole, and the individual buildings on it, still retain more than sufficient design integrity to convey the original use of the complex.

The workmanship and materials of the buildings and the site are also still very much intact. There has been no major rehabilitation or significant alteration of the buildings during the last century. The result has been that what was original to the factory has been very much left intact. The current condition reflects the original workmanship of construction and maintenance within the complex and the original materials used for construction.

The complex possesses strong integrity of feeling and association. The property's intactness and physically imposing presence strongly conveys its history as a large cotton textile mill within a residential area. Its size, when compared to the small residential buildings that surround it convey its association and prominence in the city.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_X_ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
_X_ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __JFCZ-11_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __Original listing: 5.13 acres
__New listing area: approximately .5 acre_____

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.229015 Longitude: -85.738394
2. Latitude: 38.227981 Longitude: -85.739405
3. Latitude: 38.229401 Longitude: -85.741978

4. Latitude: 38.230195 Longitude: -85.740280

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description
Beginning at the West corner of the intersection of Goss Avenue and McHenry Street, southwest to the North corner of the intersection of McHenry Street and Ash Street, then northwest to the East corner of Ash Street and the existing L&N Railroad right-of-way, then northeast to the south corner of the intersection of the existing L&N Railroad right-of-way and Goss Avenue, then southeast to the beginning point at the west corner of Goss Avenue and McHenry Street.

Boundary Justification
The proposed boundary includes the entire Louisville Cotton Mills historic site, nearly as it existed in 1888 and as it was when the mill closed in 1967. The proposed site also includes the entire area of the current rehabilitation project already in progress.

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11. Form Prepared By

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organization: Pinion Advisors
street & number: 1501 Morton Avenue
city or town: Louisville state: Kentucky zip code: 40204
e-mail JPierson@PinionAdvisors.com
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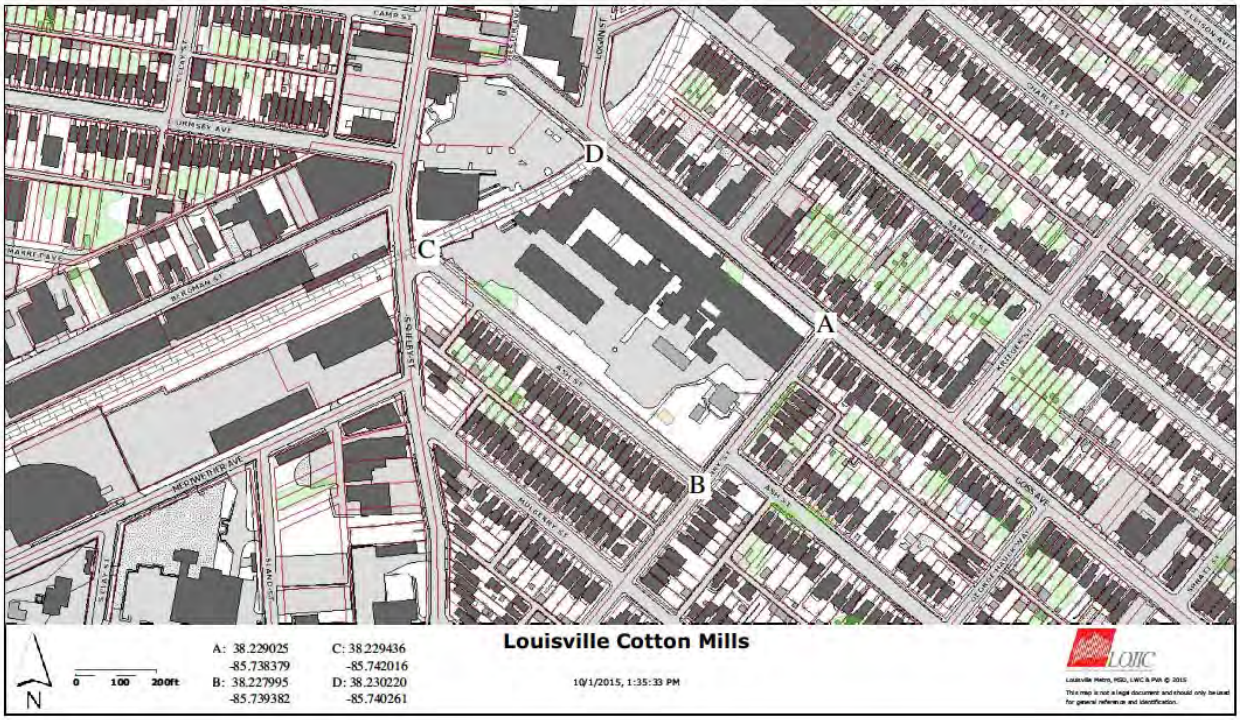
date: September 29, 2015

Photographs

Photo Log

Property Name:	Administration Building, Louisville Cotton Mills
City	Louisville
County:	Jefferson County
State:	Kentucky
Photographer:	Randy Pimsler
Date Photographed	10/3/2013 and 12/29/2014

1 of 6: Front façade of building, facing McHenry Street. Camera facing northwest.
2 of 6: Southwest façade facing Ash Street. Camera facing north.
3 of 6: Rear façade of building, facing northwest toward the rear of the mill site. Camera facing southeast.
4 of 6: Northeast façade of building, facing the rear of the mill production building along Goss Avenue. Camera facing west.
5 of 6: The entry room with reception window, located immediately inside the front entrance.
6 of 6: The main room in the center of the building, reception window to the right, offices along the left side.



Louisville Cotton Mills

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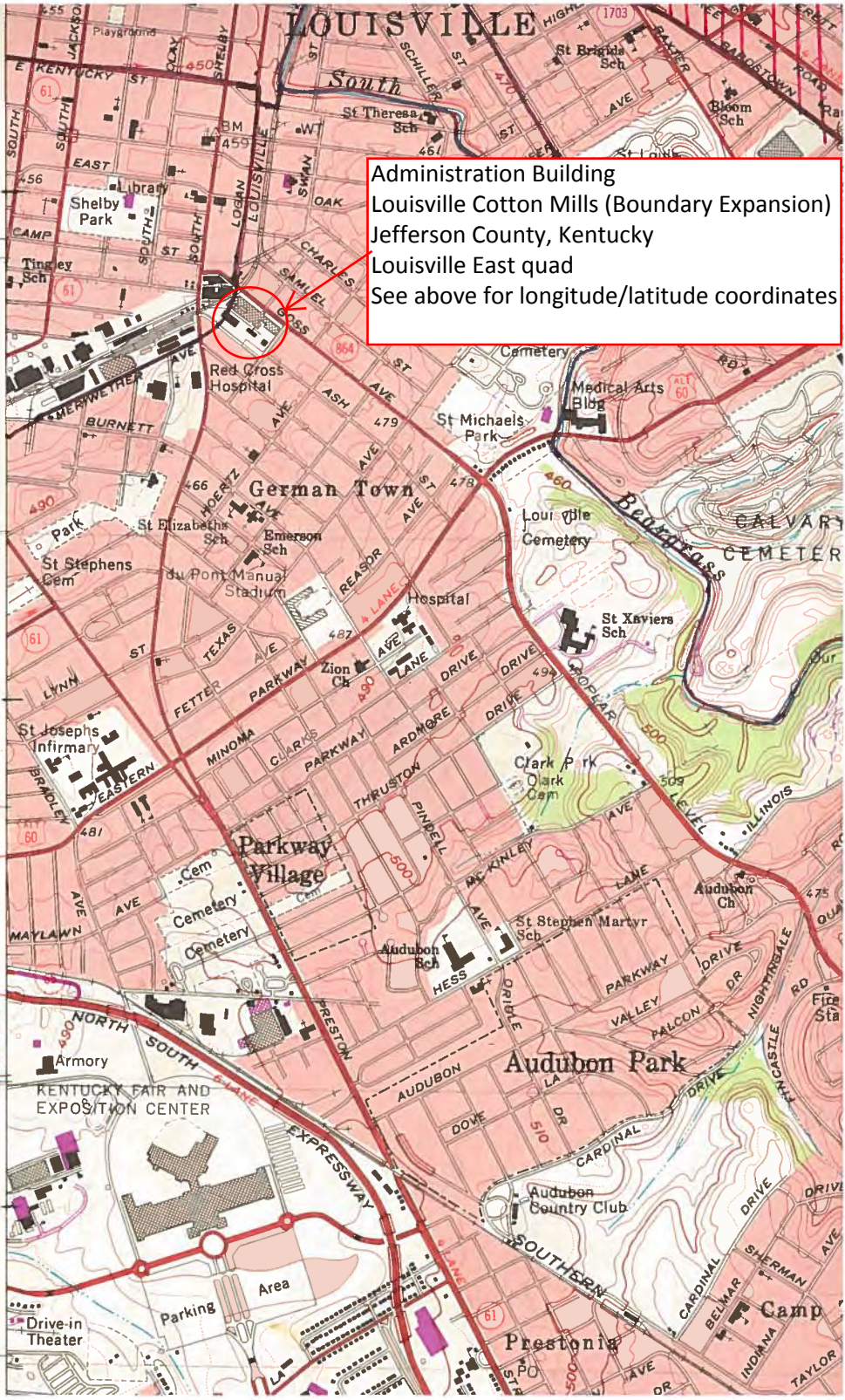
Administration Building
Louisville Cotton Mills (Boundary Expansion)
Jefferson County, Kentucky
Louisville East quad
See above for longitude/latitude coordinates
LOUISVILLE
South
St Theresa Sch
St Brigids Sch
Bloom Sch
Shelby Park
Library
Tingley Sch
Red Cross Hospital
Medical Arts Bldg
St Michaels Park
German Town
St Elizabeths Sch
Emerson Sch
St Stephens Cem
du Pont Manual Stadium
Hospital
Louisville Cemetery
Beargrass
CALVARY CEMETERY
St Xaviers Sch
Zion Ch
St Josephs Infirmary
Clark Park
Clark Cem
Parkway Village
Cemetery
Audubon Ch
St Stephen Martyr Sch
Audubon Sch
Armory
KENTUCKY FAIR AND EXPOSITION CENTER
Audubon Park
Audubon Country Club
Drive-in Theater
Parking Area
Preston
Camp
SHIVELY 4.1 MI.
JEFFERSONVILLE, IND. 3.1 MI.
'30"

Germantown
CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE
1318

EXIT