

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Logan Manufacturing Company

AND/OR COMMON

Oakdale Cotton Mill Village

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

See continuation sheet #2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Jamestown

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Guilford

081

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> XNO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Oakdale Cotton Mills Company

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Jamestown

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Guilford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greensboro

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Engineering Record

DATE

1974-1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

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ITEM NUMBER 2

PAGE one

Beginning at junction of S.R. 1352, 1309 and 1144, thence with S.R. 1144 southeast to rear property lines of houses on east side of S.R. 1309 (Oakdale Road), thence south with said rear property lines to a point in the center of the channel of the Deep River, thence following said center channel upstream (northwest) to Oakdale Mill Dam, thence with said dam to south bank of river, thence with said south bank to rear property line of houses on north side of Logan Circle (not a state road), thence east with said property lines to rear property lines of houses on west side of S.R. 1309, thence with said property lines to beginning at junction of S.R. 1309, 1352, and 1144.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oakdale is a cotton mill village on the east bank of the Deep River in Guilford County, consisting of a brick factory complex erected in several stages during the 1880s, a brick store, and thirty-three frame mill houses built during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The mill complex itself contains four freestanding structures: (1) a three-story rectangular brick office with a new addition on the west side, (2) a one and two-story L-shaped brick factory, abutting the river bank, with a four-story tower on the north side in the crook of the L, and five one-story brick warehouses with board-and-batten sliding doors on the north end, (3) a small one-story board-and-batten blacksmith shop west of the factory, and (4) a polygonal brick smokestack between the factory and the blacksmith shop.

The Sanborn Insurance Maps show the physical evolution of the complex. The earliest sections of the complex, 1885, are the office and the picker room, now within the L-shaped building between the north end warehouses and the main spinning section. Between 1885 and 1888 the carding and spinning section was added on the north side of the picker room. By 1889 the north end warehouses, the spinning and twisting section on the south side of the carding and spinning section, the tower, and the blacksmith shop had been completed.

The brick factory buildings have brick foundations, load-bearing brick walls laid in one-to-five common bond. There are segmental-arched door openings with some original paneled wooden doors, segmental-arched window openings with some original sash windows, some replacement metal casements, and some brick infill, and some iron tie rods with star-shaped heads. Additions to the complex since 1889 contain some exceptions to the above common building features: the ca. 1915 one-story brick boiler room has wooden casements which are probably original; the 1920s two-story brick section, located between the main mill rooms and the boiler room, is laid in one-to-six common bond; the 1940s rear two-story brick rear extension to the picker room is laid in random common bond, and the recent addition to the office is constructed of brick veneer. The office, warehouses, tower, and boiler room have wide overhanging eaves with exposed curvilinear rafters and shallow gable roofs, some covered with tin, some with asphalt. The remaining brick sections have eaves capped with tile or metal coping and flat roofs covered with asphalt. The office has a wooden monitor in the center of the roof which houses the freight elevator mechanical system. Two board-and-batten monitors on the boiler room roof provide light and ventilation for this section.

The general Italianate character of the mill is most evident in the tower, which is embellished with more ornate brickwork than the other sections. The tower is articulated by brick pilasters, and each story is defined by corbeled brick string courses. A wooden monitor, whose eave and roof configuration echo that of the tower, caps the tower. The monitor, which contains the factory bell, has a copper weathervane in the form of a carp, a fish which abounds in the Deep River.

The interior of the office has been modernized, and little original fabric is visible. The interior of the processing buildings has undergone little alteration, primarily minor structural reinforcement. The brick sections each have heavy timber construction consisting of chamfered posts with anvil-shaped caps which support floor joists and plank

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flooring. The first two stories of the tower contain stairs, the third story is empty and the fourth story contains a water storage tank and fire protection system, no longer in use. The mill race, constructed with stone rubble walls, located just above the dam at the south side of the boiler room, is still intact, and the sluice gates are still in situ. The 1915 turbine, the last used at the mill, is junked in the forebay. The manufacturer's seal "S. Morgan Smith Company" is visible.

The mill village, which surrounds the mill on three sides, consists of thirty-six frame houses and a one-story brick store. Thirty-three of the houses and the store are still owned by the mill. These were built between about 1900 and 1924, and are in an excellent state of preservation. The houses are each two-story frame, with one-story kitchen wings, gabled roofs, exterior end brick chimneys (some with stone rubble bases), and shed front and side porches. Most of the houses are covered with plain lapped siding, and several of the kitchens have board-and-batten siding. The brick store has decorative facade treatment similar to the mill tower. A well, sheltered by a well house of the same age as the mill housing is located at the village entrance in the center of Oakdale Road, the main street.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1865; 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oakdale Cotton Mill is the oldest textile firm in continuous operation in Guilford County, one of North Carolina's major industrial centers. Before its development as a cotton mill in 1865, this water-power site on the Deep River functioned first as the grist mill of Isaac and Henry Potter and as the Mendenhall, Jones, and Gardner Gun Factory during the Civil War. Despite the difficulties of developing industry following the war, the Oakdale Company (first known as the Logan Manufacturing Company) achieved corporate stability by 1900 and remains as excellent example of a small textile manufacturing village.

In its physical setting, its industrial development, and its corporate history, the Oakdale Cotton Mill is an excellent example of nineteenth century manufacturing in North Carolina's Piedmont. It is located one mile southeast of Jamestown at the northernmost waterpower site along Deep River, a leading manufacturing region in the state between 1840 and 1890. The abundance of excellent mill-seats caused one nineteenth century observer to claim that "Deep River contains water power sufficient to run the machinery of the world."

While this observation proved to be overly optimistic, as many as ten cotton mills and numerous smaller mills drew their power from this rich source during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The site of the Oakdale Cotton Mill was used for industrial purposes even before its development as a cotton factory in 1865. Before the Civil War, a two-story frame grist mill, owned and operated by Isaac and Henry Potter, was located at this site. In 1861 a group of Greensboro merchants ordered some second-hand machinery from Scott's Factory in Smithfield, Virginia, with the intention of installing this machinery in Potter's Mill along Deep River. However, the outbreak of the Civil War in the spring of 1861 interrupted the plans for this textile mill and the machinery remained in storage in Danville, Virginia, for the duration of the war.

Instead, Cyrus P. Mendenhall and his associates, Ezekial Jones and Nathan Gardner, converted the grist mill for use as a gun factory. This factory was put into operation in April, 1862. The company was contracted for 10,000 rifles by the Confederacy. Their product was identified as "M.J. and G.N.C." Between 1,500 and 3,000 rifles were produced before the company shut down in December, 1864. In 1865 General Stoneman's army marched to Jamestown in search of the gun factory but mistakenly destroyed a woolen factory in town.

Even before the war ended the frame mill structure was re-equipped to use the machinery stored at Petersburg since 1861. In February, 1865, the Logan Manufacturing

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Company was organized and began producing cotton warps. William T. Hill of Greensboro served as manager and chief officer of the company. Thomas H. Cook, who had transported the machinery from Virginia, stayed on as proprietor and superintendent. Cook's diary, which runs from June, 1865, to January, 1875, has survived and presents an interesting glimpse of an early water-powered textile mill in North Carolina. Of particular interest is his description of technical problems encountered in operating a mill of this kind. For instance, in July, 1865, Cook wrote:

Wm. Murdock, supt. Sapona Iron Works, Chatham County, N.C. sent up after some machinery he purchased from Mendenhall, Jones & Co. Gun Factory. Amongst the articles is a large lathe, the only one we have for use in the Cotton Factory. I don't know what we shall do if anything should brake down. Made 77 bunches, factory stopped 1½ hours to mend belt. Slow speed all the week. One spinning frame stopped, water very low. ¹ Never have run half of the machinery yet. Have not got the power to drive it.

As of 1870 the company's water wheel generated only 40 horsepower to run 2,320 spindles and 12 looms. Carding and spinning were the only functions of the small factory. There were about 70 employees. The Logan Company continued to operate this secondhand machinery until 1871 when new equipment was purchased from Manchester, England. Later in that year the company's name was changed to Oakdale Mills. However, the new machinery and new name did not end the series of frustrating breakdowns and power shortages. The entries in Cook's diary for May and June, 1871, graphically demonstrate the day to day challenges in these early years:

May 8--Factory stopped; at work on frame for pinion and putting in seals and posts.

May 9--Hands at work on framework and for pinion to water wheel; putting in rods through mill carding room; drilling hole through rock to bolt sill for pinion.

May 10--Factory stopped; hands still at work fixing for pinion and putting in rods. I sent to High Point this morning for iron and nails.

May 24--Belts got wrapped around the willow shaft this evening and broke the willow in two or three places and broke the belt or it would have pulled the shafting down.

June 18--Out of cotton; running out of all machinery. Will stop the factory to lay a new floor for the card and new roving frames and level all the shafting and machinery.

June 20--Factory stopped to relay floor and put up some new machinery; intend to level all the machinery and shafting in the mill, and put on some new couplings. Moved the drawing frame and cards and took up the floor under the cards and put down some of the sleepers. Took down the line of shafting that drove the cards. ²

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Despite the problems of power and retooling, the Oakdale Cotton Mill survived and prospered. Its cotton twine, unbleached, undyed, and unfinished, found a ready market in Baltimore, Maryland. Under the leadership of Thomas Cook and his sons, John and Thomas, Jr., the mill weathered the difficult early years. In the 1880s the mill property was sold to Marshall Phillips. In 1885 Phillips hired Joseph Ragsdale, a teacher in nearby Jamestown, as manager. Shortly after Ragsdale's appointment, several structural and organizational changes took place which contributed to the success of the Oakdale Cotton Mill Company. By 1889 a brick complex had replaced the old frame mill that had served as a grist mill, gun factory, and cotton mill for over thirty years. In 1896 Oakdale Mills was incorporated with Joseph Ragsdale as secretary-treasurer. William H. Ragan, Francis H. Fries, and H. F. Shoffner, prominent industrialists and financiers from Winston-Salem, were leading stockholders in the company.

The twentieth century brought further changes as the small mill sought to compete with larger competitors in the North Carolina's growing textile industry. The work force doubled to 150 workers by 1910 and the number of spindles increased from 10,000 to 50,000 between 1890 and 1910. For much of the early twentieth century the mill continued to operate by water power developed by a twenty foot wooden dam 260 feet long. The mill race was originally 250 feet long and carried the water to a 44-inch Leffel special turbine wheel which produced 190 horsepower during periods of ample water supply. Such occasions were rare, however, and the need to operate greater amounts of machinery on a continuous basis led to the introduction of steam power shortly before 1900. A new masonry dam, located downstream directly at the wheelhead, was constructed around 1902 and a new turbine wheel, manufactured by S. Morgan Smith and Company, was installed in 1915. Steam and power were used at least until 1930 when the mill began to convert to electricity. By 1940 the mill was powered completely by electricity.

The descendants of Joseph Ragsdale remained prominent in the mill throughout this century. After Ragsdale's death in 1903, he was succeeded by his son, William G. Ragsdale, as president and treasurer. William died in 1929. His sons, William G. Ragsdale, Jr., and Thomas C. Ragsdale, followed him as officers in the company and community leaders in Jamestown. The company, managed today by Thomas C. Ragsdale, continues to manufacture cotton twine and yarn of all colors. In its size, production, and corporate structure, Oakdale and its cotton mill have long been overshadowed by the larger manufacturing operations in the neighboring cities of Greensboro and High Point. Yet it is the oldest textile firm in continuous operation in Guilford County, a major industrial center in the state. And it retains the essential characteristics of nineteenth century industry in North Carolina: a small, family owned and operated mill along a water power site surrounded by its village and essential services, all of which are still in active use.

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¹ Thomas Cook Diary, part I, 1-2, typewritten transcript copy of manuscript diary on file at Survey Branch, Historic Sites Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (original in possession of Oakdale Cotton Mill Company, Jamestown, North Carolina).

2

Ibid., part II, 9.

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High Point Enterprise, January 20, 1935

Hodgin, Limon, Secretary of Oakdale Cotton Mills Company. Interview.

Holmes, Joseph A., ed. "Waterpowers of North Carolina," North Carolina Geological Survey, volume 8, 1899.

North Carolina Directory of Manufacturing Firms, 1974-1975.

Oakdale Cotton Mills. Jamestown, North Carolina: Oakdale Cotton Mills Company, n.d.
Sanborn Map Company. High Point, 1929.

Trinity College, 1885, 1888.

Twin City Sentinel (Winston-Salem). February 25, 1961.

United States Census Office. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Guilford County, North Carolina, Industrial Schedules.

United States Census Office. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Randolph County, North Carolina, Mortality Schedules.

Young, Majorie, ed. Textile Leaders of the South. Anderson, South Carolina: R. L. Bryon Company, 1963.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bivins, John. Longrifles of North Carolina. York, Pennsylvania; George Shumway, Publisher, 1968.
 Cook, Thomas. Diary, 1865-1875.
 Department of Labor and Printing (formerly Bureau of Labor Statistics). Annual Reports, 1898-1926.
Greensboro Record, January 21, 1966.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,9,6	7,4,0	3,9	8,2	4,2,0	B	1,7	5,9,6	7,4,0	3,9	8,1	8,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,7	5,9,6	2,0,0	3,9	8,1	8,4,0	D	1,7	5,9,6	2,0,0	3,9	8,2	4,2,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Research by Brent Glass, consultant; Architectural description by Ruth Little-Stokes, survey specialist	DATE	31 August 1975
ORGANIZATION	Division of Archives and History	TELEPHONE	919/829-7862
STREET & NUMBER	109 East Jones Street	STATE	North Carolina
CITY OR TOWN	Raleigh		

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 31 August 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

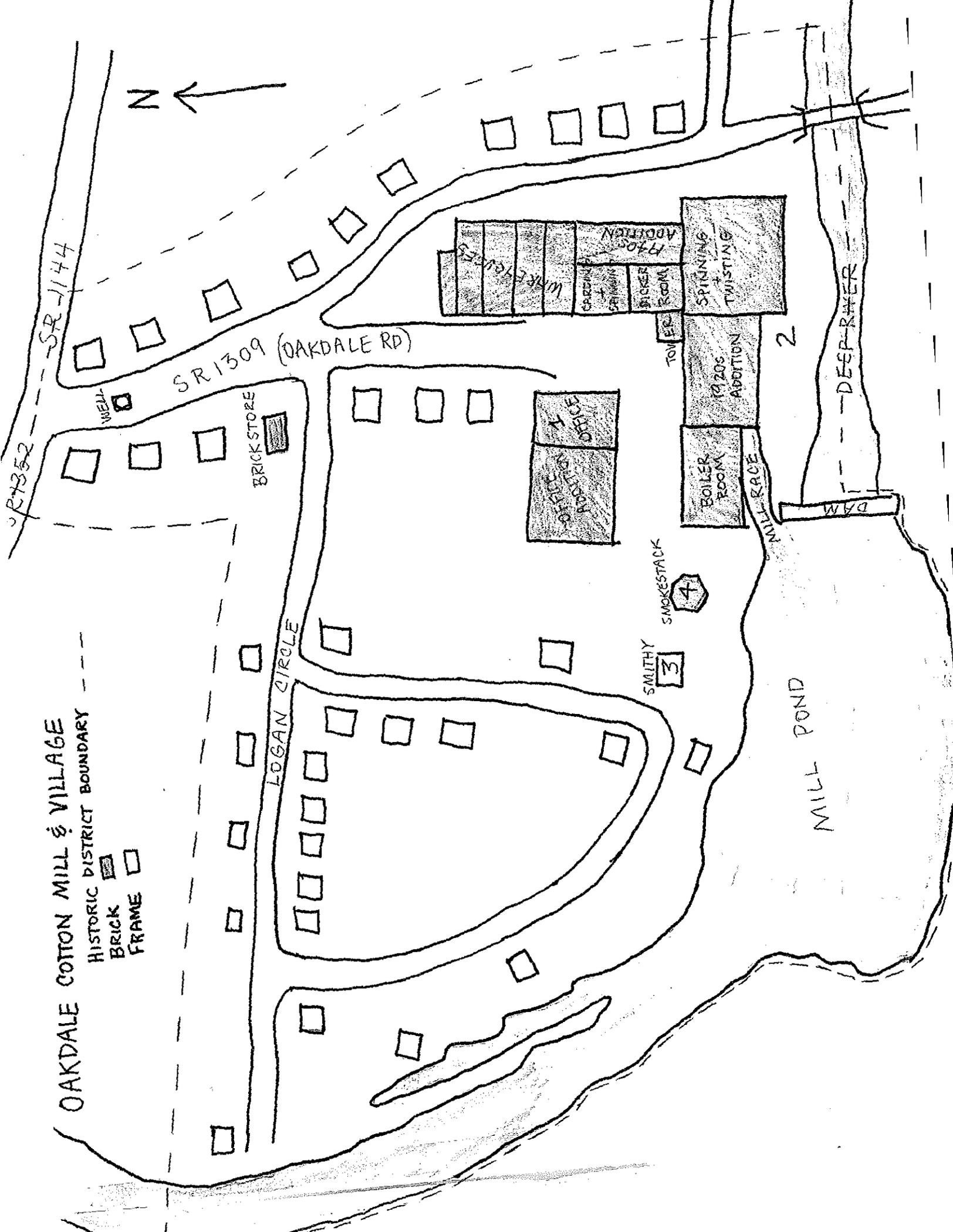
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OAKDALE COTTON MILL & VILLAGE

HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
BRICK
FRAME



5 May 1976

Mr. Thomas C. Ragsdale, President
Oakdale Cotton Mills Company
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

Dear Mr. Ragsdale:

Please accept the enclosed certificate which states that the Oakdale Cotton Mill Village has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register has been called "a roll call of the tangible reminders of the history of the United States." It is, therefore, a pleasure for the Division of Archives and History to participate in this program and thereby make our nation aware of North Carolina's rich cultural heritage.

In order that we may keep our records up to date, it would be very helpful if you would notify us of any changes in ownership or of any major alteration of the property, including moving, destruction, remodeling, or restoration. We appreciate your efforts and your cooperation in preserving the best of our past for posterity.

With best wishes and congratulations, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Larry E. Tise
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NORTH CAROLINA

Date Entered MAR 15 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Oakdale Cotton Mill Village <i>Logan Mills</i>	Jamestown Guilford County
Shady Oaks <i>Cherry Hill</i>	Warrenton vicinity Warren County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

- Hon. Jesse A. Helms
- Hon. Robert B. Morgan
- Hon. Lunsford R. Preyer
- Hon. L. H. Fountain