

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harmon-Reid Mill

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 208 Bodenhamer Street

not for publication N/A

city, town Kernersville

vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code N.C. county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27584

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources in
Kernersville, N. C.

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

William S. Pringle
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer

12-18-87
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction:

Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Harmon-Reid Mill is a two-and-a-half-story brick roller mill built in 1897 and sited on the north side of the rail line. The main block is laid in 1:7 common bond brick, with a mansard roof with gabled dormers sheltering the building. There is an original one-story brick office wing to the west. A number of later sheds and additions have been added over the years, but the present owners have expressed an interest in removing these additions. The original openings are extant behind the additions.

There is a loading dock on the main (north) facade which is accessed by a double-leaf door in a segmentally arched opening. Two four-over-four light windows in segmentally arched openings flank the central entry. The second floor openings are segmentally-arched and also contain four-over-four sash. The bays on the principal facade are slightly recessed individual panels created by pilasters with stepped "capitals". This decorative pilastered bay treatment does not continue on the side and rear elevations. The attic is lighted by four gabled four-over-four sash windows in gabled dormers on the front, and three dormers on the side elevations.

The side and rear elevations are obscured by additions to the first floor, but the arched door and one arched window flank the one-story office to the east. On the second floor of this elevation is one centrally located arched window. The west side still contains the arched windows on the first and second floor, although those on the first floor are presently covered by additions.

There are a number of mid-twentieth century frame additions to the south and west sides of the mill. A brick addition had been made to the rear of the original office wing, which on the east side of the main block, to provide additional office space for the present owners. The original office wing is brick and retains some decorative brickwork, and arched entry and windows in the rear wall. The other additions are frame sheds. These framed additions do not compromise the integrity of the brick walls to which they are attached, and can be removed with relative ease. The inner of the two original windows on the main facade has been enlarged to contain an entry.

The building sits on a low basement which contains the exposed floor joists of the construction. These are approximately two feet square. A narrow stair, original to the building, winds up the northeast corner of the building, beginning in the basement.

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The first floor is one large room, with an elevator shaft located in the center which serves all three floors. The elevator was installed early in the twentieth century, and is still functional. The first floor has a double leaf loading door in the center of the main facade, another loading door in the west corner of the rear wall, and an arched entry in the eastern corner of the rear wall, as well as one in the southern end of the east wall. A concrete-block partition wall was placed in the northwest corner of the first floor to serve as an office at some point in the twentieth century. The inner walls of this office are plastered.

The second floor is identical to the first in layout, except for the additional office space on the first floor. There is some milling equipment on this floor dating from the early twentieth century. This is the only mill-related equipment remaining in the building. The third floor is also identical to the lower two floors, and has slightly inward sloping walls, created by the mansard roof.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1897 -1930

Significant Dates

1897

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Harmon-Reid Mill, a two-and-a-half-story common bond brick Second Empire style mill built at 208 Bodenhamer Street, Kernersville, in 1897 by DeWitt Harmon and John G. Reid, is eligible for the Register under Criterion C as a surviving intact example of a style of industrial architecture rarely found in the state. The mill was built during a period of economic and industrial diversification in the late nineteenth century, and reflects both the local tradition of decoratively detailed brick industrial buildings, best expressed in Kernersville in the tobacco factories of the 1880s, and the popularity of the Second Empire style. It presents four equally well-detailed facades, rather than just one principal facade. The Harmon-Reid mill is the finest industrial building in Kernersville, and is one of only a few Second Empire industrial buildings in the state. It is comparable to Grimes Mill (1896/97, NR) in Salisbury, N. C., a granite-trimmed brick Second Empire-style roller mill which features similar roof line and rectangular form, and is perhaps the best example of a Second Empire-styled roller mill in the state. Harmon-Reid Mill falls under context II, Industrial and Commercial "Boom Period", property type C, Commercial and Industrial Architecture of the "Boom Period."

The mill is also eligible under Criterion A as a vivid example of the industrial activity which originated during Kernersville's boom. Its period of significance continued until 1930, throughout the "Maturation and Diversification Period," (Context III), as it was operated as a feed mill by original owner Dewitt Harmon until this date.

See continuation sheet

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The Harmon-Reid Roller Mill was built in 1897 by DeWitt Harmon and John G. Reid (1), both men involved in the industrial community of Kernersville. Little is known of John G. Reid's involvement in the economic life of Kernersville.

DeWitt Harmon was born in 1865 the son of Marie Antoinette and Julius Harmon, son of Salome Kerner and Apollos Harmon, and was educated at the Kernersville Academy. He later attended Moravian College at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in 1888 became an accredited engineer. He was active in the civic, political, religious and industrial life of Kernersville and Forsyth County all his life, serving as Forsyth County engineer for thirteen terms, County Commissioner from 1916-1920, and a member of the North Carolina Board of Highway Commissioners in 1912, as well as serving on the Kernersville Board of Commissioners, the local school board, and as treasure of the town. In addition to his civic involvement, he was a prominent member of the industrial community of Kernersville. (2) He was instrumental in the construction of the railroad line between Winston and Barbers Junction, a terminus south of Winston-Salem, where the lines split east to Salisbury, west to Statesville and south to Charlotte. (3) He was president of a bank located on North Main Street, and built a small office (SMSHD #13; 1925) on South Main Street across the street from his house to keep all the records and files his varied interests generated. He used the office in his capacities as town commissioner and left the office and lot to the town of Kernersville at his death. (5)

Harmon and his sister, Tilla Harmon, inherited two water-powered mills in Kernersville which were originally built by their father, Julius Harmon, and their uncle, Rufus Harmon. DeWitt Harmon converted his water-powered mills to steam, and then in 1897 he and his partner, John G. Reid, built the Harmon-Reid Roller Mill.

Harmon operated the Harmon-Reid Mill until 1930 when the Mock Brothers Company acquired it. It was also owned for short periods of time by Vance Black and Associates and the Shore Brothers who sold it to E. W. Cummings in 1941. Cummings operated the mill, known as the Pilot Mills, for a number of years, producing feed under the "Deep River" name. It was acquired by Statesville Floor Mills which continued to operate it as a mill until the late 1960s. At that time it was acquired by the present owners, Caudill Electric Company. (6)

The Harmon-Reid Mill provided a diversification from the tobacco-related industries of the prior two decades in Kernersville. from tobacco-related industries. The mill is also a logical extension of the tradition of decoratively detailed brick commercial construction in Kernersville. Built during the period of diversification as the tobacco industry failed in Kernersville, this mill reflects more "uptown" tastes of the period. While this building retains the use of pilasters to create "panels" in which segmentally arched bays are

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set, it avoids the narrow, deep form of the earlier buildings, particularly the tobacco factories, opting instead for a square form, more symmetrical bay placement on all sides, and a dormered mansard roof. Earlier commercial construction concentrated its decorative work on the principal facade; the Harmon-Reid Mill presents equally well-detailed facades to all four views. While Second Empire detailing, particularly the mansard roof, is found occasionally in late nineteenth century mill towers, Second Empire industrial styling is relatively rare in North Carolina.

FOOTNOTES:

1 John G. Reid, aged 65, appears in the 1910 census as a resident of Main Street, Kernersville, N. C., with his second wife, Sara C., aged 51, to whom he had been married for a year. This was Sara's first marriage. Reid is listed as the proprietor of a flour mill. Reid does not appear in any Forsyth County census prior to the 1910 census at which time he listed his birth state as North Carolina, and stated he was a veteran of the Confederate Army. Examination of Moore's Roster of North Carolina Civil War veterans does not list a John G. Reid, Read or Reed. Examination of the Forsyth County Cemetery Records, four volumes, lists neither John G nor Sara C. Reid in any of the county cemeteries. Interviews with several life-long residents of Kernersville also failed to turn up any information about Mr. Reid.

2 Kernersville Bicentennial Committee. Kernersville, North Carolina Bicentennial. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1971, revised 1976, p. 40; hereinafter cited as Bicentennial.

3 Bicentennial, pp. 40-41.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bicentennial Committee. Kernersville, North Carolina, Bicentennial. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1971, revised 1976.

Thirteenth Census of the United State, 1910, Forsyth County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 17 583720 2997500
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated consists of the building lot on which the Harmon-Reid Roller Mill was built in 1897. See tax map with property outlined in red. Lot 15, block 2119

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property being nominated consists of the building lot associated historically with the Harmon-Reid Mill.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

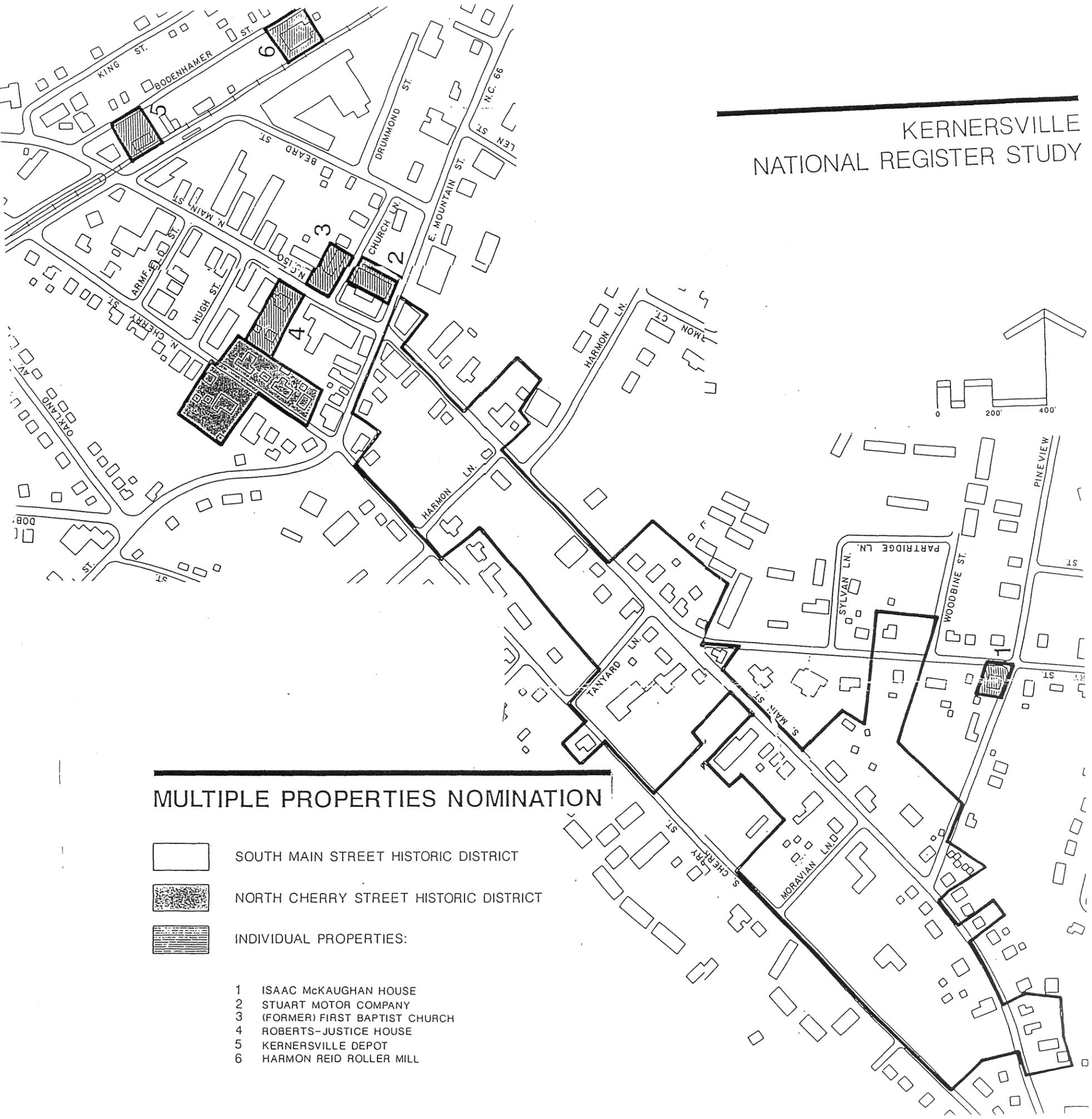
name/title Virginia Oswald

organization Consultant, Survey and Planning Branch date October 1987

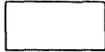
street & number Rt. 4, Box 20M telephone (919) 362-1725

city or town Apex, state N. C. zip code 27502

KERNERSVILLE NATIONAL REGISTER STUDY



MULTIPLE PROPERTIES NOMINATION

-  SOUTH MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
-  NORTH CHERRY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
-  INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES:

- 1 ISAAC MCKAUGHAN HOUSE
- 2 STUART MOTOR COMPANY
- 3 (FORMER) FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
- 4 ROBERTS-JUSTICE HOUSE
- 5 KERNERSVILLE DEPOT
- 6 HARMON REID ROLLER MILL

