

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Garrou - Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills

other names/site number Premier Hosiery Mills, Morganton Hosiery Mills

### 2. Location

street & number 101 & 105 Lenoir Street n/a not for publication

city or town Morganton n/a vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Burke code 023 zip code 28655

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 12/8/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned  
Name of Property Hosiery Mills

Burke/North Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing		Noncontributing	
3		4	buildings
			sites
1			structures
			objects
4		4	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/  
manufacturing facility

WORK IN PROGRESS/vacant

COMMERCE/TRADE/Socialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Moderne

foundation concrete

walls brick

concrete

roof wood

other glass-block

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned  
Name of Property Hosiery Mills

Burke/North Carolina  
County and State

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.)

- 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  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927-1939

Significant Dates

1927-1929

1928-1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Not known

Narrative Statement of Significance  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned  
Name of Property Hosiery Mills

Burke/North Carolina  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 3.7 ac

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kim N. Woolard, Assistant Planner

organization City of Morganton date August 17, 1998

street & number 201 W. Meeting Street telephone (828) 438-5268

city or town Morganton state NC zip code 28655

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Morganton Redevelopment Commission

street & number 201 W. Meeting Street telephone (828) 438-5266

city or town Morganton state NC zip code 28655

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Garrou - Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills  
Burke County, North Carolina

**7. Description**

**Narrative Description**

The Garrou-Morganton Full Fashion Hosiery Mills, more recently known as the Premier Manufacturing Company, stands at the northwest corner of Lenoir Avenue and East Union Streets on the northeastern edge of downtown Morganton. It is adjacent to the Morganton Downtown Historic District (NR 1987), a fairly compact district comprised primarily of governmental, office and commercial buildings dating from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. The seven resources in this industrial complex include the main building, a warehouse structure on the Lenoir Street side which is connected to the main building by an elevated walkway, an outlet store facing Lenoir Street, a power plant building on the Bouchelle Street side and two masonry buildings used for chemical storage between the power plant and the main buildings. Also on the site is a one hundred-foot water tower on the western edge of the main building. The site contains two large parking areas; the Lenoir Street lot between the main building and the outlet store is the previous location of Mountain Ice and Coal. There is also an alley that runs between the rear of the main buildings and the rear of Avery Avenue School (NR 1987) which is located on Avery Avenue. The mill site is directly adjacent to Gaston Chapel (NR 1987) to the west and the Avery Avenue School to the northwest.

**INVENTORY**

(#1 & #2) Main Buildings: 1927-1929 and 1928-1939; major additions 1929, 1939 & ca. 1960 (additions #1a ,2a & 2b), Contributing Buildings

The main building, constructed of masonry, cast concrete, steel and large timbers, is a simple yet striking example of the Art Moderne style of the early twentieth century and features façade pilasters and glass-block detailing set in symmetrical vertical rows. This main structure actually consists of two buildings that were connected around 1960: 1927-1929 Morganton Full Fashioned Mill, built in two stages (#1 & #1a) and the 1928-1939 Garrou Knitting Mill (#2). Also part of the main block is the ca. 1960 addition between the two larger buildings (#2a); an addition at the rear of the ca. 1960 addition, and lastly a triangular addition to the southwestern corner of the Garrou Mill (#2b).

The section formerly known as the Garrou Knitting Mill (#2) is a two-story brick building with a distinct main façade. This building is angled to follow the intersection of Lenoir Street and East Union Street. The portion of the façade on Lenoir Street has an Art Moderne design with a center alcove (actually a fire escape door) flanked on either side by three glass block recessed vertical windows, stepped down symmetrically. The alcove itself is topped with a recessed glass block window. This larger window is the same width as the opening below; both the window and the alcove are surrounded by a corbelled architrave that enhances the verticality of the composition. On either

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side of the central opening and the three vertical windows are two rectangular glass block windows. Each glass block window has a concrete sill with a small weep pipe in the center.

Interior structural supports on both floors are a combination of steel columns and heavy timbers. The timbers and two arched windows on the interior western wall are the only remaining evidence of the 1891 Morganton Manufacturing and Trade Company, over which Garrou Knitting Mills was constructed. All of the first floor is concrete with utility trenches covered with metal grates. The second floor is constructed with a wooden deck topped with maple flooring.

The eastern and western elevations of this portion of the main building, although only partially visible on the exterior, mimic the Art Moderne detailing of the facade. Glass block windows are placed between flat brick pilasters on the same rhythm as the adjoining Morganton Full Fashion Hosiery building.

The windows of this and other portions of the building, where they are not otherwise specified, are industrial grid steel windows. Some of these windows are intact while others have either been bricked in or painted. Where additions to this section of the main building were made the windows have, in general, been left in place and painted. However, there are several bays that have been opened to additions, thus eliminating the windows.

The three-story 1927 portion commonly known as the Morganton Full Fashion Hosiery Mills (#1) has a red brick façade enhanced with cast concrete. The façade is made up of three bays each defined by a flat pilaster constructed of brick and composed primarily of recessed glass block windows. Concrete spandrels separate the vertical bands of windows on the north and south elevations. The first bays closest to the street are identical to the main façade treatment. The brick pilasters extend to create a slightly stepped parapet roofline with concrete coping. The remainder of the side wall surface is cast concrete.

The first and second floors are constructed of concrete columns, girders and beams. The third floor changes to timber columns, girders and beams supporting a wooden roof deck. Adjoining this building, on the north facade is another three story structure added in 1929 (#1a). This building is also concrete construction on the first and second floors. On the third floor the structural elements change to timber beams and columns supporting a wooden roof deck. The floor of the first level is four feet below grade, although it is even with the first floor of the adjoining building. At the northern elevation of this portion of building there is a metal fire escape stair and three loading dock doors.

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The two story addition, ca. 1960 (#2a), connecting the two older buildings is clad with brick on the Lenoir Street façade. There are no architecturally significant elements to this façade. The lower elevation consists of a four-bay loading dock area and a single entry door. On the upper elevation there are four single-pane fixed windows. This portion of the building is a mix of materials, primarily steel columns, and steel girders supporting a wooden roof deck. This portion of the building is pie-shaped. The very rear of this section of building is constructed with steel columns, girders and beams supporting a corrugated roof deck. Its exterior is painted masonry block. Ramps and stairwells in the connector offset differences in the two main building elevations.

The ca. 1960 two-story triangular addition to the western wall of the old Garrou Mill building (#2b) is constructed of brick and exhibits very little detailing. The main structural elements are steel columns, steel girders and timber beams supporting wooden floor decks and wooden roof decks. With the exception of one long industrial window on the ground level of the western wall, there are very few penetrations on any of the walls. This window is similar in design to the other windows throughout the building.

(#3) Outlet Store: 1924 Contributing Building

The 1924 outlet store building (#3) facing Lenoir Street is a one-story brick building, simple in design and form, and typical of small commercial buildings of the period. The façade has a recessed entry alcove containing the main entry flanked with two similar doors on either side. There are steps leading to the alcove with wrought iron railings. The side elevation walls are stepped towards the rear of the building. The interior is divided into two rooms and a small entry room on the rear.

(#4) Warehouse: ca. 1955 Non-Contributing Building

A 1955 bow truss warehouse (#4) is connected to the main building (#1a) on the Lenoir Street elevation. This painted masonry building has two large bay doors for loading and two entry doors all facing Lenoir Street. The metal bow trusses support a wooden roof deck. The connection between the warehouse and main building is by an elevated enclosed wooden breezeway.

(#5) Chemical Storage Building: ca. 1929 Non-Contributing Building

A painted masonry chemical storage building (#5) is located on the western side of the main building, almost beneath the water tower. The building is in poor repair and has most recently been used for chemical storage. The building measures 20' x 41'. It has two large double doors on either end of the building and has four industrial grid windows on the eastern side facing the main building.

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(#6) Power Plant: ca. 1960 Non-Contributing Building

A ca. 1960 Power Plant and smokestack stand adjacent to Bouchelle Street and on the farthest western edge of the property. This two-story power plant is constructed of red brick and is simple in design. There is an 8'x8' and 45' smokestack located on the northern elevation of this building. The stack, also constructed of red brick, is decorated with corbelling as is the power plant building. This building measures 38' x 53'. There are two doors, two twenty-eight divided windows, two eight divided windows, and a roll door. This building sits closest to Bouchelle Street and directly between Gaston Chapel and Avery Ave. School, both National Register properties.

(#7) Storage Building: ca. 1960 Non-Contributing Building

Directly west of the main buildings is a ca. 1960 painted masonry block storage building. This building has a wooden roof deck and trusses with a shingled gable roof. There is one entry door on the eastern elevation and a roll door on the northern elevation. The building measures 23' x 43'. There are storage tanks on the exterior of this structure as well.

Water Tower Structure: ca. 1939 Contributing Structure

A ca. 1939 water tower standing to the western edge of the main buildings is approximately 100' tall. It is supported on four steel legs, one that penetrates the main building in section #2b. There is a central water pipe that extends from the ground to the bottom of the tank. The word "PREMIERE" is painted on the south face of the tower.

**Integrity Statement**

The Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills, more recently known as the Premiere Manufacturing Company, retains its historic exterior character and has until recently continued in its original primary use as industrial space. The growth of the manufacturing facility and merger of the two plants called for exterior changes, namely the construction of a connector between the two buildings around 1960. The most significant exterior additions do not obscure the integrity of the mill complex as a whole.

The Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mill retains overall integrity as an excellent example of an early twentieth century Art Moderne industrial building.

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Burke County, North Carolina

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Summary**

The Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills is a significant example of an early twentieth century Art Moderne industrial complex in Morganton and is eligible for listing in the National Register under *Criterion C* as a representation of industrial architecture from the early to mid twentieth century. With its vertical lines expressed in glass block and set-in brick pilasters against its overall horizontal massing, it is more notably-detailed than any other surviving industrial building of the period in Burke County. Through its many phases of construction, it depicts industrial development in Morganton during the middle decades of the twentieth century and therefore eligible under *Criterion A* in the area of industry. Its later additions do not detract from the complex as a whole, but rather represent the evolution of industrial technology and the expansions necessary to accommodate these changes. The origin of the mill is associated with the Garrou family of Valdese who were the first businessmen to introduce knitting into Burke County. The family established Garrou Knitting Mills in 1917 in the old Morganton Manufacturing and Trading Company building which had been built in 1891 on Lenoir Street. In 1926 Garrou merged with Morganton Full Fashioned Hosiery and the following year construction began on this complex. The Garrou-Morganton Full Fashioned complex was built over the 1891 building. The mill complex was the catalyst for the expansion of the business district down the East Union corridor and retains a prominent position on the outer edge of the downtown district. The Garrou-Morganton Full Fashion complex is the only remaining industrial building remaining in the downtown district. The transformation of the site into a hosiery mill in the early 1900s was the start of a long history of manufacturing and employment for Morganton. The significance of the operations on this site continuing well into the early 1990s is an indication of the magnitude its presence played on the local economy.

**Architectural Context**

The Garrou-Full Fashion Hosiery Mill is a simple yet handsome Art Moderne industrial building exhibiting the symmetrical lines and strong geometric character typical of the style. The reserved, streamlined styling was appropriate to the utilitarian and technological nature of the functions these buildings housed. There are a surprising number of excellent examples of the more commercial Art Deco style of building in the Morganton Downtown National Historic District (NR, 1987). The 1939 Mimosas Theater, the ca. 1941 Tate Building, and the ca. 1950 Landco Building designed by Morganton architect Harry A. Boggs. Charles Benton, a Wilson, North Carolina architect, was responsible for designing many of the modern Art Deco buildings in Morganton including Hoey Hall (1939) on the North Carolina School for the Deaf Campus (NR, 1987) as well as the 1937 Garrou High School in Valdese. These buildings have characteristics similar to the Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills: flat

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**Garrou - Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills**  
**Burke County, North Carolina**

planes of brick emphasizing vertical and geometric surfaces, and the use of glass-block. The architect is not known for the Garrou-Morganton Full Fashion Mill, however, Charles Benton is the only known architect that created works in the Morganton area during the time when Art Deco and the related Moderne style were popular. Benton is also credited with the design of many of Burke County's new consolidated schools built in the 1930s. He was the architect for many of the schools across the state during this period as well.

While the Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills is plain in its overall plan and massing it exhibits the stylistic imprint of the Moderne idiom. The use of glass-block, vertical bands of brick, concrete and industrial grid windows delineates the sections and establishes a geometric rhythm. This method of creating simplicity through the use of material and visual rhythm achieved through repetition is characteristic of the early Art Deco and more industrialized Art Moderne style. Even with the many additions, the Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned Mill building retains its character and integrity and remains an excellent, yet restrained example of the Moderne industrial building style. While the outlet store (#3) is not historically associated with the hosiery mills, its architectural character is in keeping with the complex and therefore does not detract from the nominated property's integrity or significance.

**Historical Background & Industry Context**

Around the turn of the century Morganton was encountering what many smaller communities throughout the South were experiencing. The end of the Civil War left many of these communities searching for a way to replace the black work force which no longer labored in the fields. During Reconstruction the emphasis was placed on diversifying the pre-war wholly agricultural economy with an alternative economic base.

Burke County's most readily available resource was timber. There were many skilled artisans in the area and one of the first woodworking and building supply companies started during this time. The Morganton Manufacturing and Trading Company (MM&T Co.) was established in March 1890 by local businessmen John A. Dickson, Colonel Tate, and Major James W. Wilson through the incorporations of the Morganton Woodworking Company and a sash, blind, shingle mill, barrel and bucket company. This new business manufactured and supplied furniture and building supplies to local carpenters and tradespeople. In 1891 the Morganton Manufacturing and Trading Company constructed a one-story red brick building evident on the June 1894 Sanborn map. The company's new building was located at the junction of Lenoir and East Union Streets.

In addition to supplying the local artisans with woodworking supplies, MM&T Co. supplied locally made bricks to local builders, including those used for the main building on the North Carolina School for the Deaf campus (NR, 1987). Finally, the

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company was one of the major suppliers of furniture and household wares. The company remained at the Lenoir Street location until 1909 when it was moved to a site beside the railroad. That location near the tracks would become the home of the Table Rock Furniture Company and eventually Drexel Furniture. There are no records of what the Lenoir Street building was used for during the time between 1909 and 1917, the year Garrou Knitting Mills purchased the building for one of the first hosiery mills in Morganton.

The first textile mill in Morganton was the Dunavant Cotton Mill, established in 1888 on the railroad directly across from the depot. In 1894 John Meier, a superintendent at the Oats Hosiery Mill in Charlotte, moved to Valdese to establish the first hosiery operation in Burke County. Using antiquated machinery housed in an old barn, Meier introduced the Waldensians to the art of making hosiery and changed their way of life. After their introduction to the industry several Waldensians followed Meier to Newton, North Carolina and parts of South Carolina to work under him. Two of these individuals were the Garrou brothers, John and Francis. In May 1901 the Garrous and Antoine Grill formed the Waldensian Hosiery Mills. In 1913 this company was reorganized with some local businessmen, most notably A.M. Kistler, president of the Burke County Bank, and renamed Valdese Manufacturing Company. In 1913 the Vaudois Hosiery Mill was organized and located near the railroad depot in Morganton. Many notable locals were involved in this venture including John and Francis Garrou, John Garrou's son, John Louis Garrou, Albert Garrou, Henry Grill and Ben Pons.

Francis Garrou was a civic leader and humanitarian in Valdese and Morganton. He served as director of the First Bank of Morganton which later became the Wachovia Bank and the Valdese Savings and Loan. Garrou also served as a representative of Burke County in 1933 to the North Carolina General Assembly; he was the first Waldensian to have such an honor. Francis Garrou contributed to the extent of growth and prosperity in Valdese and Morganton, and his contributions to the industrialization of the county are significant. The Francis Garrou High School and Garrou Community Center in Valdese were both named for him.

In 1917 John Louis and Francis Garrou formed the Garrou Knitting Mills. The existing Vaudois Company was merged into this new company. Several other prominent businessmen were involved with the new state of the art hosiery mill including, Frank Tate, E.D. Alexander, F.P. Tate, W.C. Ervin, J.M. Brinkley, C.A. Spencer and N. Lazurus, of Lazurus Clothing Store. They opened their facility on the site of the old Morganton Manufacturing and Trading Company on Lenoir Street. The new mill employed ninety people and ran 205 knitting machines, running from 176 to 200 needles each. *"Many of the women and girls in these mills come from the country and board in town and find their work not only under healthful and wholesome environment, but find the weekly wage good. Eighteen to twenty dollars per week is made by the girls who become adept at handling the machines and the hosiery mill has advantages over many industries in*

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*that there is little dust or lint in the atmosphere.*"<sup>1</sup> In 1922 the Garrou Knitting Mills was taken over by a group of companies including the Waldensian Hosiery Mill, the Drexel Knitting Mill, and A.V. Victorius and Company, a New York hosiery sales agency. During this same time, several of the Garrous went on to establish with other individuals the Liberty Hosiery Mill, the Pauline Knitting Mills and what would later become the Alba-Waldensian Hosiery Mills of Drexel. It was noted in a News Herald article dated February 1924 that "*Garrou Knitting Mills, Incorporated has been an important factor in the industrial life of Morganton since its establishment in 1917. Such concerns add in a large measure to growth and thriving conditions desired of every town and city. In giving employment to a portion of the population, and in manufacturing articles that bear the approved stamp of a people, [it] places this city before the public eye and contributes to its prestige.*"<sup>2</sup> In 1926 Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery was created and Garrou Knitting Mills was merged into the new company.

The Garrou Knitting Mills occupied the old Morganton Manufacturing and Trading Company building until it merged in 1926 with Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery. The new company expanded on the Lenoir Street site the next year, 1927. The new three-story Art Moderne building towered over the smaller one-story Garrou Mill. There was an alley between the two which was used for deliveries and parking. Locals say that the new building was a marvel of technology with the "*exterior lite [sic] up at night like the big city.*"<sup>3</sup> Two years later Morganton Full-Fashioned built the three-story addition on the northern end of their 1927 mill. The Art Moderne influence in this manufacturing building was a reflection of some of the newer buildings in downtown Morganton; the most notable of these modern buildings were designed by the Wilson, North Carolina architect, Charles Benton. Since its establishment the manufacturing mill has influenced the expansion of the business district further east on Union Street into an area which had traditionally been residential in nature.

Located on the same site as the Garrou-Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills was the Mountain Ice and Coal Company, built in 1924. Two men, Henry Gaston and R.D. Parsons, with an initial investment of \$35,000, started the company. In early 1924, an article in the annual "Prosperity and Publicity Edition" of the *News Herald* noted that the company provided "*pure ice under the most favorable conditions with thoroughly modern ice-making machinery under supervision of an experienced manufacturer.*" The article went on to note that "*with the coming of such an important addition to the industrial life of Morganton. . . . Gaston and Parsons will have contributed another spoke in the wheel of the new era of progress that has manifested itself not only in our city, but,*

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<sup>1</sup> *The News Herald*, Cobb Publishing, Morganton, North Carolina, June 4, 1891, June 28, 1917 "Knitting Mill to Open".

<sup>2</sup> *The News Herald*, Cobb Publishing, Morganton, North Carolina, Prosperity and Publicity Special Edition, 1924 "Garrou Knitting Mills".

<sup>3</sup> Interviews during "Premier History Night" April 21, 1998, City of Morganton Council Chambers, 201 West Meeting Street, Morganton, NC, Mrs. Ann Fender, Mr. John Cantrell, and Mr. Steve Settlemeyer.

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*throughout the breadth of Western North Carolina*.<sup>4</sup> Henry Gaston had moved to Morganton from Tennessee to manage the new Caldwell Hotel, started in 1922 on the corner of North Green and East Union Streets. He left that post in 1930 and ran his Ice and Coal Company full time until his death in 1958. Gaston was a board member of Grace Hospital, Morganton's first hospital. He was also president of the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association beginning in 1937. Gaston also served on the Morganton Hosiery Mill's Board of Directors until its merger with Dan River, Incorporated in the late 1960s.

The Mountain Ice and Coal outlet store, Blue Ridge Products, was located in what is now known as the Outlet Store. This building served as the outlet store for Mountain Ice and Coal Company selling coupon books for home delivery of ice and coal, as well as coal heaters and ice chests until the company closed in 1958. At that time the building was occupied by the Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mill as an outlet store for women's and men's hosiery. The building was occupied as an outlet store until the Premier Manufacturing Company closed in 1995.

The Drexel Knitting Mill merged with the Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mill and the Huffman Full-Fashioned Mills in the mid 1950s to form the Morganton Hosiery Mills. In 1969 this company was acquired by Dan River, Incorporated. At that time the two older buildings were connected to create additional office space and additional loading docks. The knitting mill was eventually purchased by the Premier Manufacturing Knitting Company and was operated in that capacity until it went bankrupt in early 1995. In December 1997 the Morganton Redevelopment Commission purchased the property in an effort to adaptively reuse the building. The property was offered for development and is currently under negotiation with Ron Morgan, a developer from Charlotte. Morgan has proposed that the complex be converted into a new City Hall for Morganton, private office space, a restaurant, and private residential dwellings. Plans are to remove the later additions to the two older buildings in an effort to return the facility back to its pre-1940s appearance.

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<sup>4</sup> *The News Herald*, Cobb Publishing, Morganton, North Carolina, Prosperity and Publicity Special Edition, 1924  
"Garrou Knitting Mills" and "Mountain Ice and Coal to Open".

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Burke County Historical Society, The Heritage of Burke County - 1981. Hunter Publishing Company, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1981.

Phifer, Edward W., The History of a North Carolina County - BURKE. Privately published by Edward William Phifer, Jr., Morganton, North Carolina, 1982.

Barbee, Millie, Editor, Historic Burke - An Architectural Inventory of Burke County, North Carolina. Biltmore Press, Asheville, North Carolina, 1987.

*The News Herald* (Morganton), June, 18, 1917, Special Edition 1924.

Interviews during "Premier History Night" April 21, 1998, City of Morganton Council Chambers, 201 West Meeting Street, Morganton, NC. Mrs. Ann Fender, Mr. John Cantrell, and Mr. Steve Settlemyer.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**10. Geographic Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the Garrou-Morganton Full Fashion Hosiery Mills are delineated by the bold line on the accompanying sketch map drawn to a scale of 1"=100'. The nominated property is all of parcel Block #1 Lot #6 of Burke County Tax Map #42-2.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses all of the property historically associated with the Garrou Knitting Mills and Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills and the Premier Outlet Store.

DEEDIT "A"

BEGINNING at a fence corner on the north side of Bouchelle Street, said fence corner being Gaston Chapel A.M.E. Church's southwest corner, and fence corner being at the southeast corner of the existing boiler room, and runs thence the following courses and distances: North 53° 10' West 55.80 feet to an iron pipe, said iron pipe being located South 53° 10' East 161.43 feet from the back of walk on east side of Avery Avenue; thence North 29° 02' East 94.03 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 18° 21' East 139.67 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 5° 30' East 38.97 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 5° 30' East 40.03 feet to an iron pipe; thence the same bearing North 5° 30' East 151.10 feet to an iron pipe; thence North 82° 04' West 169.68 feet to an iron pipe at the back of walk on the east side of Avery Avenue, said iron being the northwest corner of Morganton City School property; thence North 10° 44' East 76.80 feet to an iron pipe at the back of walk, said iron being the southwest corner of Harrill; thence with Harrill's line, South 82° 02' East 275.00 feet to an iron pipe in Wilson Kincaid's west property line; thence South 3° 26' West 2.85 feet to an iron pipe, Wilson Kincaid's southwest property corner; thence South 82° 54' East 152.00 feet to an iron pipe at the back of concrete walk on the west side of Lenoir Street; thence with back of walk on Lenoir Street South 4° 14' 138.23 feet to an iron pipe; thence the same course (South 4° 14' West) 151.96 feet to an iron pipe; thence South 4° 14' West (the same course) 144.05 feet to a nail and cap at the intersection of Lenoir Street and East Union Street; thence with East Union Street, South 40° 39' West 107.11 feet to an iron pipe, the northeast corner of Gaston Chapel A.M.E. Church's property; thence North 64° 05' West, 184.72 feet to an iron pipe, the northwest corner of said Church's property; thence South 40° 05' West 107.73 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, as surveyed and platted by E. A. Mallonee Surveying & Mapping in Oct. 1976, and shown on plat recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 14, Burke County Registry.

For back reference see Book R-5, page 387; Book Q-5, Page 591; Book 15, Page 216; Book 22, Page 278; Book 28, Page 504; Book 78, Page 359; Book 194, Page 21; Book 213, Page 133; Book 214, Page 207.

For further back reference see also: Book E-4, Page 467; Book D-5, Page 91; Book L-5, Page 95; Book L-5, Page 549; Book M-5, Page 196; Book U-5, Page 239; Book W-5, Page 423; Book 57, Page 481; Book 90, Page 123; Book 112, Page 207; Book 112, Page 585; Book 194, Page 252; Book 358, Page 461; Book 363, Page 677; Book 399, Page 224.

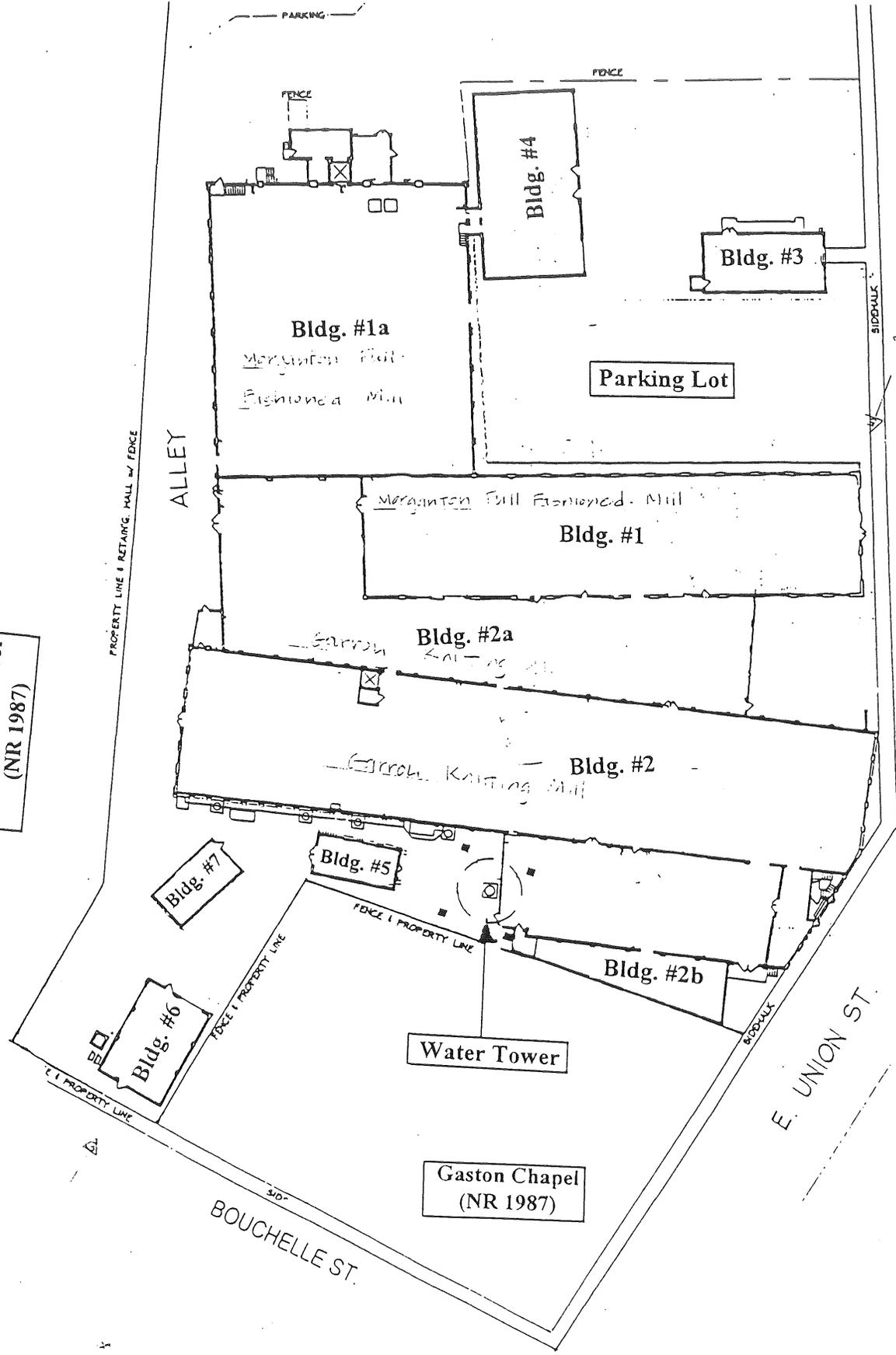
See also deed recorded in Book 518, Page 187, Burke County Registry.

Also conveyed hereby is all of the right, title, and interest of the Grantor referred to in that certain Deed of Easement, dated February 16, 1976, from the Burke County Public Schools Board of Education, recorded February 20, 1976 in Book 501, page 366, the same constituting a four-foot easement for an underground water line, and associated catch basin and valve pit.

BOOK 213 PAGE 207



Avery Ave. School  
(NR 1987)



**Garrou - Morganton Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mills**  
Morganton, Burke, North Carolina      Not to Scale

