

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 Tndera Mills

other names/site number Maline Mills

### 2. Location

street & number 400 South Marshall Street N/A not for publication

city or town Winston-Salem N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27101

### 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 J. Crow SHPO 6/3/99  
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 certifying 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

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):

Indera Mills  
Name of Property

Forsyth County, NC  
County and State

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: early 20th century industrial

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof OTHER: built-up

other

Narrative Description

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

Indera Mills  
Name of Property

Forsyth County, NC  
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

**Period of Significance**

c. 1904-1948

**Significant Dates**

Please see continuation sheet

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

1916 addition - Northup & O'Brien

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Indera Mills  
Name of Property

Forsyth County, NC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2

**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 Sherry Joines Wyatt, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization David E. Gall, AIA, Architect date November 17, 1998

street & number 938 West Fifth Street telephone 336-773-1213

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

**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 Tar Branch Investors, LLC

street & number 408 West Street, P.O. Box 1263 telephone 843-525-9414

city or town Beaufort state SC zip code 29901-1263

**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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**7. Narrative Physical Description**

The four industrial buildings of the Indera Mills complex are situated at the southwestern corner of Wachovia Street and South Marshall Street. The original site is bounded by Wachovia Street to the north, South Marshall Street to the east, Maple Street to the south and Branch Street (now closed) on the west. The mill complex includes a circa 1904, two-story, gable roof building at the corner of Wachovia and South Marshall Streets; a small, one-story boiler room building (circa 1904) west of this main building; and at the southwest corner of the site, two flat-roof buildings built between 1907 and 1912 with their long sides contiguous. The nominated parcel slopes to the south and west towards a creek known as Tar Branch.

The Indera Mills complex, which once housed the manufacture of a variety of knit garments, was part of a small industrial area that developed from around 1880 to around 1915. This industrial center was located between the towns of Salem to the south and Winston to the north. Most of the enterprises in this vicinity were associated with the Fries family of Salem and Francis H. (Colonel) Fries in particular. Across South Marshall Street from Indera Mills (originally known as Maline Mills) was the Fries Manufacturing and Power Company Ice Factory which has been removed. Further east, are the surviving buildings of two other Fries family enterprises: the Wachovia Flouring Mill and the Arista Cotton Mill. Located to the northeast, diagonally across the intersection of Wachovia and South Marshall Streets, is the flat-iron shaped building which once housed the Fries Manufacturing and Power Company transformer station.

1. Main Building also known as Building A (circa 1904 with 1916 addition)

The brick buildings of the Indera Mills complex are closely grouped, with the main building (circa 1904) being prominently located at the corner of Wachovia and South Marshall Streets. The cutaway northeastern corner of the main building addresses the intersection of the two streets, as well as the corner entrance of the transformer station situated diagonally across South Marshall Street. A doorway in the northeastern corner of the building originally served as the public entrance, but was moved to the north elevation during 1916 renovations.<sup>1</sup> Aside from the cutaway corner, the only other deviation from the building's simple rectangular form is an attached brick tower centered on the west elevation of the original (northern) section of the building. This tower houses restrooms and originally held an 11,000 gallon, wooden water tank on its top [see Exhibit 1].<sup>2</sup>

In 1916, a brick addition was made to the south end of the main building which replicates the original structure so well that careful observation is required to detect the junction of the original building with the seven-bay. The addition, designed by Northup and O'Brien Architects, has the same segmental arch window heads, exposed rafter ends, and brick walls as the original main building. Aside from the removal of the public entrance from the northeast corner, other changes indicated on the 1916 plans include modifications to the mill offices on the upper story of the original portion of the main building [see Exhibit 6].

The brick walls of the two-story main building and its 1916 addition are constructed in a five-to-one common bond. The bricks range in color from deep red to dark brown and the mortar joints exhibit white lining. The southern end of the building has a brick foundation, but is sheathed in corrugated metal. This particular metal sheathing is not original.

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<sup>1</sup> Northup & O'Brien Architects, "Addition to the Maline Mills," renovation drawings, March 1916

<sup>2</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Winston-Salem 1907, 1912, and 1917*, microfilm

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but the 1916 drawings do indicate that this end of the building was to be "sheet iron covered." While the exact purpose of this design decision is not known, one hypothesis is that the owner, Maline Mills, intended to add to the southern end of the building again at some future date. The roof of the building is a very low pitched gable currently covered with a built-up roof. Similarly, the 1916 renovation drawings specify a "slag" roof.<sup>3</sup>

The most noticeable ornamentation on this utilitarian building is found at the eaves. The exposed rafter ends on all sides of the building are shaped into a decorative curve. The soffit under the deep eaves is sheathed in bead board.

The fenestration of the building consists of tall windows on the upper floor and shorter windows on the lower floor indicating the use of the upper floor as the main level. All of the windows have segmental arch heads. The sills of the lower windows on the original (northern) section of the main building are granite while the lower window sills on the 1916 addition are brick. All of the sills of the upper windows are wood. Many of the windows on the lower level are believed to be the originals. They are eight-over-eight light, double-hung sashes. The windows in the 1916 addition are the same style, but are eight-over-twelve lights due to the additional space made available by the drop in grade at the southern end of the building. The upper windows have been replaced with modern sashes that have full-width horizontal lights rather than the twelve-over-sixteen double-hung sashes visible in a circa 1905 photograph [Exhibit 1].

The doors of the main building are of three types. First is the modern unpaneled wood door at the public entrance on the north elevation. The public entrance was moved from its original location at the northeast corner to the north elevation during the 1916 renovations. The architectural plans dating from that year specify a pair of double doors underneath an existing window in this bay.<sup>4</sup> Presently, however, the bottom portion of this window is obscured by a large, stuccoed surround, dating from the 1950s, that encases a single door. A second style of door is found near the southern end of the original building section on the west elevation. These double doors each have two large panels filled with diagonally placed bead board. Finally, three other sets of double doors provide access into the lower level of the building: at the south end, at the covered walkway attached to the southern end of the west elevation, and under a small shed roof next to the tower on the west elevation. These doors all have six raised panels per door. The 1916 renovation plans indicate that the doors on the south end of the building were part of the original south wall and were moved when the building was extended.<sup>5</sup> All of the double doors, with the exception of those at the doorway near the tower on the west elevation, follow the segmental arch door heads.

Like the exterior, the interior of the main mill building is utilitarian. On the lower level, the flooring in the original section is concrete except for the northern end which is red and black tile. The tile area appears to have been a lower level office. The floor level in the 1916 addition is about two feet lower than the original section. Accessed by a ramp, the addition is also differentiated by its use of wood flooring specified as "maple" in the 1916 plans.<sup>6</sup> Wood columns, eight inches in diameter and placed on eight-foot centers, support the fifteen-inch-deep joists. Between the joists, bead board covers the ten-foot-high ceiling. This level of the building was used for packing, inspecting, and yarn storage.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Northrup & O'Brien Architects.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Frank Willingham, Interview by Sherry J. Joines, 3 November 1998.

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Upstairs, the northern end of the building contained the company offices. The partitions and other fixtures, probably dating from the early 1950s are currently being removed. Wheels and shafts attached to the ceiling joists indicate the use of the area near the office for the knitting process. The knitting machines were driven by a series of belts, shafts, and pulleys operated by an electric motor mounted to the ceiling joists. The sewing machines once located in the southern end of the second floor of the main building were also electric.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to the late twentieth-century upper windows and main entrance door surround, other changes to the building include the placement of green corrugated fiberglass over many of the windows and the removal of the water tank from the tower, which was not in use by the 1920s. The major alteration in the interior of the building is the addition of a concrete block freight elevator shaft in the center of the building. Though the present elevator was installed in the early 1970s, an elevator existed in this area from at least 1917.<sup>9</sup>

### 2. Boiler Room also known as Building D (circa 1904)

The smallest building in the Indera Mills complex is the Boiler Room. This building appears with the original section of the main building on the 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and it can be assumed that these two buildings along with a tiny, triangular oil house (removed before 1917) were the original buildings built by Maline Mills. The building's roof line, which steps down to the west creating three tiers, is ornamented by an elaborate corbeled cornice. The westernmost tier or section of the building seems to have been re-worked or added at a later date because the mortar joints on the north elevation do not properly align, while the brickwork on the south elevation is not flush with the eastern portion of the building. All of the mortar joints on the building, however, exhibit white lining.

The easternmost section of the building is high enough to allow a narrow second story loft for storage. Doors on the south and north elevations allow entrance to this loft from the exterior. The main entrance to the building is on the west facade via a set of double doors. Each door has a light in the upper portion and five raised panels beneath. The doors are topped by a segmental arch transom with three lights. These doors, along with the entire west facade, are sheltered by a shed roof with exposed rafter ends. Other building fenestration includes two small rectangular windows on the south facade and a rectangular opening into the area above the boiler on the west elevation.

The boiler itself is located in the western section of the building. The circular, cast iron front has two doors which open to reveal a plate with a series of holes, each of which are approximately three inches in diameter. Beneath the circular front are two iron plates each having a segmental arched door to allow the coal to be placed under the boiler. The circular front has "Maline Mills Winston-Salem, NC" cast into it along with "Casey-Hedges Mfg Co. Chattanooga, Tenn." and the Casey-Hedges insignia. Former company president Frank Willingham recalls that once a year, someone had to climb inside the boiler to scrape off the scale buildup on its interior.<sup>10</sup>

The concrete floor of the Boiler Room is sunken in front of the boiler and a trench in the floor near the entrance is covered by a series of iron plates. An engine in front of the boiler operated a series of metal and wood chutes through which the coal was delivered from the pit outside. A network of pipes extends from the boiler to deliver the steam to the mill buildings.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid and Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, *Winston-Salem, 1917*.

<sup>10</sup> Frank Willingham.

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A brick floor to the east of the boiler along with disheveled brickwork on the boiler wall and on the south wall of the building indicate that a second boiler was once located beside the existing boiler. Supporting this are two boilers indicated on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and the remembrances of Mr. Willingham. According to Mr. Willingham, the second boiler was not in use by World War II and was removed to make way for a steam engine and generator that could supply emergency power to the mill.<sup>11</sup> Other changes to the building include the addition of an I-beam frame that penetrates the boiler wall and seems to support the massive boiler.

Between the Boiler Room building and the concrete ramp alongside the Main Building to the east is the coal pit. This large pit extends along half of the eastern exterior wall of the Boiler Room building and is partially sheltered by a standing seam metal shed roof attached to the Boiler Room wall. The segmental arch opening near the bottom of the pit once allowed access to the coal from the interior of the Boiler Room, but has been closed with boards to facilitate the installation of the mechanical coal chutes. Coal was placed into the pit directly from railroad cars stopped on a small bridge (now removed) over the eastern end of the pit.<sup>12</sup> Except for the partial shed roof, the pit is open to the weather at its top, though it is completely enclosed on the sides by the eastern wall of the Boiler Room, the western foundation wall of the concrete ramp running alongside the main building, and two concrete block walls: one at the northern and one at the southern end of the pit.

### 3. Bleach House also known as Building B (circa 1907 - 1912)

The last two buildings of the mill complex were built with their long sides abutting. The northern building is referred to both as the Bleach House and as Building B. The southern building is known only as Building C. Neither of these buildings appear on the 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, yet they both appear on the 1912 edition.<sup>13</sup> Thus, it is difficult to say with certainty which of the buildings was constructed first. It seems reasonable to assume that the Bleach House is the oldest, however, since it is closest to the main building.

The eastern facades, of the Bleach House and Building C were so carefully blended that one must look closely to find the joint between them. The cornices of the east elevations are fairly elaborate, having several rows of corbeled brick that create an entablature capped by flat concrete coping. Beneath the cornice is a shed roof supported by posts that shelters the ramped, wooden loading dock. The 1917 Sanborn Map indicates that this dock and the railroad spur running along its edge once extended nearly to the end of Building C at the southern edge of the property.<sup>14</sup>

The portion of the eastern elevation belonging to the Bleach House has a single door near the northern corner leading from the dock to a loft space inside. The three windows on the east elevation of the Bleach House have been filled in and a metal addition is located at the building's northeastern corner.

The Bleach House is constructed in a one to four common bond with lined mortar joints. The entablature of the eastern elevation wraps around the northeastern corner of the building onto the north elevation. Here, the eastern section of the building is about four feet taller than the portion of the building immediately adjacent allowing

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Frank Willingham.

<sup>13</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1907 and 1912.

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1917.

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clerestory lighting into the loft area. West of this clerestory, the building height decreases uniformly. This change is addressed by the utilization of three window heights which follow the change in building height along the north elevation. All of the windows have segmental arch heads and heavy hinge straps on their right sides. Two sets of double doors give access to the Bleach House on its north elevation. The first is located about midway down its length. These flat-headed doors are protected by a standing seam metal shed roof supported by an iron frame. The second set of doors is located nearer the western end of the building. These doors have a segmental arch head and six panels each. They are covered by screen doors which kept insects out of the cafeteria that was located in this area during the 1940s.

The Bleach House, constructed by Maline Mills, was not in use after the closure of that company in the 1930s. During World War II, however, wages were frozen forcing the company to find other ways of maintaining a steady work force. Indera Mills removed the bleach vats and installed two bowling alleys and pool tables creating a recreation room for the employees and a cafeteria that served low price lunches. These fixtures have since been removed.

#### 4. Building C (circa 1907 - 1912)

The detailing of Building C is almost identical to the Bleach House, the major difference being the use of five-to-one American bond. Another important difference between the buildings is that Building C has two levels made possible by the decrease in grade at the southern end of the site. The height of Building C decreases uniformly from the east facade to the west. This change in height is evidenced by the decreasing heights of the upper story windows on the south elevation. All of the windows have segmental arch heads and the window sashes have been replaced by late twentieth-century units and/or covered with green corrugated fiberglass. Similar to the Bleach House, all of the windows have hinge straps to one side.

On the eastern elevation, three of the seven windows have been reframed for use as doors that led into a now removed metal building addition. A set of double doors leads into the upper floor of Building C which was used as the shipping room. The lower floor of the building provided storage. Storage was much in demand since Indera's primary product, heavy knitted slips, were marketed as a fall and winter item. Yarn was also stored in this space.

#### 5. Conclusion

The removal of the single and duplex housing around the mill has altered the character of the site, but the new townhouses to the south of the mill complex do recreate the proximity of residential units. The duplex houses that once existed west of the main building along Wachovia Street were bought by Indera Mills during the 1930s and 1940s and removed to provide additional employee parking. The residential units to the south were removed around the same period to allow space for businesses such as B&G Pie Company on the site currently occupied by the townhouses. More recent changes to the complex include the removal of a series of corrugated metal buildings to the east of Building C. Viewed as a whole, the changes that have occurred to the buildings as well as the site are relatively minor. Furthermore, since Indera Mills operated the complex until 1998, many of the changes to the buildings are part of the evolutionary process that allowed the buildings to provide adequate industrial space for so many years. Overall, the utilitarian, industrial character of the complex has been remarkably well preserved in comparison to Hanes' Shamrock Mills building (now the Sawtooth Center for Visual Arts) and the Arista Mills complex, which has been rehabilitated for use as the Brookstown Inn, Darryl's Restaurant, and office and retail space. Both the Shamrock Mills and Arista Mills have received significant alterations, especially on the interior, to make them viable in their new uses.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Significant Dates

1904 - 1905

1907 - 1912

1914

1916

1926

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

##### Summary

The Indera Mills complex, located at the southwestern corner of Wachovia and South Marshall Streets, was part of the broad textile industry development that occurred in Winston-Salem in the early years of the twentieth century. Specifically, Indera Mills, along with its predecessor Maline Mills, was a component of the small industrial center that developed from around 1880 until around 1915 between the towns of Salem to the south and Winston to the north. Many of the enterprises in this vicinity were associated with the Fries family of Salem and F.H. "Colonel" Fries in particular. While the tobacco industry and families like the Reynolds have for many years dominated the industrial history of Winston-Salem, the textile industry of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was extremely important to the early industrial development of the city. Colonel Fries, already involved with several textile enterprises, founded Maline Mills around 1900. Maline Mills evolved from another young company Twin City Knitting Mill and later consolidated with Wachovia Knitting Company which had begun construction on the mill complex that is the subject of this nomination in 1904. The original complex included a circa 1904 main building situated prominently on the corner of Wachovia and South Marshall Streets, a tiny triangular oil house (removed before 1917), and a small boiler room building (circa 1904) to the west of the main building. Illustrating Maline Mills' early success is the circa 1907 - 1912 construction of two large buildings to the southwest of the Main Building as well as a significant extension added to the south end of the Main Building in 1916. In 1914, Colonel Fries and his nephew W.L. Siewers founded another knitwear company, Indera Mills, to produce knit slips, and knee and elbow warmers. Indera Mills began production in a small rented space in one of the Maline Mills buildings. By the mid-1920s, the demand for Maline Mills' ladies' knit vests was fading. Indera took over the entire mill complex in 1926. Indera Mills occupied the complex until 1998, continuing to utilize the coal-fired boiler for heat. This long-term use was an important factor in maintaining the high level of historic integrity that is visible throughout the complex today. The complex is significant under Criterion A as part of the early twentieth century textile industry development in Winston-Salem. The period of significance begins in 1904 when construction on the complex was begun by Wachovia Knitting Company and ends in 1948, meeting the fifty year criterion.

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### Historical Background and Context Statement: Criterion A - Industrial Development in Winston-Salem, NC

The factors that contributed to the growth of Winston-Salem into the state's largest city by 1920 had much to do with the city's prosperity in the tobacco industry, but just as important were the city's roots in textiles.<sup>1</sup> The town of Salem had been involved in textile production since the mid-1830s with a small industrial center developing north of the town. The physical location of the small industrial development between the towns of Salem and Winston was symbolic of its combination of ideals from each. This association, which eventually spawned the political union of the two towns, was particularly evident in the Fries family of Salem. Local historian, James Howell Smith described the phenomenon in this manner: "Together the family represented an essential cohesion between the Moravian heritage of Salem and the entrepreneurial zest of Winston."<sup>2</sup> Taking the analogy further, it is evident that while the importance of the family is real, it is secondary to the development of the textile industry as a foundation for the general industrial development in Winston-Salem.

At the time of his birth in 1855, Francis H. Fries' family had already been in the textile business for twenty years. With this extensive background, it was little wonder that Francis H. Fries, usually referred to by the honorary title of "Colonel," began his textile career at the F. & H. Fries Manufacturing Company in 1874 at the young age of nineteen. From there his career blossomed, as he built Arista Cotton Mills in 1880, followed by Mayo Cotton Mills in Mayodan in 1896; Avalon Mills in 1899; Maline Mills around 1900; Washington Mills in Fries, VA in 1902; and Indera Mills in 1914.<sup>3</sup> In the midst of his textile ventures, Colonel Fries supervised the construction of a 122-mile railroad track from Winston and Salem to Roanoke beginning in 1887 and he began his long term as the president of Wachovia Loan and Trust Company (later Wachovia Bank and Trust Co.) in 1892. Serving on a myriad of other corporation and financial association boards, Colonel Fries had little time for politics. He was deeply involved in his community, however, founding the Winston-Salem Foundation with a gift of \$1,000. The *Raleigh News and Observer*, usually skeptical of powerful industrialists, characterized Colonel Fries:

In the best sense of the term which has been much abused, Col. Fries is a Captain of Industry. He is one of the most progressive men in the state, is conservative and prudent as an old time Moravian, with the modern spirit of enterprise that characterizes the men who built Winston-Salem.<sup>4</sup>

The very early history of Maline Mills is somewhat vague. Reverend Edward Rondthaler mentions the young company in his book, *Memorabilia of Fifty Years, 1887 - 1927*, in the chapter detailing the events of 1902: "Among the new enterprises we may mention...the Maline Mills reorganized from the old Twin City Knitting Mills, in the Vogler Store building on the Salem Square."<sup>5</sup> Additional insight can be gleaned from a short article concerning the

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<sup>1</sup> "Twin City Closing Most Prosperous Year in History," news article dated 30 December 1928, in Winston-Salem Industries (Collective) vertical file, Forsyth County Public Library.

<sup>2</sup> James Howell Smith, *Industry and Commerce 1896 - 1975*, vol. 8, Winston-Salem in History series (Winston-Salem: Historic Winston, 1977), 9.

<sup>3</sup> Stella M. Eisele, "Rich Heritage," *Winston-Salem Journal*, 31 May 1992.

<sup>4</sup> Gilbert Thomas Stephenson, *The Life Story of a Trust Man* (New York: F.S. Crofts & Co., 1930), 103-116 and Davis, 14 - 15.

<sup>5</sup> Rt. Rev. Edward Rondthaler, D.D., LL.D, *Memorabilia of Fifty Years, 1877 - 1927* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Co, 1928) 199.

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Indera Mills  
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Twin City Knitting Mill in the 16 July 1900 edition of *The Journal* newspaper: "So far its work has been confined to making ladies undervests and the superior quality of those they make have enabled the company to find a ready market for all they can produce." This mill, managed by Conrad Lemly, was located opposite Salem square on Main Street and was able to produce one hundred dozen vests per day.<sup>6</sup>

Whatever the business deal that transformed Twin City Knitting Mill into Maline Mills, Colonel Fries must have played a prominent role since he has been credited with founding Maline Mills around 1900.<sup>7</sup> A second twist in the early history of the mill complex is the December 29, 1904 purchase of the property at the corner of South Marshall and Wachovia Streets from Emma A. Fogle, a widow, by the Wachovia Knitting Company.<sup>8</sup> A November 17, 1904 article in the *Winston-Salem Journal* describes a newly chartered company, Wachovia Knitting Company, as having begun construction "near the old ice house." This is presumably a reference to the Fries Manufacturing and Power Company Ice Factory which was constructed on the east side of South Marshall Street (across the street from the present Indera Mills complex) between 1900 and 1907. The company intended to manufacture "all kinds of yarn goods" with W.L. Siewers serving as president.<sup>9</sup> On the 17th of March 1905, however, Wachovia Knitting Company sold its property to Maline Mills for only \$3,000 suggesting construction was still underway on the mill complex.<sup>10</sup> Supporting this are the existing boiler doors which have the name "Maline Mills" cast into them. Reverend Rondthaler describes the occurrence in his chapter devoted to 1905:

The Wachovia Knitting Mills, organized last year have consolidated with the Maline Mills, under the name Maline Mills with \$50,000 and are operating a large business in the building, corner of Marshall and Wachovia Streets. . .<sup>11</sup>

The first city directory listing for Maline Mills, appearing in 1904, states the address of the young company as 614 - 618 South Main Street in Salem. Neither Twin City Knitting Company, nor Wachovia Knitting Company appears in the city directories indicating their brief existence.<sup>12</sup>

The Maline Mills complex first appears on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps in 1907. The map indicates the main building at the corner of Wachovia and South Marshall Streets in addition to a tiny triangular oil house and rectangular boiler room building with two boilers. The interior of the Main Building is labeled as containing "knitting, bleaching & drying, paste board box storage." Illustrating the company's early prosperity, two additional buildings appear on the 1912 map and a significant addition to the main building and a rail spur alongside the Main Building appear on the 1917 edition. The northernmost of the two "new" buildings served as the Bleach House, while the southern building (Building C) housed packing, shipping, and storage of underwear in cases.<sup>13</sup> The railroad spur was probably

<sup>6</sup> "Twin City Knitting Mill," *The Journal*, 16 July 1900.

<sup>7</sup> Frank Willingham.

<sup>8</sup> Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Book 74, Page 264. It should be noted that this purchase included only the property described as Block 602, Lot 108 on the circa 1997 tax map, see Exhibit 5.

<sup>9</sup> "New Knitting Mill," *Winston Salem Journal*, 17 November 1904 and "Wachovia Knitting Mill," *Winston-Salem Journal*, 22 November 1904.

<sup>10</sup> Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Book 75, Page 157.

<sup>11</sup> Rondthaler, 229.

<sup>12</sup> *Winston-Salem City Directory, 1904-1905*.

<sup>13</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

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constructed around 1913 since Maline Mills gave the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway Company a right-of-way in exchange for a "side track of standard gauge" on July 26th, 1913.<sup>14</sup>

Located one block west of the Arista Mills, Maline Mills continued the expansion of the Fries family enterprises in the vicinity of South Marshall Street and New Shallowford Road (now Brookstown Avenue). Across the street from the Maline Mills was the Fries Manufacturing and Power Company Ice Factory (demolished) and diagonally to the northeast is the building which housed the Fries Manufacturing and Power Company transformer station. The Maline Mills complex (most recently known as Indera Mills) represents an important expansion in the little industrial center north of Salem as well as changes in the trends in industrial development throughout the "Twin Cities" during the early twentieth century.

The primary product of Maline Mills was ladies' knit vests, which were white, sleeveless garments with v-necks accented by embroidery.<sup>15</sup> For Fries and the southern textile industry generally, the production of ready-made garments represented an expansion of New South industrial ideals. Now southern mills were not only turning the south's raw material of cotton into thread or cloth, but taking the process even further into the production of finished garments.

"Winston-Salem's Basic Elements for Development," an article appearing in *The Sentinel* on 12 July 1913 illustrates the importance of this diversification to the city's industrial growth: "But while tobacco is the city's chief factory product, it is by no means the only one. In fact, there are few other cities of the same class that have such widely diversified industrial interests."<sup>16</sup>

Other industrialists who began producing finished knit goods during this period were the Hanes brothers. When the Hanes brothers sold their tobacco company to R.J. Reynolds in 1900, they turned to manufacturing knitted goods. P.H. Hanes Knitting Co. was organized in 1901 to produce mens' cotton ribbed underwear. The company built a spinning mill and mill village called Hanestown west of Winston-Salem in 1910 and a reinforced steel and concrete factory building at Sixth and Main in 1914. P.H. Hanes' brother, John Wesley Hanes, began Hanes Hosiery Mills in 1900 producing men's socks and infants' hose under the name Shamrock Mills. The company built a new manufacturing facility with a distinctive sawtooth roof at the corner of Second Street and South Marshall Street in 1911. Shamrock Mills became the now famous Hanes Hosiery company in 1914, beginning production of women's cotton hosiery in 1918.<sup>17</sup> Thus, the Maline Mills product filled a niche among knit-goods manufacturers in Winston-Salem.

Continuing his knack for following popular manufacturing trends while not overlapping production of local companies, Colonel Fries and his nephew W.L. Siewers began Indera Mills in 1914 with seven employees in 600 square feet of space rented in the lower level of Maline Mills' Building C. The unusual company name was inspired by Indira, a lovely Indian princess Colonel Fries met in Egypt in 1907.<sup>18</sup> Indera Mills' original line included ladies'

<sup>14</sup> Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Book 119, Page 568.

<sup>15</sup> Frank Willingham.

<sup>16</sup> "Winston-Salem's Basic Elements for Development" *The Sentinel*, 12 July 1913.

<sup>17</sup> Smith, 23 and Taylor, 55.

<sup>18</sup> Ellison.

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knit princess slips, half slips, and knee and elbow warmers. Knee warmers were soft tubes shaped like a knee brace and worn under dresses to keep the knees warm. Truck drivers often utilized them as elbow warmers to warm arms propped on the window opening of the door.<sup>19</sup>

Throughout the 1910s the two companies thrived in their shared space. Indera Mills was incorporated in 1922 with Colonel Fries serving as the first president from 1922 until 1931. Colonel Fries' daughter, Mrs. R.F. Willingham, held the position of president from 1931 until 1954. She was succeeded by her son, Frank Willingham who was followed by his son John, the current company president.<sup>20</sup>

The Maline Mills company letterhead in use in 1922 lists W.L. Siewers as president and treasurer, F.H. Fries as vice president and W.J. Hege as secretary. The letterhead reads: "The Maline Mills, manufacturers of ladies and misses knit underwear, hosiery, and skirts." Also illustrated are the trademarks for Indera Figurfit Knit Skirts, Maline Knit Underwear, and Caroknit Hosiery. The wide market for these products is indicated by the New York Sales Office located on Broadway in New York City at that time.<sup>21</sup>

A circa 1922 sales release describes the available company products including:

Maline ladies' and misses' popular priced knit underwear; summer weights in vests and union suits, fine sheer fabrics, attractively trimmed, StaUp shoulder straps - The Coolest Underwear; fall and winter weights in vests, pants, and union suits, fine gauge, soft, warm fabrics, flatlock unbreakable seams - Turns Winter Into Spring.

Caroknit - Doubles the Wear and Halves The Cost - hosiery for ladies and misses. Made right - sold right - will outwear any other medium priced hosiery.

Indera Figurfit knit skirts and knit princess slips - Made Cold Weather Comfort Sure. The fastest selling line on the market - nationally advertised in the Ladies' Home Journal and other leading women's magazines.<sup>22</sup>

Despite optimistic salemanship it was evident by the mid-1920s that Maline Mills had failed to adapt the company product line with quickly changing fashion trends of the new modern era. The company closed in 1925 with Indera Mills purchasing the mill complex from Wachovia Bank and Trust at public auction for \$161,820.90 on April 29, 1926.<sup>23</sup> Colonel Fries and his associates obviously learned from Maline's failure. On the occasion of their fiftieth anniversary in 1964, the *Winston-Salem Journal* headlined Indera's success: "Indera Mills Adapts Lines as Styles, Fabrics Change."<sup>24</sup> The article goes on to relate how Indera Mills expanded from knitted slips and knee warmers to

<sup>19</sup> Frank Willingham.

<sup>20</sup> Frank Willingham and Harold Ellison, "Indera Mills Adapts Lines as Styles, Fabrics Change," *Winston-Salem Journal*, 11 October 1964 and James Howell Smith, 24-25.

<sup>21</sup> Company Letterhead used for letter dated 7 October 1922, found among records left behind by Indera Mills in Building C.

<sup>22</sup> Company sales release, circa 1922, found among records left behind by Indera Mills in Building C.

<sup>23</sup> Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Book 255, Page 283.

<sup>24</sup> Ellison.

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rayon bloomers from the 1920s until 1932, swim suits from the 1930s until 1950, and a line of woven cotton and synthetic slips that constituted a major portion of their 1964 production.<sup>25</sup>

Although Indera undertook remarkable product changes, there was not an official design staff until the 1940s. Rather, one woman working under the superintendent did most of the design work. Other responsibilities in the mill had become increasingly specialized as Indera Mills had grown from its initial seven employees to 150 employees by the 1960s. By this time, the mill operated one shift five days a week with occasional overtime on Saturdays. The tasks of the mill were strictly divided according to gender. Sewing machines were always operated by women before the 1960s. Women also served as folders, finishers, and inspectors, while the men tended to take the more physical jobs of knitting, shipping, and sweeping. Knitters in particular needed to be tall to tie on yarn above the knitting machines. It was also often necessary for the knitter to climb ladders, an activity inappropriate for women wearing skirts. Other phases of the manufacturing process included cutting the fabric from patterns made in-house and routine maintenance of the facility. It was the responsibility of the maintenance man to operate the massive boiler, which provided steam heat and steam for the presses used in folding finished garments. The boiler required around six carloads of Pocahontas soft, low sulfur coal each year.<sup>26</sup>

Unlike nearby Arista Mills, neither Maline Mills nor Indera Mills provided housing for the operatives. Arista Mills housing was not arranged into a village, but was dispersed among other residential units surrounding the small industrial enclave. The mixed residential / industrial character of the area is indicated by the single family dwelling and three duplexes located immediately west of Maline Mills' main building on Wachovia Street until after 1912. Also, to the south of both Maline Mills and the Ice Factory on South Marshall Street were single family residences. Additionally, two groceries were indicated on the 1912 Sanborn map: one at the intersection of New Shallowford and South Marshall and one just south of the Maline Mills on South Marshall.<sup>27</sup> The character of this neighborhood can be determined from the employment of the residents. In addition to Arista Mills operatives listed in the 1908 city directory, is a carpenter, a miner, a gardener, and a driver. This pattern was still true in 1925 when houses in the immediate vicinity of Indera Mills sheltered mill workers, a widow, an auto mechanic, a brick layer, a dairyman, a painter, and a carpenter.<sup>28</sup>

The success of Winston-Salem textile companies was recognized by 1924 when Charles N. Siewers wrote his book: *Forsyth County: Economic and Social*. The publication, quoted in Adelaide Fries' *Forsyth: The History of a County on the March*, proclaimed Winston-Salem as:

...the world's largest manufacturer of tobacco products, the country's largest manufacture of men's knit underwear, the South's largest manufacturer of knit goods, the South's largest manufacturer of woollen goods, and the South's largest manufacturer of wagons.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Frank Willingham.

<sup>27</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

<sup>28</sup> Winston Salem City Directories 1908, 1925.

<sup>29</sup> Adelaide Fries, *Forsyth: The History of a County on the March* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1976), 245.

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Adelaide Fries expands upon these achievements claiming: "Before 1950 Winston-Salem ranked first south of Richmond and east of the Mississippi in value of manufactured products, and produced seven times more goods than any other city in the Carolinas."<sup>30</sup> The breadth of Winston-Salem's industrial success allowed for the precipitous population growth that occurred between 1910 and 1930. Winston-Salem was a city of 10,729 in 1890, but had increased dramatically to 75,274 by 1930 when the Depression finally brought about a substantial drop in the rate of growth.<sup>31</sup> In sum, both Fries and Siewers indicate that the monumental success of Winston-Salem in the early twentieth century was not built upon a single product or industry, rather a range of enterprises, with tobacco and textiles taking the lead.

Indera Mills is its own success story. Still in operation during an era that is incredibly difficult for domestic textile manufacturers, the company sold its facility on South Marshall Street to Tar Branch Investors, LLC on 17 December 1997. Indera Mills transferred its operation to Yadkin County in early 1998, while the current owners plan to rehabilitate the historic mill complex.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 230.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 229.

<sup>32</sup> Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 1977 Page 3523.

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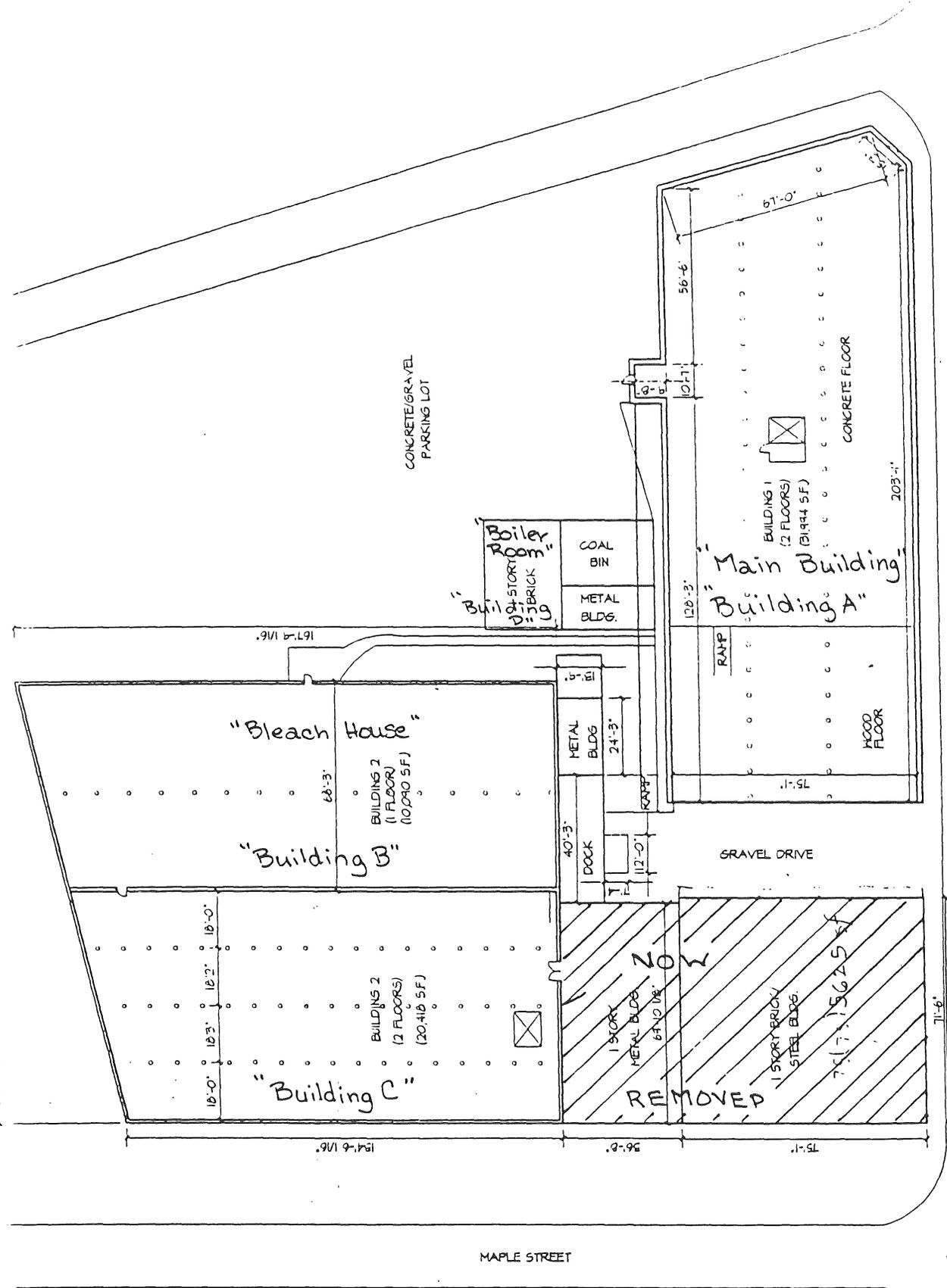
### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all of Forsyth County tax parcel block 602, lot 115 as indicated on the enclosed Forsyth County, NC tax map drawn to the scale of 1" = 200'.

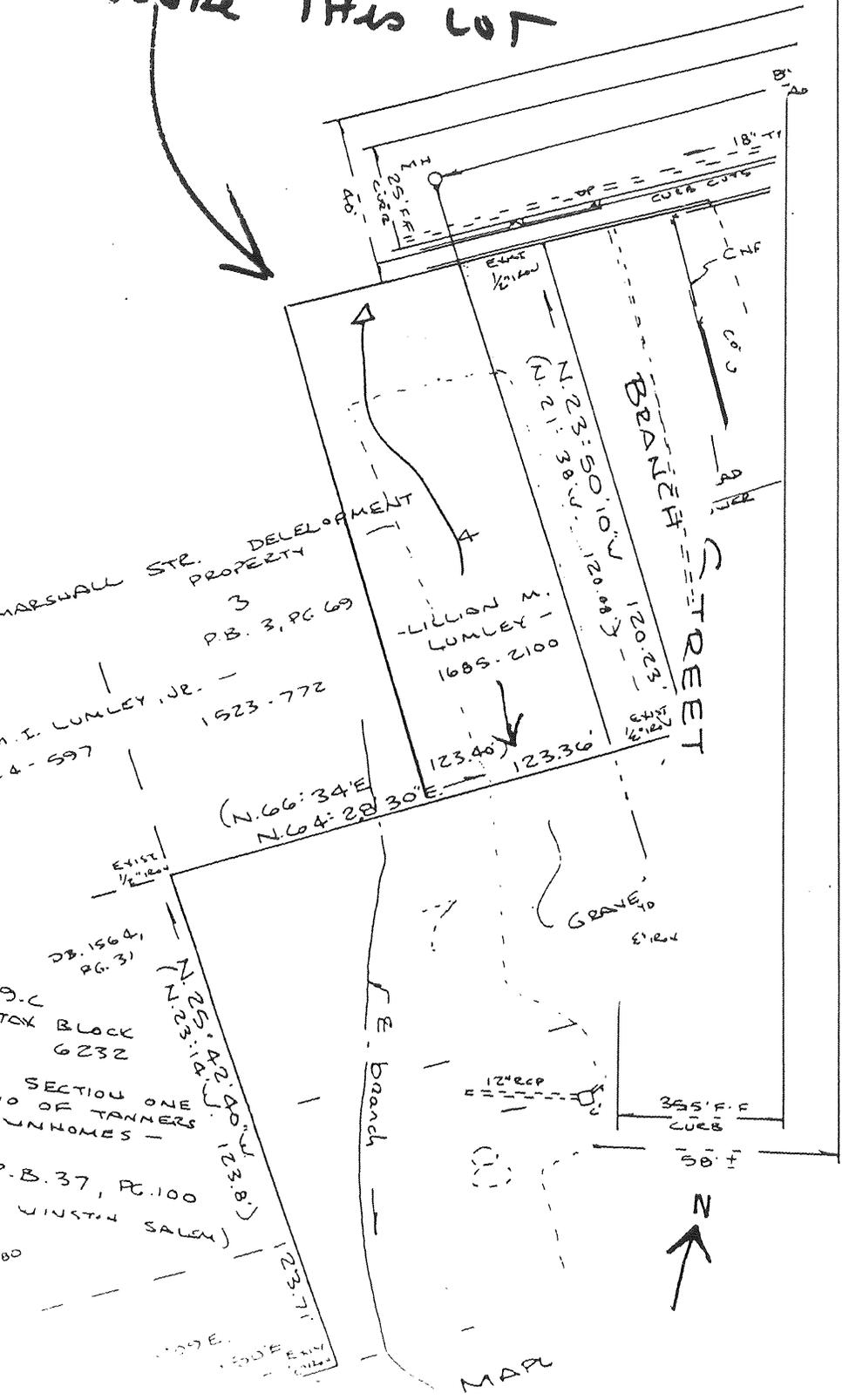
#### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses all of the property acquired by Maline / Indera Mills during the period of significance.



INDERA MILLS  
 FORSYTH CTY., NC  
 Exhibit 3:  
 Plan of Indera Mills Complex  
 June 18, 1997

198 - SURVAY is  
UP-DATED TO  
WIRE THIS LOT



MARSHALL STR. DEVELOPMENT  
PROPERTY  
3  
P.B. 3, PG 69  
W. I. LUMLEY, JR. -  
1923-772  
4-597

LILLIAN M.  
LUMLEY -  
1685-2100

DB. 1564,  
PG. 31  
SECTION ONE  
OF TANNERS  
UNHOMES -  
P.B. 37, PG. 100  
WINSTON SALEM

BRANCH STREET



MAP



