

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House

Durham, Durham County, DH2403, Listed 1/22/2014

Nomination by Gary Kueber and Eddie Belk

Photographs by Gary Kueber, March 2012, and Ann Swallow August 2013



East elevation facing railroad



North elevation

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: **Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House**

Other names/site number: **Durham Farmers Mutual Exchange Building**

Name of related multiple property listing: **N/A**

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

2. Location

Street & number: **708-710 Gilbert Street**

City or town: **Durham** State: **North Carolina** County: **Durham**

Not For Publication: **N/A** Vicinity: **N/A**

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

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ Date</p> <p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: **N/A**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

INDUSTRY/industrial storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: **BRICK, STUCCO, CONCRETE**

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House is located on 1.24 acres at 708-710 Gilbert Street, in downtown Durham, Durham County, North Carolina. It is located east and north of the Holloway Street Historic District (NR, 1985 and 2009).

The parcel on which the Dye House is located is bordered by a Norfolk Southern railroad spur to the east, Gilbert Street to the north, single-family houses on Holloway Street to the south, and a one story building and community garden known as SEEDS to the west.

The Dye House building contains three contiguous sections which will be referred to as sections A, B, and C. The attached map outlines each section. As originally constructed, section A served as the Boiler Room, section B served as offices, warehouse, and storage, and section C served as the dyeing area.¹ Section B also includes a post-1955 addition which is currently used as storage².

The Dye House building, built from 1920-1921, is early twentieth century mill construction with exterior reinforced concrete bearing walls, steel trusses and a heavy timber ("slow burn") structural system. Each section differs in both roof system and interior construction. Section A has exterior reinforced concrete pilastered walls topped with stepped brick parapets covered in stucco. Original window openings are partially infilled with a red brick masonry apron. The remaining window openings in section A contain steel windows behind plywood. The gabled main roof has a projecting monitor roof, and both are covered with asphalt shingles. The interior is a wood post-and-beam structural system supporting wood flooring. The roof is supported by steel trusses.

Section B has reinforced concrete pilastered exterior walls with a flat parapet roof. Original window openings are infilled with red brick masonry. The interior is a wood post-and-beam support system with concrete flooring. The roof is flat, and supported by wood posts and beams. The roofing material is built-up asphalt.

Section C has reinforced concrete pilastered exterior walls. The west wall of the section has two side-by-side stuccoed brick stepped parapets; the east wall has one stuccoed brick stepped parapet. The original window openings are infilled with red brick masonry. Intermittent steel windows, approximately two foot by three foot, are set in the brick infill. The roof has two

¹ "Durham, North Carolina." 1926, 1937, Durham, North Carolina, Sanborn Map Company.

² "This is Central Carolina Farmers Exchange." Farmers Exchange Information Department, 1955.

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parallel pitched roofs running east-west with a center gable between the two main roofs. The main roofs are each topped by a five foot high projecting monitor roof, running the length of Section C. Three of the four monitor roof walls are covered with metal roofing material; the fourth contains wood multi-lite windows. The remainder of the roofing material is asphalt shingle. The interior of Section C is supported by a heavy timber structural system. A series of large trusses support each parallel main roof system; the trusses and the central gable roof are supported by two parallel rows of tall heavy timber posts extending from the concrete floor to the roof.

Narrative Description

The Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House is located between a historically industrial area of Durham and the Holloway Street Historic District (NR, 1985 and 2009). The industrial area to the north and east of the parcel contains many older buildings built during the 1920s-1960s. The residential area, consisting predominantly of wood frame single family homes built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is south and west of the building. The Norfolk-Southern railroad spur line, which runs in a north-south direction to the east of the Dye House parcel, bisects the industrial area. The railroad line is intermittently active.

The Dye House building was designed in c.1920 by architect Joseph Emory Serrine.³ The exterior walls of the Dye House use reinforced concrete, a construction method increasingly adopted in the early twentieth century that allowed for large open spaces, multi-storied buildings, and large windows that provided light and ventilation. The Durham Hosiery Mills utilized reinforced concrete construction for all structures the company built from 1919-1921, including the Durham Silk Hosiery Mill (demolished) and the Durham Hosiery Mill Number Fifteen in Mebane, NC (NR, 2010). The Dye House also uses a heavy timber structural system and steel trusses for interior floor and roof support.

Site Description

The north-facing Dye House occupies about half of its current parcel. It is set back approximately ninety feet from Gilbert Street at the east end and 160 feet at the west end. The area between the north building façade and Gilbert Street is an asphalt-paved parking lot, fenced with chain-link and razor-wire just inside the Gilbert Street curb. The asphalt paving ends near the eastern property line, and to the south, along the east wall of the building, is a dirt and loose gravel road that is not part of the parcel; it is owned by Norfolk-Southern. A concrete loading dock extends from the eastern wall of the building. The loading dock section of the building is currently owned by the Norfolk Southern railroad. The rear and south area of the property, behind the building, consists of a grassy, wooded area, which abuts the rear lot lines of 609, 611 and 613 Holloway Street. The Dye House is separated from these properties by a chain-link and razor wire fence. Extending from the middle of the south façade of the building is a twenty foot by thirty foot masonry loading dock, about four feet above grade.

There is an approximately ten foot by ten foot concrete block, flat-roofed 'shed' in the center of this loading dock with a single steel door and steel gate entry, most likely built after 1970. It is a

³ *Engineering News-Record*, 83, no. 17 (1919): 300.

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non-contributing building.

Adjacent to the western property line is the SEEDS community garden, which consists of an open garden, including two greenhouses and a small shed, as well as a masonry one-story structure built in the late 1940s as a community grocery and restaurant. The grade above the adjacent parcel is several feet higher than the parking lot grade of the property; a leaning and partially failed brick masonry retaining wall extends along the western property line from the north façade of the building to the Gilbert Street.

Section A Exterior (Boiler Room)

The exterior of the boiler room/section A features walls made of reinforced concrete with original five-stepped parapets on the east and west elevations extending above the roofline. The parapets are constructed of stuccoed brick. A gabled roof ridge spans between these walls and includes a centered monitor roof with clerestory windows. Each of the end walls is divided into three large pilastered window bays, now infilled with brick. The original windows likely filled the entire opening from concrete sill to lintel, although historic photos show that at some point prior to 1955, the bottom third of the bays were infilled with brick.⁴ Approximately seventy-five percent of the post-1955 steel, multi-lite windows above the brick infill in this section remain present behind plywood. The largest windows appear from archival photographs to have been two vertically stacked six by six lite steel windows separated by a horizontal steel mullion.⁵ Section A also contains two concrete loading docks – one on the east side of the building that extends north of section B, and one which has a zigzag edge for truck loading bays on the west side of Section A which then wraps around the north wall of section C. The east loading dock is covered by a metal awning. As mentioned before, although the entire interior and exterior façade walls of the building are on one parcel, currently owned by Akron Properties Limited, the concrete loading dock projecting from the east façade is owned by the Norfolk Southern railroad.

Section A Interior (Boiler Room)

The interior of section A includes a full-height, mostly below grade basement and two above-ground floors. The first floor is raised approximately three feet above grade level. The interior of the basement and first floor are supported by heavy timber posts and beams. The basement has a poured concrete floor, while the first and second floors have three inch wide wood tongue and groove flooring, which, in certain areas, is missing and replaced with plywood. The second story has a gabled roof with a gabled monitor roof at its center. The entire roof is supported on the interior by two large triangular steel trusses which each run north-south with diagonal 'V' shaped bracing. Interior walls in the basement are reinforced concrete with brick infill, while the first and second floor interior walls feature concrete pillars infilled with red clay tiles. On the second floor, the clay tiles appear in the end gables. Remnants of pulley systems and belts extend down through the center of the floor from the second floor to the basement.

On the first floor, a single story, flat roofed room projects westward. This area is supported by heavy timber wood beams, which are supported by perpendicular steel beams that terminate

⁴ "This is Central Carolina Farmers Exchange." Farmers Exchange Information Department, 1955.

⁵ Ibid.

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in the concrete exterior wall. The floor is tongue and groove wood boards that are three inches wide.

Section B Exterior (Office/Warehouse)

The east wall of section B consists of a two-story reinforced concrete exterior with six concrete pilasters at regular intervals. Currently, the concrete pilasters are infilled with brick., However, archival photographs show two rows of steel frame multi-lite windows of smaller size than those in the boiler room as late as 1955.⁶ The roofline of section B is a flat raised parapet wall. The section has a flat built-up roof with a center elevator penthouse, sheathed in corrugated steel, protruding above the roofline. There are two windows on the west side of the second story of section B that face the exterior. As described in the description of the exterior of section A, there is a loading dock along the east side of the section B that extends into section A.

There is a single story addition on the west side of section B which sits between sections A and C. Archival photos show that this addition was added after 1955 and before 1959.^{7,8,9} It has brick masonry exterior walls on the north and west walls, painted white, with a flat parapet, topped with terracotta coping.

Section B Interior (Office/Warehouse)

The first floor of section B is accessible on the west from section C via a wood-framed opening with a wood multi-lite transom. The section is supported by concrete posts and beams on the first floor, and on the second floor, it is supported by heavy timber posts and beams. Both floors are poured concrete, and the center of the roughly trapezoidal shaped section is penetrated by an elevator shaft. The freight elevator is still present, but not operational. On the second floor, small wooden six-panel doors lead to small equipment areas on either side of the elevator shaft. A poured concrete stair leads down to the first floor; this access is blocked by a locked sliding kalamein door hung on a sloped gravity track. The second floor west wall has four interior windows. Two of the windows look outside, while the other two, in the same size and style, look into section C.

The single story addition on the west side of section B has a flat roof supported by steel I-beams spanning the width of the addition. The floor is poured concrete.

Section C Exterior (Dyeing Area)

Section C is an irregular, but generally rectangular shape that forms the long part of the 'L' in the overall building footprint. The south wall is 175 feet long while the west wall is 80 feet long. Section C has reinforced concrete exterior walls. The three-bay wide east elevation has a parapet with a two-stepped pediment; the west wall has a parapet with a single stepped pediment. The north wall has an awning and a loading dock. The walls of section C contain the same regularly-

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Durham County, NC, 1959." USDA Aerial Photograph. Durham County Library..

⁸ "This is Central Carolina Farmers Exchange." Farmers Exchange Information Department, 1955

⁹ "Durham County, NC, 1972." USDA Aerial Photograph. Accessed July 25th, 2013.

http://www.lib.unc.edu/reference/gis/USDA/durham_1972/index.html

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spaced 9'– 11" wide window bays punctuated by the original reinforced concrete pilasters found in section A. The original windows are absent; they were steel frame, multi-lite windows, which are now partially or completely bricked in. The brick infill is frequently penetrated by two tiers of smaller steel replacement windows on the southern and western walls, each approximately two foot by three foot wide.

On the north elevation, the brick infill has been partially removed in several locations and replaced with plate glass. A set of double metal and glass doors (which appear to be less than ten years old) have been placed in one of the spaces between pilasters on the north façade, and another single metal and glass door (which appears to be less than ten years old) has been placed in another space between pilasters.

The roof of section C is defined by two east-west oriented, five-foot-tall, clerestory windowed, gabled monitor roofs. The original north facing windows of the northern monitor roof are intact and used; the three other banks of windows are covered with corrugated aluminum.

Section C Interior (Dyeing Area)

The interior of section C is supported by heavy timber posts and roof truss systems. The 1937 Sanborn map shows that the original structure was a single story with heavy timber wood posts and a concrete floor.¹⁰ The interior of this section is three bays wide. The two wider outer bays are spanned by distinctive heavy timber "trestle style" or 'X' shaped steel gusset-plated trusses with parallel top and bottom chords and sloped end rafter chords. These trusses are set nominally at ten feet on center. On top of the top chord the parallel, clerestory-windowed monitor roofs are framed. The median ends of each truss sits on top of two-story tall heavy timber wood posts with heavy timber saddle haunches. Each of the columns is heavy timber yoke-braced and integrated to the bottom and rafter chords of the truss. The outer ends of these trusses bear on the concrete pilastered exterior masonry walls. In the narrower, center bay sets a simple, heavy timber gable truss. This truss forms two parallel valleys for the twin monitor roof trusses, and it is directly supported by the two tall heavy timber posts.

A second floor has been constructed in the western half of section C, creating a two-story section open to the eastern, full-height area. The second floor is wood framed with three inch tongue-and-groove flooring supported by steel columns on the first floor. It appears, per the 1950 Sanborn map, that this floor was added after 1950. In c. 2001, this floor was removed from approximately two-thirds of Section C. A portion of the first floor has been renovated with a gypsum board ceiling and walls, vinyl composition tile flooring, and fluorescent lighting fixtures; this area is walled off from the remainder of the first floor.

¹⁰ "Durham, North Carolina." 1937. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, North Carolina.

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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.)

- 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

c. 1920-1934

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Significant Dates

c. 1920 – Date of Construction

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

J. E. Sirrine & Company

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Constructed during a general period of expansion by the textile industry and the Durham Hosiery Mills Company after World War I, the Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House served an important industrial function for the company during the period of significance, c. 1920-1934. From when the Dye House was built in c. 1920 to when it was vacated by the company in 1934, the Dye House expanded the dyeing capacity at the Durham Hosiery Mills Company and allowed the company more control over mercerization and production.¹¹ Mercerization increased the luster and absorbency of the cotton fiber, resulting in better and more uniform dyeing.¹² The process was performed at the Dye House where previously it had been contracted out to other companies for the hosiery mills.¹³ The Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for its industrial significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Durham Hosiery Mills Company had its beginnings in 1894, when it was organized by George Graham, an entrepreneur, and began operations in a building on Church Street, and subsequently, Morris Street. Later that same year, Julian S. Carr, who had achieved wealth and fame as President and partner in Blackwell's Bull Durham Tobacco Company, and John W. Smith organized the Golden Belt Hosiery Company and located the new company at Five Points, at "the southward intersection of Main and Chapel Hill Sts."¹⁴ The founding of the Durham

¹¹ *Durable Durham Doings*, Jan. 15, 1920, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University. p. 12.

¹² "What is Mercerized Cotton?" <http://fiberarts.org/design/articles/mercerized.html>. Retrieved July 30, 2013.

¹³ *Durable Durham Doings*, Jan. 15, 1920, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University. p. 12.

¹⁴ Jean Anderson, *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina*, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011).

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Hosiery Mills Company was consistent with a national shift of textile manufacturing from the northeastern to the southern United States. Lower costs of production caused the southern textile industry to experience explosive growth.¹⁵ Among other factors, climate, taxes, cheaper land, proximity to cotton fields, lower costs of construction, lower costs of labor, and lower prevalence of unions all contributed towards this shift.¹⁶

The Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation and the Golden Belt Hosiery Company formed a new, merged company in 1898, called the Durham Hosiery Mills Company. Julian Carr became the president of the new company, which was capitalized at \$46,000. Carr hired E. P. Sheridan to run operations of the new company.¹⁷

The newly formed company was financially successful, and planned a significant expansion through construction of a dedicated hosiery mill on Angier Avenue. The Spanish-American War and favorable tariffs had increased demand and pricing substantially in the late 1890s. In 1901, the company relocated to this building, and Carr re-christened the neighborhood "Edgemont." The company's new building had ample room for the various processes of hosiery production, and continued to expand its capacity and operations during the period from 1906-1912.¹⁸

Although Julian S. Carr Sr. did not retire until 1911, daily business operations were taken over by Julian S. Carr Jr. in 1903, when he became company president. Under the younger Carr, the company opened its second mill in an old furniture factory several blocks southwest of the main mill, known as the Durham Hosiery Mill Number Two. It was the first mill in the United States which employed a solely African American work force.¹⁹

The Durham Hosiery Mills continued to bring new mills under its control during the first decades of the twentieth century, adding plants in Goldsboro, High Point, Mebane, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina as well as in Durham.²⁰ Carr added several complexes along the historic Norfolk-Western spur line that ran just west of Mill Number One in Durham. Durham Hosiery Mill Number Six was constructed two blocks south of Mill Number One in 1912. In 1919, Carr acquired the former Paragon Hosiery Mill, also located along the spur line, several blocks north of the Mill Number One on Gilbert Street, which he renamed the John O'Daniel Hosiery Mill.²¹ The John O'Daniel Mill was also referred to as Durham Hosiery Mill Number Twelve.²² It is possible that this development spurred his interest in additional development along the railroad spur connecting the former Paragon Mill with Durham Hosiery Mills Numbers One and Six; the Dye House was located between the two complexes and along the railroad spur, just south of the John O'Daniel Hosiery Mill yet three blocks north of Mills Number One and Six.

¹⁵ Mildred Gwin Andrews, *The Men and the Mills: A History of the Southern Textile Industry*, (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1987), 57.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, 57-59.

¹⁷ Barry Jacobs. "Durham Hosiery Mill." *National Register Nomination*, 1978.

¹⁸ "Durham, North Carolina." 1913. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, North Carolina..

¹⁹ "Durham Hosiery Mill." *National Register Nomination*, 1978.

²⁰ *Ibid*.

²¹ Mena Webb, *Jule Carr: General Without an Army*, (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1987).

²² *Official American Textile Directory*, (Boston, Massachusetts, Guild & Lord, 1923).

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Industrial dyeing operations had been a part of hosiery manufacturing in the United States since at least the late nineteenth century; the shift from woolen hosiery to cotton and the development of the mercerization process for cotton had facilitated dyeing and expanded the palette of available dyes.²³ Thus, the construction of a dye house was a logical next step to allow the Durham Hosiery Mills Company to expand their company and gain more control over the products that they sold.

Dyeing science had matured throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and German companies held a preeminent position in the production of synthetic dyes.²⁴ A German immigrant, Rudolph Kueffner, had immigrated to Durham in the late 1800s and started a dyeing company near Five Points in Durham.²⁵ He was hired by the Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation at its inception in 1894, and oversaw the dyeing process at the original dye house in Mill Number One. According to historian Jean Anderson in her book on Durham County history, “[Kueffner] kept a close watch over his trade secrets; he was never without a black satchel in which, presumably, he carried his chemicals and formulae.”²⁶

The increased demand for cotton hosiery during World War I was accompanied by limitations on the availability of German dyes, and a business-oriented, as well as patriotic desire, to move away from reliance on German dyes towards an increase in American production.²⁷ The *History of Manufactures in the United States* notes: “the armistice found the United States in the possession of a thriving dye industry.”²⁸

The great increase in demand and sales during World War I, along with an increase in dye supplies may have led to the Durham Hosiery Mills Company decision to embark upon the expansion / building program of 1920-1921. Unfortunately, no company records after the 1890s are extant, other than a few financial ledgers, to allow more than inference. In 1920, the company acquired land for the Durham Silk Hosiery Mill, Durham Hosiery Mill Number Fifteen in Mebane, and the Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House; in 1921, they conveyed all parcels to Edgemont Securities Company (which was under the same corporate control as the Durham Hosiery Mills Company,) presumably as a method of construction finance or to segregate construction costs from operations.²⁹ With a chain of fifteen mills, fourteen producing cotton hosiery, Durham Hosiery Mills became the largest hosiery mill complex in the United States by the early 1920s.³⁰

²³ Antonio Sansone, *Recent Progress in the Industries of Dyeing & Calico Printing*, (Manchester: Heywood, 1895).

²⁴ Victor Selden Clark, *History of Manufactures in the United States, Vol, III, 1893-1928* (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institute of Washington, 1929), p. 221, 316.

²⁵ Wyatt T. Dixon. *How Times do Change: A Series of Sketches of Durham and Her Citizens*. (Durham, N.C.: Central Carolina Publishing, 1987), p. 313.

²⁶ Jean Anderson, *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011), p. 504.

²⁷ Victor Selden Clark, *History of Manufactures in the United States, Vol, III, 1893-1928* (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institute of Washington, 1929), p. 317-8.

²⁸ Ibid, p. 317-318.

²⁹ Durham County Register of Deeds, DB61, p. 549.

³⁰ Durham Hosiery Mill, National Register Nomination, 1978.

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The first reference to the Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House building is in the *1919 Engineering News-Record*, which states that “Durham Hosiery Mill plans to build rein. con. [reinforced concrete] dye house...J. E. Serrine, Greenville, S.C., archt.”³¹ In January 1920, *The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* noted that “The Durham Hosiery Mills, of Durham, N.C., have arranged for the erection of a completely equipped modern dyehouse.”³² These articles, which reference the planning of the building, infer a construction period in late 1920 through perhaps 1921. By February 1922, the building had been built, according to a reference in the February 1922 *American Wool and Cotton Reporter*.³³ The Dye House first appears in the Durham, North Carolina city directory in 1923, located on Gilbert Street without an address. William Patton is noted in the same directory as foreman of same.³⁴ The prior year, he is noted as being employed as a bookkeeper, suggesting that his position was changed as the Dye House became operational.³⁵

Although a dye house (now demolished) had historically been located on the Hosiery Mill Number One property on Angier Avenue, its small size, and the inability to expand given its location between the other Mill Number One buildings and the corner of South Elm Street and Angier Avenue, seems likely to have prompted the construction of an offsite dye house. Sanborn maps show that several of the Durham Hosiery Mills Company plants in Durham, as well as those in Mebane and Carrboro, were without on-site dye houses.³⁶ The lack of dye houses at other mills allows inference that this Dye House served multiple mills.

A review of the available general ledgers for Durham Hosiery Mill Number Six in Durham (now demolished) show the commencement of a new category of “dye house labor” on July 10, 1920 and paid weekly thereafter, strongly tying the Dye House to Mill Number Six, just a few blocks south.³⁷ In the January 15, 1920, edition of *Durable Durham Doings*, the employee newsletter, Rudolph Kueffner responded to previous criticism of the dyeing process from other divisions with a rebuttal entitled “The Dye House Objects,” which gives some insight into the dyeing operations at Hosiery Mill Number One and the projected operations at the specialized Dye House structure. He notes that black dyeing “circulating machines” were run by “experienced colored men” and black dyeing “rotary machines” were run by “white employees.” He goes on to rebut the notion of failure on the part of these employees as the cause for “re-dyes.” He notes that mercerizing of their yarn was “done in the North” and done unevenly, resulting in uneven dyeing of “brown and grey” materials, but that “it is planned that as soon as our projected dye house is built, we will do our own mercerizing and hope we will do it better, as worse we could hardly make it.”³⁸

³¹ *Engineering News-Record*, 83, no. 17 (1919): 300.

³² “Industrial Notes,” *The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (Jan, 1920): 91.

³³ “Mill Notes,” *American Wool and Cotton Reporter*, 50 (1922): 438.

³⁴ Hill City Directory, Durham, North Carolina, 1923.

³⁵ Hill City Directory, Durham, North Carolina, 1922.

³⁶ “Durham, Mebane, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.” 1913, 1937. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, North Carolina.

³⁷ General Ledger for Durham Hosiery Mill Number Six, Box ff 6957, Durham Hosiery Mill Company Records, David M. Rubenstein Rate Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

³⁸ *Durable Durham Doings*, Jan. 15, 1920, David M. Rubenstein Rate Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University. p. 12.

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The construction of the dye house allowed for an increase in both the amount of products and the pace of production offered at the Durham Hosiery Mills, now allowing for “dyeing of any class of hosiery,” as opposed to exporting raw hosiery to be dyed elsewhere.³⁹ During this period, most goods produced by the Durham Hosiery Mills were dyed, including cotton socks for men and children and sheer stockings for women. Local advertising shows that most items were sold only in black; other common dye colors were black, white and cordovan.⁴⁰ In addition to allowing more goods and products to be dyed, “The Dye House Objects” stated that the finished Dye House would allow the Durham Hosiery Mills Co. to mercerize their own yarn, which was projected to lead to better quality control over finished products.⁴¹

Because very little information is available about the specific operations of the Dye House, we must infer the relationship between the architecture of the Dye House and its operations using available Sanborn maps and what is known about the dyeing process. Section A, or the Boiler Room, likely provided coal-driven power to the plant through the combination of coal delivered via rail to the adjacent coal trestle (now gone) and water drawn from a fifty thousand gallon water tank that was once situated between the building and Gilbert Street. The spans provided by large steel trusses likely allowed for the placement of larger boiler equipment in this area. The single story, flat-roofed portion of Section A contained a water filtration system, suggesting that water may also have been drawn through this area to supply dyeing operations. As some dyeing operations require boiling or heated water, the filtered water may have been boiled for dyeing operations as well.⁴²

Section B historically contained offices and warehouse; the presence of a freight elevator on the 1926 Sanborn map, and the attached concrete railroad loading dock, also present in 1926, suggests that materials – raw, finished, or both – came into and exited the Dye House through this area. Section B also contained the “Drug Room,” which was the dye dispensary. This room opened into Section C.⁴³

Section C, as originally constructed had ten foot wide areas between trusses containing full-height metal, multi-lite windows. In combination with the two clerestoried monitors, these windows allowed a large quantity of light to enter Section C.⁴⁴ Although the functions performed in Section C are unknown, it can be inferred from the primary purpose of the building and the supporting functions of Sections A and B that Section C was the primary dyeing area. Given the importance of color and uniformity in dyeing, it is reasonable to conclude that copious natural light would have been necessary to assess the quality of the finished product. References during this period to rotary and circulating dyeing machines used by the Durham Hosiery Mills

³⁹ "Mill Notes," *American Wool and Cotton Reporter*, 50 (1922): 438.

⁴⁰ *The Evening World*. (New York, N.Y.), 18 Nov. 1920. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030193/1920-11-18/ed-1/seq-24/>>.

⁴¹ *Durable Durham Doings*, Jan. 15, 1920, David M. Rubenstein Rate Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University. p. 12.

⁴² “Durham, North Carolina.” 1926 update to 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, North Carolina.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ “Durham, North Carolina.” 1926 update to 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, North Carolina.

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Company make it likely that similar machines were used in Section C, but the exact machinery and its configuration in Section C are unknown.⁴⁵

The number of specific jobs and types of labor housed in the Dye House were unknown, although the Dye House employees were likely integrated into the larger Durham Hosiery Mills Company workforce. Julian Carr Jr., who had become president of the Durham Hosiery Mills Company in 1911, had shown interest in labor innovations, including employment of an all African-American workforce at one mill, and creation of an industrial democracy system throughout the company mills (except Number Two) during the 1919-1921 period. Carr Sr. described the system as “a laboratory experiment to find the solution to the general problem of capital and labor.”⁴⁶ It also came as a response to unrest in the industry as hours and wages were cut as demand decreased after World War I and American women turned increasingly to silk hosiery.

Overproduction and the effect of pricing pressure in the textile industry first manifested in the northern mills; employment dropped at the Fall River, Massachusetts mills by 10,000 workers in 1923-1924, with a decrease in product value by \$40 million.⁴⁷ Problems were not limited to the North; as a result of wage cuts, textile strikes occurred in Charlotte in 1919 and at Cannon Mills in 1921 – the latter which prompted the governor to dispatch the National Guard.⁴⁸

The slump began to affect the Durham Hosiery Mills during the financial depression of 1921; the employee congress fell apart when wages were cut twenty-five percent and the mills “went on half time.”⁴⁹

Problems at the company were exacerbated by the sudden death of its president, Julian Carr Jr., in 1922, at age 44. Only a few weeks prior his death, Carr Jr. was in New York working to save Durham Hosiery Mills “from financial collapse.” Carr Sr. stepped back into more direct management of the company, auctioning off his farm in order to provide capital “because the Durham Hosiery Mill[s] had to be saved.” Unfortunately, Carr stated that he “could not forestall indefinitely the closing of some of its mills.”⁵⁰ Julian Carr Sr. died in 1924.

The Durham Hosiery Mills Company thus proceeded quickly from the heady optimism of World War I demand and the creation of employee structures to solve the problems of labor and capital, as it expanded with three new plants, including the Dye House – to steep cuts in wages and hours, loss of its employee representation system, and the loss of its president and founder. Although the southern textile mills continued to expand through the 1920s, including many in North Carolina, fundamental problems remained unsolved, and labor unrest increased again after

⁴⁵ *Durable Durham Doings*, Jan. 15, 1920, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University. p. 12.

⁴⁶ Sturdivant, Joanna. *Employee Representation Plan of the Durham Hosiery Mills*. p. 626

⁴⁷ Andrews, Mildred Gwin. *The Men and the Mills: A History of the Southern Textile Industry*. pp. 84-86.

⁴⁸ Glass, Brent. *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History*. pp. 68-69

⁴⁹ Sturdivant, Joanna. *Employee Representation Plan of the Durham Hosiery Mills*, p. 628.

⁵⁰ Mena Webb, *Jule Carr: General Without and Army*, (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), p. 252.

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1925. When the Great Depression hit, the North Carolina textile industry “which had been ailing for nearly a decade,” entered a period of “massive layoffs [and] wage cuts.”⁵¹ By 1931, most North Carolina mills were “either closed or operating only two or three days a week.”⁵²

Mill Number One continued to produce cotton yarn and cotton socks until it was closed in 1934. The Dye House building was abandoned at the same time; the building is shown as vacant on the 1937 Sanborn map.⁵³ According to the Hill City Directories, the building remained vacant from 1937-1942.⁵⁴ Of the company’s Durham plants, only the Silk Hosiery Mill remained in operation by the Durham Hosiery Mills Company after this period.

In November of 1941, Durham Hosiery Mills conveyed the Dye House property to Durham Farmers Mutual Exchange, Inc.⁵⁵ Sanborn maps indicate that the Farmers Exchange used the building for their seed cleaning department and as a fertilizer storage warehouse in 1950.⁵⁶

As part of an expansion to become a much larger cooperative endeavor, the Durham Farmers Mutual Exchange became a part of the Central Carolina Farmers Exchange Inc. (CCFE) in the early 1950s. A company brochure from c. 1955 pictures the Dye House building as the “Durham Service Store and Farm Supply Department,” amongst service stores in Oxford, Hillsborough, Carrboro, Pittsboro, Siler City, Creedmoor, and Roxboro.⁵⁷ The Farmers Exchange operated two seed cleaning plants for the Piedmont area of North Carolina: one was located in Siler City, and the other in the former Dye House building in Durham. The Durham building also functioned as a service store, which provided “marketing [of] grain, seed, poultry and eggs that farmers need to sell and also selling to them feed, seed, fertilizer, and 1200 farm supply items. Custom grinding and mixing home grown grain, cleaning and testing seed and other service [were also available.]”

The main plant / headquarters for the Central Carolina Farmers Exchange remained in Durham, and the Dye House building was an integral part of an expanding headquarters operation, as the organization built a cold storage facility, a Poultry Processing Plant, a maintenance garage, and a hatchery in the blocks surrounding the Dye House in the mid-1950s. In 1959, CCFE did \$21 million in business (\$10 million marketing, \$11 million purchasing) and sold \$2.2 million worth of livestock for its members.⁵⁸

In 1980, Central Carolina Farmers Exchange merged with Raleigh-based FCX, Inc. Office headquarters were relocated to Raleigh, and the merged company was branded FCX. The facilities in Durham continued to operate under the FCX name.⁵⁹

⁵¹ Glass, Brent. *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History*. p.74.

⁵² *Ibid*, p. 74.

⁵³ “Durham, North Carolina.” 1937. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, North Carolina.

⁵⁴ Hill City Directories, Durham, North Carolina. 1936-1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942.

⁵⁵ Durham County Register of Deeds, DB139, p. 233-4.

⁵⁶ “Durham, North Carolina.” 1950. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, North Carolina.

⁵⁷ “This is Central Carolina Farmers Exchange.” *Farmers Exchange Information Department*, 1955.

⁵⁸ “This is Central Carolina Farmers Exchange.” *Farmers Exchange Information Department*, 1955.

⁵⁹ “Carolina Farm Co-Ops Have Merged.” *Sumter Daily Item*, July 3, 1980.

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FCX filed for Chapter Eleven bankruptcy in February 1986. Southern States, a farm cooperative organized in 1923 in Virginia, purchased the FCX Durham assets out of receivership in 1986, including the Dye House. In December, 1998, Southern States sold the property to the current owner, Akron Properties Limited.

Since 2006, a portion of the building has been utilized as a storage and distribution warehouse for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, which leases the space from the current owner. A substantial portion of the building has remained vacant.

Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DH1847

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.237

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.995379 | Longitude: -78.890092 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

AD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

All of Lot 2 recombined at 708-710 Gilbert Street, Durham, NC, containing 1.237 acres, recorded in the Office of Register of Deeds of Durham County in Plat Book 186 at page 337.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The acreage was historically associated with the Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House during the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gary Kueber AND Eddie Belk
organization: Scientific Properties / Belk Architecture
street & number: 807 East Main Street, Suite 2-140
city or town: Durham
state: NC zip code: 27701
e-mail: gary.kueber@scientificproperties.com
telephone: 919-967-7700 x 154
date: July 25, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House

Address: 708-710 Gilbert Street

City or Vicinity: Durham

County: Durham

State: North Carolina

Photographers: Gary Kueber and Ann V. Swallow

Date Photographed: March 2012, Kueber, and August 2013, Swallow.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1: East elevation overall view, looking southwest (Swallow)

Photo 2: East end of south elevation of the dyeing area section, looking northeast

Photo 3: West end of south elevation of the dyeing area section and showing non-contributing building, looking northeast

Photo 4: West elevation of dyeing area section, looking east

Photo 5: North elevation of the dyeing area section, looking southwest

Photo 6: View from roof of dyeing area section overlooking long warehouse clerestory and facing west

Photo 7: Office/warehouse section, second floor, looking south to elevator (Swallow)

Photo 8: Dyeing area, north bay, looking west .

Photo 9: Dyeing area, south bay, looking west

Photo 10: Dyeing area, south bay, looking east from second floor level

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.