

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**McAdenville Historic District**

McAdenville, Gaston County, GS0428, Listed 2/5/2009

Nomination by Dan Pezzoni

Photographs by Dan Pezzoni, May 2008



122-124 Main Street



Poplar Street



R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall



McAden Mill #3, view from street

**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 McAdenville Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 100 - 413 Main Street, Elm and Poplar Streets, and cross streets from I- 85 to South Fork of Catawba River N/A not for publication  
city or town McAdenville N/A vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Gaston code 071 zip code 28101

**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 for 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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State or 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

McAdenville Historic District  
Name of Property

Gaston Co., N.C.  
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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
93	39	buildings
2	3	sites
7	11	structures
0	1	objects
102	54	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

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility  
EDUCATION: library  
COMMERCE: department store  
RELIGION: religious facility  
SOCIAL: meeting hall

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories and subcategories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility  
COMMERCE: department store  
GOVERNMENT: post office  
RELIGION: religious facility  
SOCIAL: meeting hall

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian  
Italianate  
Queen Anne

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
Wood  
roof Asphalt  
other

#### Narrative Description

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

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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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- 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.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1884-1961

### Significant Dates

1884-85

1906-07

1939

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Draper, Earle Sumner (designer, Pharr Corp. Offices)

Gaither, Roger B. (builder, McAdenville Community Ctr.)

(see continuation sheet)

## 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:

McAdenville Historic District  
Name of Property

Gaston Co., N.C.  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 85 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>492050</u>	<u>3902110</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>493290</u>	<u>3901540</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>492780</u>	<u>3902040</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>493170</u>	<u>3901380</u>

X 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.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization Landmark Preservation Associates date July 30, 2008  
street & number 6 Houston Street telephone (540) 464-5315  
city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450

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## Additional Documentation

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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.)

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## Property Owner

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

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 listing. 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 20303.



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### Architectural Classification (continued)

Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, Other: Ranch

### Materials (continued)

Foundation: Stone  
Concrete  
Walls: Stone  
Concrete  
Asbestos  
Synthetics  
Roof: Metal

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Summary

The McAdenville Historic District is located in the Town of McAdenville in eastern Gaston County, North Carolina. The district covers approximately eighty-five acres on the west side of the South Fork of the Catawba River. The district occupies the gently sloping side of the river valley and the relatively level plateau above with elevations ranging from around 600 feet above sea level along the river and over 700 feet above sea level on the plateau. The principal organizing element of the district is Main Street, a section of Highway 7, which passes approximately east-west through the district. The interchange where Main Street crosses Interstate 85 marks the west end of the district and the bottomland adjacent to the State Route 2000 bridge over the Catawba River marks the east end of the district. At the east end of Main Street the street is paralleled on the south side by Poplar Street and on the north side by Elm Street. Other streets in the district include Aviary Court, Ford Drive, Hallie Bentley Drive, and Park Drive. Most of the area comprised by the district is owned by the mill interests, Pharr Yarns Inc. McAdenville is one of the last company-owned mill villages in the region, a fact that accounts for many aspects of its present character.

McAdenville was established in the early 1880s at the east end of the district as a mill village associated with McAden Mills, a cotton mill chartered by the state legislature in 1881. The mill village is distinguished by its brick mill houses, of which fifteen survive. (The great majority of the South's historic mill houses were frame.) The two-story gable-fronted brick houses occupy both sides of Main Street and the south side of Poplar Street, and they were widely spaced to allow for infill construction. By the early twentieth century the 100 block of Main Street had emerged as a

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small commercial district, and during the third quarter of the twentieth century infill construction incorporated the 1880s mill houses into contiguous commercial blocks. In or about the 1960s the commercial blocks were further unified across their fronts by the construction of a covered walkway of flat-roofed steel construction. Also in the twentieth century, frame mill houses were built in between some of the brick houses on Poplar Street and a few were built on Elm Street. The McAden Mills cotton mills were built around the east end of Main Street where it forms a T intersection with Wesleyan Drive. These were comprised of McAden Mill No. 1 (1881-82) and McAden Mill No. 2 (1884-85), of which only remnants survive; McAden Mill No. 3 (1906-07), which survives in its entirety; and mill office and manufacturing annexes dating to the early and mid-twentieth century that survive in association with the remnants of Mill No. 2.

When it was incorporated in 1883, McAdenville was defined to include land within a half-mile radius of Mill No. 1, and this explains another feature of the townscape: a more pastoral zone extending from the mill village core to the concentration of mostly privately owned residences that begins at approximately the half-mile point on Main Street and extends to Interstate 85. In the 1880s the intermediate pastoral area was reserved for three residences constructed for the mill owners and general manager. The town's Baptist and Methodist congregations were permitted to build their churches in the area as well, bracketing the entrance to the mill village core on both sides of Main Street. A small enclave of frame mill houses was built along the winding course of Aviary Court in the pastoral area in the early twentieth century, and after World War II a community center, homes for top management, and new church buildings were added.

The privately-owned area at the west end of Main Street began to develop as a residential neighborhood distinct from the mill village, but associated with it, in the late nineteenth century. House construction along this section of Main Street had largely ceased by the second half of the twentieth century. An offshoot of the west Main Street development occurred along Ford Drive, beginning in or about the 1930s and continuing into the late twentieth century. Adjacent areas along Dickson Road and Mockingbird Lane are associated with the Main Street and Ford Drive development but are later, mostly or entirely dating to after the end of the period of significance, and these streets are therefore excluded from the district. A large mill village annex of more conventional character (frame houses closely spaced) developed on the hill to the south of McAdenville's core in the early twentieth century, but the annex was demolished in the early 2000s and replaced with modern houses, hence it is excluded from the district.

The McAdenville Historic District has a high ratio of contributing resources to noncontributing. Of the 156 total resources enumerated in the inventory, 102 or sixty-five percent are classified as contributing (resources in existence during the period of significance that retain sufficient architectural integrity to contribute to the character of the district) and fifty-four or thirty-five percent as noncontributing (resources built after the period of significance or historic-period

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resources that have lost their integrity). These totals and percentages mask a contributing ratio that is actually higher, as close to ninety percent of primary resources are contributing. Most of the noncontributing resources are modern sheds, carports, and other secondary buildings and structures. The majority of resources in the district are classified as buildings but there are also structures, sites, and objects. The inventory does not enumerate small temporary modern outbuildings like prefabricated garden and storage sheds.

Most buildings in the district are of frame construction and are sided or faced in a variety of historic materials (plain and novelty weatherboard siding, wood shingle, stucco, brick veneer) and non-historic materials (usually vinyl). Roofs are principally gabled, either side-gable (the gables perpendicular to the street) or front-gable (gable facing the street), although there are also a number of hip and flat roofs. Most buildings have asphalt-shingle roofing, although there are also examples of metal and built-up roofing. Foundations and chimneys are generally brick. Many houses have replacement windows from the third quarter of the twentieth century with two-over-two (2/2) sashes with stacked pane patterns (rather than the earlier 2/2 four-square pattern). These are referred to as “replacement 2/2 windows.” There are fifteen original mill village houses dating to the 1880s, located on Main and Poplar streets. These houses have characteristic two-story gable-fronted forms, American-bond brickwork, segmental-arch door and window openings, and two-room-deep plans. Most are duplexes, with side-by-side living units, but several were built as single-family dwellings, as reflected in their narrower widths. Both forms have two openings on their front first stories; for the duplexes the two openings are entries whereas for the single dwellings one opening is an entry and the other a window. The houses are referred to as “brick mill house (duplex)” or “brick mill house (single dwelling)” in the inventory. Other common house types in the district are hip-roofed cottages, side-gable cottage, front-gable cottage, and hip-and-gable cottage. The latter has a roof form that is a simplification of hipped and multi-gabled Queen Anne roofs.

The inventory that follows is arranged alphabetically by street in the following order: Aviary Court, Elm Street, Ford Drive, Hallie Bentley Drive, Main Street, Park Drive, and Poplar Street. Each resource receives an entry in the inventory; secondary resources are listed after addressed primary resources. Dates, either exact or approximate (ca., for circa), are determined from architectural cues and from documentary sources such as Billy Robert Miller’s *McAdenville: Spun from the Wilderness* (1987) and interviews with long-time area residents. Sanborn maps do not exist for the town. Contributing buildings are identified in the entry headings as CB and noncontributing buildings as NB. Structure, object, and site—either contributing or noncontributing—are other National Register resource classifications. The properties are indicated by address on the district map that accompanies the nomination and are coded either C for contributing or N for noncontributing. Secondary resources are not indicated on the map.

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### Inventory

123 Aviary Ct. Ca. 1900. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The shed-roofed front porch, which extends across approximately three-quarters of the elevation, has square balusters and square wood columns with neckings. The foundation consists of brick piers with brick infill. Other features include an interior brick flue and an interior brick chimney, 4/4 windows, rear shed and gabled wings with novelty weatherboard siding, and a rear deck.

127 Aviary Ct. 1910s. CB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story frame house with novelty and plain weatherboard siding. There are asphalt-shingled side-gable roofs on the main portion and on a mid-twentieth-century lower addition on the west gable end. The tall shed-roofed front porch stands on square wood columns and extends nearly the full width of the original section of the house. Other features include an interior brick chimney, an ell with a shed side addition, a brick foundation, and replacement 2/2 windows. A small ravine adjoins the house on the east side.

128 Aviary Ct. Ca. 1940. CB. Minimal Traditional.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. There is a gabled entry porch on the east gable end with metal supports and railing. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, 6/6 windows, an ell, and an attached carport on metal supports.

137 Aviary Ct. 1910s. CB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The full-width, shed-roofed front porch stands on wood posts. The foundation consists of brick piers with brick infill. Other features include replacement 2/2 windows, an ell with a side addition (probably an enclosed porch), and a rear porch with wood posts above a solid railing with novelty weatherboard siding.

140 Aviary Ct. 1910s. CB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A small, gabled, mid-twentieth-century addition with novelty weatherboard siding extends from the west gable end. The full-width, shed-roofed front porch has wood posts. Other features include 6/6 windows, a brick foundation, and a back screened porch.

154 Aviary Ct. 1910s. CB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. There is an interior brick chimney and a brick foundation with honeycomb vents. The shed-roofed, full-width

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front porch stands on square wood columns and abuts a gabled front wing. The west end of the porch is enclosed; the rest is screened. Other features include mostly replacement 2/2 windows, a rear shed addition with novelty weatherboard siding, an addition on the west gable end with a steep gable roof. The house stands on a low outcrop above the parking area for the McAdenville Aviary Gardens.

161 Aviary Ct. 1910s. NB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. There is a late twentieth-century gabled addition on the west end with beaded masonite siding and a 6/6 window. The screened front porch has square wood columns. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick flue, a rear ell and shed addition, and replacement 2/2 windows.

165 Aviary Ct. 1910s. CB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The full-width, shed-roofed front porch stands on square wood columns. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, an ell, a rear shed addition with novelty weatherboard siding, and replacement 2/2 windows. The house adjoins the fence at the southeast end of McAdenville Aviary Gardens.

183 Aviary Ct. 1910s. CB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof that engages the full-width front porch. Other features include wood posts on the front and ell side porches, a small addition on the west end with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof and T1-11 siding, a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, and replacement 2/2 windows.

1XX Aviary Ct. Ca. 1900; ca. 1950. CB. Colonial Revival.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The house has a telescoping form, with slightly lower gabled sections at each end. The north end appears to be an addition to an original wing that is fronted by an engaged porch with segmental-arch spans on wood posts. The front entry is sheltered by a small gable supported by strut brackets and decorated with a segmental-arch cut-out in the gable. At the south end is a gabled carport that connects the house to an apartment (probably a renovated garage) with novelty weatherboard siding. Other features include an interior brick chimney, a brick foundation, and 6/6 and 8/8 windows. According to R. V. D. "Dick" Roberts Jr., who was born in the house in 1935, the house was constructed by McAden Mills for the use of upper management. As originally constructed it was longer in form, but was shortened and remodeled in the 1940s or 1950s after a fire. Roberts' father, R. V. Dixon Roberts Sr. (b. ca. 1879), went to work for the mill as a boy in the 1890s and rose to the position of general superintendent, the position he held in the 1930s.

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105 Elm St. Ca. 2000. NB. Colonial Revival.

One-story brick-veneered frame building with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The building has a broken linear massing with two front gables and a gabled dormer. The main gable-fronted wing features a round-arch pseudo-Palladian window with a keyblock. The typically 6/6 windows have lintels that incorporate keyblocks. Other features include brick quoins, a front entry porch with square wood columns with molded neckings and caps, novelty vinyl siding on the dormer, and a brick terrace and handicap ramp. The building presently houses Carlo Mont Family Medicine.

129 Elm St. Ca. 1910. CB. Hip-and-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip-and-gable roof. The roof is principally side-gable. The hip-roofed front porch shelters about three-quarters of the elevation and has square wood columns and a modern x-pattern balustrade constructed of 2x4s. Other features include a foundation of brick piers with brick infill (under the house and porch), replacement 2/2 windows, and two rear additions (one of which may be an enclosed porch).

131 Elm St. Ca. 1910. CB. Side-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The full-width, shed-roofed front porch has square wood columns and a modern x-pattern balustrade constructed of 2x4s. Other features include a brick foundation, 6/6 windows, and a large rear extension.

1326 Ford Dr. Ca. 1935. CB.

Two-story frame house with synthetic siding (aluminum or vinyl) and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. An interior brick flue projects from the ridge. The full-width, shed-roofed front porch has square posts. Other features include 1/1 windows, which may be replacements, and one-story side wings. The Jenkins family lived here before World War II. After the war Olin Rankin lived here.

a. Garage. Ca. 1950. CB.

This one-story frame garage has a front-gable roof, novelty weatherboard siding, and a cinder block foundation.

b. Outbuilding. Ca. 1970. NB.

This diminutive one-story frame building has weatherboard siding, a front gable roof, and a tongue-and-groove door. The form of the building suggests it is a privy. Whether it is historically associated with this property is unknown.

c. Workshop. Ca. 1980. NB.

One-story frame building with weatherboard or masonite siding, an asphalt-shingled gable

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roof, and 1/1 windows.

1340 Ford Dr. 1940s. CB. Craftsman bungalow.

One-story frame house of bungalow form with novelty vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front porch, under a front-gabled roof projection, has decorative metal supports and railings. Other features include a brick foundation with a basement, a parged interior brick flue, and 1/1 windows that appear to be recent replacements.

a. Garage. 1940s. CB.

This one-story cinder block building has an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof and a single vehicle bay that lacks doors.

b. Outbuilding. Ca. 1970. NB.

This one-story frame building has wood siding and an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

c. Pump house. 1940s. CStructure.

This small brick structure has a gable roof.

1343 Ford Dr. 1946. CB. Craftsman bungalow.

One-story frame house of bungalow form with vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front porch, under a front-gabled roof projection, shelters about three-quarters of the front elevation and has decorative metal supports. Other features include 1/1 windows and an exterior brick chimney with an asymmetrical shoulder. The house was built in 1946 by a resident of Ford Drive who also built other houses on the street. It was purchased in 1955 by Jerry and Vita McMahan, the in-laws of present owner Joe Bell, who has lived here since the 1960s. The house was formerly aluminum-sided.

a. Pump house. Ca. 1950. CStructure.

This small cinder block structure has an asphalt-shingled gabled roof.

b. Outbuilding. Ca. 1970. NB.

This one-story frame shed and/or workshop has wood siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof.

1344 Ford Dr. 1930s. CB. Craftsman bungalow.

One-story frame house of bungalow form with novelty vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The roof has two small side gables. The full-width, gabled front porch has decorative metal supports on brick pedestals, a modern wood balustrade, and two louvered vents and what looks to be novelty weatherboard siding in the gable. From the side of the house projects a ca.

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1950s-60s car port with wood and metal supports and a low-pitched gable roof. Other features include a brick foundation, an exterior brick chimney with an asymmetrical shoulder (the chimney is cut off at the eaves), an exterior cinder block flue, 4/1 front windows, and decorative ca. 1950s awnings over the south side windows. Arthur Pool lived here in the 1930s and 1940s.

1347 Ford Dr. Ca. 1950. CB.

One-story frame house with vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The small gabled front entry porch has decorative metal supports and railings. Other features include 1/1 windows (apparently replacements), decorative aluminum awnings that wrap around the front porch and front windows, and a brick foundation.

a. Garage. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story frame garage has a front-gable roof and a front carport extension.

b. Workshop. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story frame building has a shed roof, vinyl siding, and two front entries.

1348 Ford Dr. 1930s. CB. Craftsman bungalow.

One-story frame house of bungalow form with vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The roof engages a full-width front porch with square posts, a wooden balustrade, and a gabled side extension. Other features include a brick foundation (probably infill between piers), replacement 1/1 windows, and a back deck. A shoe repairman named Jenkins lived here in the 1930s and 1940s.

a. Carport. Ca. 1970. NStructure.

This flat-roofed frame carport stands directly behind the house.

b. Outbuilding. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story frame building, perhaps a workshop, has wood siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gabled roof.

c. Trailer. Ca. 1960. NB.

This frame trailer has a standard long form and aluminum siding.

1351 Ford Dr. Ca. 1950. CB. Minimal Traditional.

One-story frame house with vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The house has an off-center gabled wing and a rectangular bay window on the front, and a slightly lower gabled side wing containing a carport that may be original. Other features include two interior brick chimneys and 6/6 windows.

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a. Outbuilding. Ca. 1950. CB.

This long one-story frame building has novelty weatherboard siding, 2/2 windows, and a shed roof.

b. Shed. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story frame building has T1-11 siding and a gable roof.

1355 Ford Dr. 1940s. CB. Craftsman bungalow.

One-story frame house of bungalow form with aluminum siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The roof has a large front gable extension that engages a porch with decorative metal supports. Other features include rectangular louvered gable vents and 3/1 windows. The house was originally owned by mechanic Frank Barnhill, who repaired cars in the garage on the property.

a. Garage. Ca. 1945. CB.

This one-story frame garage has weatherboard siding, a front-gable roof, off-center hinged tongue-and-groove garage doors, and a front six-pane window. An exterior cinder block flue is associated with the building's use for repairing cars.

b. Shed. Ca. 1945. CB.

This one-story frame shed has novelty-weatherboard siding and a front-gable roof.

c. Pump house. Ca. 1945. CStructure.

This diminutive brick structure has an asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof.

1356 Ford Dr. Ca. 1970. NB. Ranch.

One-story brick-veneered frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. A shed extension of the main roof engages a small, shallow front porch supported by turned wood posts. The brick has a variegated red and white appearance, except for a section near the front north corner, which may be an infilled garage door opening. Other features include an interior brick chimney, 1/1 windows, and a picture window under the front porch.

a. Garage. Ca. 1970. NB.

This one-story frame garage has a front-gable roof and what appears to be masonite siding.

1357 Ford Dr. Ca. 1965. NB. Ranch.

One-story brick-veneered frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, a recessed front entry, a front picture window, 2/2 windows, and an interior brick flue.

a. Garage. Ca. 1965. NB.

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This one-story frame garage has vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof, and two garage bays with vinyl doors.

120 Hallie Bentley Dr. Benjamin and Lottie McAden House. 1880s. CB. Italianate/Queen Anne. One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with a complex asphalt-shingled roof composed of hipped and gabled sections. The house has a complex form, roughly cruciform, with a front porch that faces the mills and an east side porch that overlooks the river. The house and porches have Italianate bracketed cornices, and there are windows and entries with peaked and segmental-arch keystoneblock lintels that are also Italianate in inspiration. The porches have angled corners, chamfered posts with intricate caps and sawn brackets, low turned balustrades, and steps formed from large granite blocks. The main gables have rectangular vents with decorative louvers and Gothic-inspired Queen Anne scissor-truss ornamentation with incised patterns. The eaves once had a one or two inch wide gap that helped ventilate the roof space. At the corners of the south elevation are angled rectangular-form bay windows with pyramidal caps. On the west side, facing Main Street, is a wing with angled corners and a steep pyramidal-like roof. The wing contains the street entry, which has a transom, double-leaf doors, and sawn ornamentation on the door leaves and surround. The entry is sheltered by a small gable roof with supporting brackets and sawn lobate-icicle vergeboards. Other exterior features include 4/4 windows (many with original segmental-headed louvered shutters), interior brick chimneys, an interior brick flue at the end of the rear north wing (presumably the kitchen wing), and a modern garage added to the rear re-entrant corner that replaces a porch and well pump. The interior is equally lavishly ornamented. Most if not all mantels are elaborately carved and feature overmantels with spindle-supported whatnot shelves and intricate pediments. The plan is organized around a spacious center hall with transoms over the doorways to the rooms. Several rooms have elaborate plaster ceiling medallions with scrolling foliated forms, and in a front room the medallion figures at the center of a molded plaster frame with scalloped corners. The present family room has a modern medallion that replaces a large oval plaster medallion that fell during repairs. Other features include molded door and window surrounds, some four-panel doors with chamfered rails and stiles and decorative panels, and arched openings to the corner bay windows. The interior trim, now painted, is said to have been stained walnut. The house was built for Benjamin T. McAden (d. 1888), a son of R. Y. McAden and the treasurer of McAden Mills, and his wife, Lottie Thomas McAden. B. T. McAden was a partner in the McAden and Ragan General Store. McAden only lived here a brief time before his death in 1888. One date proposed for the house is 1886. From 1908 to 1920 a Dr. Anderson, a physician employed by the mill, lived here. The house was rehabilitated in 1993 according to a design by the Charlotte firm C. L. Helt Architect Inc.

1XX Hallie Bentley Dr. Water towers. Ca. 1940. CStructures.

Steel water tower with a four-legged structure with cross members and a cylindrical reservoir with a hemispherical bottom and what appears to be a shallow-pitched conical cap. The legs, which are

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formed from angle members, rest on poured concrete footers and there is a small gabled cinder block housing (presumably a pump or gauge house) at the base of the pipe that descends from the reservoir. The water towers and a pump station downhill behind 230 Main were presumably added after the acquisition of McAdenville by Stowe Mills in 1939. It is not impossible one or both of the water towers are earlier, though, perhaps from the 1920s.

a. Water tower. Ca. 1940. CStructure.

Steel water tower with a four-legged structure with cross members and a cylindrical reservoir with a convex bottom and what appears to be a shallow-pitched conical cap. The legs, which have webbed construction, rest on poured concrete footers and there is a small gabled cinder block housing (presumably a pump or gauge house) at the base of the pipe that descends from the reservoir. This tower stands to the west of the other one and is not as tall.

100 Main St. Pharr Corporate Offices. 1906; ca. 1955; ca. 1965. CB. Mission/Colonial Revival. The Pharr office building is the most prominent element in a complex of interconnected mill and office buildings with fabric dating from 1881-82 on. The tall one-story brick office building faces the intersection of Wesleyan Drive and Main Street on axis with the latter. The building has been enlarged and altered considerably since its original construction in 1906. The original south section was extended first on the north end in the 1950s and second, again on the north end, apparently in the 1960s. In its present form the building features a slate-shingled hip roof with shaped Mission-style parapets above each end elevation (the south parapet apparently dates to 1906 whereas the north parapet is a recreation). The elevations have a belt course that ties into the brick keystones that top each segmental-arch window opening, and changes in brick color mark the north end addition, the bricking up of former attic-story windows, and either a second extension on the north end or repairs from a truck crash in the late twentieth century. The paired 9/9 sashes in the window openings and the dentil cornice and front entry portico with paired Doric columns are Colonial Revival alterations dating to the mid-1950s. Rear frame additions (open on the basement level) appear to date to the same period. The interior treatments date largely to the 1950s-60s period and the principal spaces are Colonial Revival in character. The front entry opens into a lobby with a natural wood Georgian Revival mantel and overmantel. The small front conference room has paneled walls and wainscots with red-on-gold damask in the wall panels and a Federal Revival mantel with carved panel depicting a flower basket in the frieze. The reception area has latticed walls and connects to a hallway into a wall of which is set the vault. The vault, probably an original 1906 feature in its original location, has a black and bronze-finish door surround with fluted pilasters and a lion head keyblock, and a door with a painted scene. Arranged as a landscape feature in a grassy island between the building's parking lot and Wesleyan Drive is a millstone of grayish stone with a cast iron center mount, and a rectangular trough hewn from granite. The trough was used for watering horses and is believed to have had an association with the mill since the late

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nineteenth century. The millstone is from Benjamin McAden's corn and flour mills, which were constructed in the early 1880s near the site of the present mill. City planner Earle Sumner Draper, or his design firm, is credited with the redesign of the office building.

a. McAden Mill No. 2. 1884-85. NB. Late Victorian.

Behind the office building is the front (west) façade of the 1884-85 Mill No. 2, known to company employees as "the Wall." The mill building behind the façade was demolished in recent years, but the façade preserves its principal decorative architectural features. These are the center rectangular-plan bell tower and flanking round turrets. The three-story bell tower features embayed surfaces, decorative corbelling at the top and bottom of the third story, a round-arch entryway at the base, and walled up round-arch window openings in the upper two stories. There is a stuccoed panel over the entry with the initials GRR in relief. Above the brickwork is an open wooden belfry with a pyramidal roof with deeply overhanging eaves and cross-braced supports. (This feature, which may date to ca. 1920, replaces a taller and more ornate belfry that was in existence by 1897.) The turrets have rectangular and round window openings and are corbelled at the top in imitation of machicolation. Conical roofs with sheet-metal roofing that may be original rise from parged brick merlons. The sections of original wall that connect the tower and turrets are also battlemented above machicolated corbelling, pilasters with corbelled caps with inset panels, and walled-up segmental-arch windows. The walls were extended beyond the turrets in the same style in the early twentieth century. The tower lobby has simple plaster finishes and a winder stair that rises to a room formerly used as an office. (The presence of these interior spaces accounts for the classification of the resource as a building rather than a structure.) Behind the Mill No. 2 façade are the concrete floor pads and other foundation remnants of the mill and its additions.

b. Mill building. Ca. 1925; ca. 1955. CB.

The south end of the Mill No. 2 façade abuts a mill building with one- and two-story sections. The two-story section, which probably dates to the 1920s (although it may incorporate an earlier one-story building), has a shed roof with stepped side parapets and window openings that are either walled up or retain their original metal-frame sashes and safety glass. There is a housing on the roof that appears to have once contained freight elevator machinery and there is a second elevator-like shaft on the east end. Inside is wood post and beam construction, oak tongue-and-groove flooring, and painted brick walls. The one-story section, which was added to the south side of the two-story section in the mid-1950s, has a concrete floor and a steel truss roof structure. One-story cinder block and metal loading dock additions extend from the east end of both sections. A pond is located south of the building, outside the district.

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c. Office annex. Ca. 1960. NB. Modernist.

The north end of the Mill No. 2 façade abuts the west wall of Mill No. 1, which was built in 1881-82 and mostly torn down in the early 2000s. The brick wall has multiple walled up segmental-arch windows. The wall now forms the east elevation of a ca. 1960 modernist office annex of flat-roofed brick-veneer construction. This building and the ones preceding enclose a terraced yard landscaped with shrubbery and small trees. Beyond the annex to the east, across the site of the former Mill No. 1, is the South Fork River.

d. Piedmont and Northern Railway McAdenville Passenger Station. 1911. NB.

Stored on blocks behind the Mill No. 2 façade is a one-story frame train station with novelty weatherboard siding and an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The station has deep overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, tongue-and-groove freight doors, and a seam indicating it was extended on its (present) south end. The building originally stood next to the Mill No. 3 Supply Department but was moved, apparently in the 1950s, to a site outside the district near the lake to the south of the complex. It was restored in 1978 and moved to its present location in recent years.

101 Main St. McAden Mill No. 3 (Space Dye Plant). 1906-07. CB. Classical Revival.

One-story brick mill building situated in the northwest corner of Main Street and Route 7. The building's principal architectural feature is its front or southeast façade, which is ornamented with white-painted brick pilasters capped by terra-cotta or molded concrete Ionic capitals. The parapet above the pilasters has a projecting pressed metal cornice with dentil and astragal moldings. The façade steps back at its ends and it features at its center an entry with a pressed metal pediment with heavy dentil-like brackets. The large flat-headed window openings of the façade and the building's long side elevations are walled up. The low-pitched gable roof has a monitor with walled up clerestory windows that runs the length of the building. On the south side, wedged between the mill and Main Street, is a mid-twentieth-century brick addition with metal-frame windows and an angled corner with a deep roof overhang supported by triangular brackets. From the rear elevation, which has a stepped parapet, extend mid-twentieth century additions of standard linear mill construction of brick, cinder block, and frame. Available evidence suggests at least some of these additions date to 1962 and later. The interior of the 1906-07 section features oak tongue-and-groove floors, plywood-covered walls, and a wood beam roof structure supported by round metal columns that may have been substituted for presumably wooden original posts in 1955. One six-pane clerestory window sash was observed. According to historian Robert Ragan, construction of Mill No. 3 began in 1906 and was completed in 1907. Ten thousand spindles were installed in 1907 and another three thousand were added in 1909.

Attached to the northeast side is a three-story elevator tower with a segmental-arch louvered vent in its top story. A loading dock hyphen attaches to a utilitarian brick building identified by painted

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signage as the Supply Department, a purpose it has apparently served since at least the early twentieth century. An undated site plan in the company records dates the building to 1897. The building may date to the original construction of the mills in 1881-82 or it may have been built at the same time as the 1906-07 mill, as suggested by its flat-headed windows and interior treatments. The building has a shallow-pitched front-gable roof, boarded up flat-headed windows (one twelve-pane sash is visible), tie rod anchors made from old gears, and a segmental-arch front entry with double-leaf doors, a multi-pane transom, and a gabled shelter supported by triangular brackets. Changes in brick color suggest one or more periods of reconstruction of the front elevation. Inside is a wooden beam roof structure supported by round metal columns and a row of store rooms of beaded tongue-and-groove construction with stack-panel doors. (The interior was not accessible for survey but was photographed through the front door panes.) Behind the Supply Department, attached to the 1906-07 mill (perhaps by infill construction) is a two-story brick building with round-arch windows that has the appearance of a power house. The building may have been built in 1906-07 as the mill's new hydroelectric plant, or it may have housed machinery associated with the linking of the mills to the Southern Power Company grid by 1914. Beyond the mill building to the north, along Willow Drive, is the sewage treatment plant, which is excluded from the district. A fuller history of Mill No. 3 is presented in Section 8.

a. Power house. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century. CB.

Utilitarian one-story building of glazed tile block construction. According to Robert A. Ragan, McAden Mills retained its 1884 Edison hydroelectric system as a back-up power source when a new hydroelectric system was installed in 1906-07. This building may have been built to house the 1884 equipment.

103 Main St. Ca. 1965. NB. Colonial Revival.

One-story building of brick-veneered construction (probably over cinder block) with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof with front gables at each end. The covered walkway that links the commercial buildings on Main Street wraps around the east and north sides of the building. The walkway appears to be integral with the design of the building, suggesting they were constructed at the same time. At the southwest corner facing Poplar Street is a small gabled entry porch with a cross on it to identify the office of the Pharr Yarns Inc. chaplain. Other features include a small cupola, mostly 6/6 windows, weatherboard siding in the gables, three angled bay windows, and a three-pane transom over the entry facing Wesleyan Drive. A sign next to the entry identifies the Pharr Yarns Inc. accounting, credit, and chaplain offices. On the north side of the building at the intersection of Main Street and Wesleyan Drive is a small brick-paved "pocket park" featuring a reproduction cast metal or fiberglass clock inscribed 1881 McAdenville, a bench, and fluted metal bollards.

105 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

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Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. Rows of small vents, created by the deletion of bricks, cross the front and back gables. Unlike other similar houses, the brickwork changes noticeably in color, from dark reddish-purple near the tops of the second-story windows to red above. This is most likely due to the use of different brick lots in the construction of the building, or possibly the result of sandblasting. There are indications the building had a one-story front porch. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building. Other features include 6/6 windows and a bricked up window on the east side second story. The building at 103 Main wraps around the back of this building. DSG (Diabetic Supply of Graco) is the present occupant.

109-113 Main St. McAdenville Post Office. Ca. 1965. NB. Colonial Revival.

One-story building of three-part form and brick-veneered cinder block construction with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The center section (address 111) is the widest and tallest section. It is flanked by narrower and lower flat-roofed side wings (addresses 109 and 113) that are set back and each have entries and angled bay windows. The center section has cornice returns and large round louvered vents in the front and back gables and is crowned by a louvered cupola with flared pyramidal copper roof and a weather vane. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building. Other features include post office signage in gold letters in the front gable, a flush multi-pane window looking into the post office lobby, and red bricks with orange and purple kiss marks. To the rear is an inset loading dock. The post office occupies 111 and possibly also 109 and the Mane Styl'n Hair Salon occupies 113 – private ownership.

115 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch window openings. The original front first-story entries have been replaced with a large entry with double-leaf doors and a large multi-pane window. There are two gabled wall dormers with novelty weatherboard siding on each side elevation. A one-story weatherboard-sided frame addition extends across the rear. It has an asphalt-shingled hip and shed roof (the shed section may be an extension) and a seam in the weatherboards that also indicates enlargement. Next to it rises a metal exterior stair to a second-story apartment door with the old address 116 (probably indicating 116 Poplar Street). Like 105 Main there is variation in the color of the brick. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building. Other features include replacement 2/2 windows, indications of a former one-story porch (probably one story in height), and rows of small vents in each gable. Clay Realty Advisors is the present occupant.

121 Main St. McAden-Young General Store. Ca. 1890. CB.

Two-story American-bond brick building with a parapet shed roof. The building is the largest

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commercial building on Main Street. The front parapet has dentil-like brickwork and star-shaped tie rod anchors. The second-story front windows have 9/9 sashes and cast iron lintels that project on brackets. The façade is divided into two sections by piers at the corners and center point, the center pier rising from corbelling at the second-story floor level. Above the boarded up storefront transom runs a metal storefront cornice. There are modern brick and glass storefronts. The side elevations have stepped parapets with flues and, on the second stories only, segmental-arch 9/9 windows. The same windows cross the rear second story, whereas the story below has bricked up segmental-arch door and window openings with an inserted modern window and entry. A fire escape enclosed with sheet metal rises on the west side. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building. The store appears to have been built during the partnership of the McAdens and Edward M. Young, which began in 1886. During the historic period groceries were sold from the left store space and clothing, shoes, and dry goods from the right side. About 1960 the building contained the Abernathy Supermarket. Truliant is the present occupant.

122-124 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The nearly full-width, shed-roofed, one-story front porch stands on square wood columns with molded caps and has a weatherboarded frieze. In the front and back gables are triangular brackets, and the front gable is spanned by a horizontal trim board. On the back is a one-story weatherboard-sided frame addition with an asphalt-shingled hip roof, dual entries, and a cinder block foundation. Other features include 6/6 windows and an interior brick chimney.

125 Main St. Ca. 1920. CB.

This one-story brick commercial building is actually three buildings unified by similar façade treatments. That they were all separate buildings, or some of them additions, is indicated by seams in brickwork and other evidence. The center and right sections (which now contain the Thomas Kincaid Gallery and the east part of the Village Restaurant) are most similar. They share a continuous molded metal storefront cornice and have dentil-like corbelled brickwork above the cornice and at the top of the parapet. The right section may be earlier than the middle section. The left section (which contains the McAdenville Town Hall and Police Department) has a similar but separate storefront cornice and it has dentil-like bricks at the top of the parapet only. The left and middle sections originally had one structural bay each on the front, which now have brick infill and modern windows and entries. The right section is divided into three bays by brick piers and has mid-twentieth-century multi-pane windows that flank and entry with a blocked transom. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building. To the rear are flat-headed and segmental-arch door and window openings, mostly bricked up. Roy Eller's Drug Store was located in the Village Restaurant section in the 1940s and the Town Hall section was used as a dentist office in the early

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twentieth century. As a business, the Village Restaurant has been in existence since the 1930s.

127 Main St. Ca. 1950. CB.

One-story brick commercial building with a long replacement window divided into multiple sashes. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building and the adjacent building at 131 Main wraps around the rear. The Abernathy Super Market occupied the building in the early 1980s. The building presently houses the west part of the Village Restaurant.

129-1/2 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. Ghost marks and filled-in mortises indicate the building once had a two-story front porch that was painted white and had a shed roof. Other features include bricked-up second-story windows on the west side and a modern angled bay window in the left front bay. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building and the adjacent building at 131 Main wraps around the rear. The Abernathy Super Market occupied the building in the early 1980s. The building presently houses Stillwater Studios.

131 Main St. Ca. 1950. CB.

One-story brick building with a parapet flat roof. The building is constructed of red brick with purplish kiss marks. Other features include paired front replacement windows with fake muntins, a recessed rear entry, and a rear section that wraps behind the two adjacent buildings to the east. The covered walkway crosses the front of the building. The Abernathy Super Market occupied the building in the early 1980s and may have been its original occupant.

134-136 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The house has the full front gable decoration of its type with boards forming a rectangular pattern. The nearly full-width, shed-roofed, one-story front porch has square wood columns with molded caps and a T1-11 frieze. There are original 6/6 windows and replacement 2/2 windows. On the back is a one-story weatherboard-sided frame addition with an asphalt-shingled hip roof, dual entries, and a cinder block foundation. Other features include an interior brick chimney (rebuilt above the roof line), mid-twentieth-century wood and glass panel front doors, and screen doors from the same period.

141 Main St. R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall. 1907. CB. Classical Revival.

Two-story weatherboard-sided frame building with a slate-shingled hip roof. Architectural elaboration is focused on the front elevation, which features an entry in a richly ornamented

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pedimented surround below a large elliptical-arch second-story window and a pedimented gable. The entry, which is reached by concrete steps, is flanked by slightly tapering rectangular pilasters with capitals consisting of boldly carved volutes and tulip-like florets. The capitals support a cornice consisting of compound moldings above which is a narrow frieze inscribed in relief letters "R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall" flanked by lion heads. The pediment has deeply projecting horizontal and raking dentil/modillion cornices and a beaded tongue-and-groove tympanum. The double-leaf wood and glass panel doors have a transom and sidelights. The elliptical-arch window has three 6/1 sashes, multi-pane transom sashes, and a keblocks. The pediment on the roof has a painted-over lunette with a keyblock and a row of modillion-like brackets in the main roof eaves below it. The front elevation also features windows with bracketed cornices and 9/2 sashes. Similar windows light landings at the north ends of the two side elevations, otherwise the side and rear windows have simple surrounds and 2/2 windows. Other exterior features include a brick foundation, a small rear gable, gabled ventilation dormers on the sides of the roof, and metal ridges and crestings on the roof.

The front entry opens into a full-width lobby with two-run stairs at each end and a doorway with sidelights and double-leaf wood and glass panel doors (one missing) to the first-floor library. The lobby has a beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot and closets under the stairs with stack panel doors. The stairs have square newels, turned balusters, and decorative tread brackets. Over the library entry is a metal plaque noting particulars of the building's origins. The large library room has plaster-and-lath wall and ceiling finishes, stove flues, and book shelves lining the perimeter walls under the windows with slanted top shelves for reading. Two beaded tongue-and-groove half-walls extend into the room to either side of the doorway, and from their ends rise turned support posts. The public hall on the second floor has a tray ceiling with incandescent bulbs that outline the tray pattern. Beaded tongue-and-groove forms a wainscot and the aprons of a low stage at the south end of the room. The interior is showing signs of deterioration such as fallen plaster and rotted floor boards.

McAden Memorial Hall was built with funds from an endowment established by Giles Mebane McAden (1867-1905). As noted on the plaque inside the building, McAden, a son of McAdenville founder R. Y. McAden, stipulated in his will: "I give in trust this special fund to my executors to endow a place of recreation, a library, and public hall simply as a place of recreation for the citizens of McAdenville, N.C., to be known as R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall." McAden Mills, then headed by Giles' brother Henry M. McAden, set aside land for the hall and hired Charlotte architect James M. McMichael to design the building, which was built in 1907 and dedicated on January 11, 1908. The Hall was used for the various purposes envisioned by Giles McAden and also served as McAdenville's de facto town hall. Katherine McAden was the first librarian. Since the Hall and its functions were supported by an endowment, it remained open during the period 1935 to 1939 when McAden Mills shut down, and according to historian William Huffman, "became even more the

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heart of the community.” Boy Scouts met in the building and plays were performed on the second-floor stage. The building is presently used to store Christmas decorations. The yard area on the west side of the building, which is now planted with trees, served as a volleyball and tennis court during the early twentieth century.

142-144 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The nearly full-width, shed-roofed, one-story front porch has square wood columns with molded caps and a beaded tongue-and-groove frieze. There are some original six-pane sashes in the second stories of the side elevations but most openings have replacement 2/2 windows. On the back is a one-story weatherboard-sided frame addition with an asphalt-shingled hip roof, dual entries, and a cinder block foundation. Other features include an interior brick chimney and a row of small vents in the front and rear gables.

149 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (single dwelling).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings, although this house and the ones at 123 and 143 Poplar Street are the only surviving original mill houses with single entries. The nearly full-width, shed-roofed, two-story, single-tier front porch replaces the original one-story porch. There are traces of penciling on the mortar joints under the porch. Other features include replacement 2/2 windows, an interior brick chimney, and a rear entry on the east elevation to a former shed-roofed room. To the rear is a one-story frame addition with novelty weatherboard siding, an asphalt-shingled gable roof, exposed rafter ends, and 6/6 windows. A concrete pad with a short driveway to Poplar Street may be the foundation of a former semi-detached garage.

150-152 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The house has the full front gable decoration of its type with boards forming a rectangular pattern. The nearly full-width, shed-roofed, one-story front porch has square wood columns with molded caps and a T1-11 frieze. There are original 6/6 windows and gabled wall dormers on the side elevations with most of their 6/6 windows, weatherboard siding, and exposed rafter ends. On the back is a one-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame addition with an asphalt-shingled hip roof, dual entries, and a cinder block foundation. Other features include an interior brick chimney, simple upside-down T decoration in the rear gable, a rebuilt southeast front corner, and evidence of a recent fire. The house is vacant.

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159 Main St. Ca. 1885. CB.

Two-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The nearly full-width, shed-roofed, two-story single-tier porch has square wood columns and a T1-11 frieze. The accretive one-story rear addition has plain and novelty weatherboard siding and what looks to be an enclosed side porch. Other features include an apparently one-room-deep plan, a rebuilt exterior brick chimney with paved shoulders on the east end, and 6/6 windows.

162-164 Main St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The two-story single-tier porch has square wood columns and a beaded tongue-and-groove frieze. It shelters about three-quarters of the elevation. On the back is a one-story weatherboard-sided frame addition with an asphalt-shingled hip roof, dual entries, and a cinder block foundation. Other features include an interior brick chimney and 6/6 windows.

163 Main St. McAdenville United Methodist Church. 1960-1961. CB. Colonial Revival.

Designed by William J. Gant Lewis of Gastonia. One-story brick-veneered building with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The front portico stands on Doric columns and has a vinyl-sided pediment with an oval windows with diamond-pattern panes. Above rises a steeple with louvered belfry openings and a copper-sheathed spire with a flared base and a cross finial. Over the double-leaf entry—the only opening on the front elevation—is a transom with diamond-pattern panes. The flat-headed stained glass windows on the side elevations have arched and medallion glass patterns. The windows are contained in long panels bordered with soldier-course brickwork that extend down to frame basement windows with fake muntins in their sashes. To the rear is a small brick porch at the basement entry and on the east side is a boiler flue. McAdenville's Methodist congregation dates its origins to 1890, and it worshipped in a Gothic Revival frame building at the site of the present building. (Original architectural plans dated September 1, 1960 are kept at the church.)

16X Main St. Park. Ca. 1990. NSite.

Small "pocket park" at the intersection of Main and Elm streets that features a hydroelectric turbine blade from the McAden Mills complex. Brick pavers form a walkway and a small patio. Plantings include spruces, azaleas, forsythia, daffodils, and crape myrtle.

192 Main St. McAdenville Baptist Church. 1948; 1956; ca. 1960. CB. Colonial Revival.

The church features the principal 1956 church building on the south side, a 1948 education building on the north side, and a basement-level day care wing on the south side that appears to date to the late 1950s or 1960s. All sections are brick-veneered. The church building has an asphalt-shingled

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front-gable roof on which is a multi-stage vinyl-sided steeple with a flared octagonal spire with a cross finial. The front portico has Doric columns and a stained glass lunette in the pediment. It shelters an entry in a surround with pilasters and dentil moldings. The nave windows are round-arched and have stained glass. Other windows are smaller and rectangular in form. A small arched hyphen, which screens a bell that may be from the original church, connects to the two-story educational building, which has an asphalt-shingled hip roof, 6/6 windows, and a narrow two-story gabled projection on the front with an entry sheltered by a gabled porch. The flat-roofed day care wing connects to the church basement by an open connector and has 6/6 windows. McAdenville Baptist Church dates its origins to 1886. Early in its existence the congregation erected a Gothic Revival frame building to which towers were added after 1914. This building stood until the 1950s when it was replaced by the present church.

208 Main St. McAdenville Community Center. 1949, 1978. CB. Colonial Revival.

One-story building with a brick veneer (probably over cinder block) and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The building has a three-part form with a tall center section that features a recessed front porch and two lower wings on each end. The porch has two slender Doric columns in antis and a terra-cotta tile floor and it shelters a central entry with a pedimented surround with fluted pilasters, dentil moldings, sidelights, a six-panel door, and steps with decorative metal railings. A plaque next to the entry identifies Belmont architect Joe T. Moore as the designer and Roger B. Gaither as the builder. Added to the rear in 1978 was the William James Pharr Gymnasium, which is constructed of brick-veneered cinder block with a metal superstructure. Across the back of the gym are concrete bleachers that overlook a ball field. Other exterior features include a dentil cornice over the porch, an exterior brick chimney on the east gable end, paired 9/9 windows under the porch and 6/6 windows elsewhere (most windows have paneled shutters).

The main interior space is the meeting room in the center section of the building. The room has molded wood panel walls (painted), a ceiling with wood beams creating a coffered pattern, and a stone fireplace with a raised stone hearth. In the east wing is an activity room with a mirrored end wall and a fireplace, and a basement stairway with a natural finish wainscot of molded vertical paneling. In the west wing is an office and a smaller meeting room joined to the main room by a large opening. The gymnasium has an exposed steel structure and a gallery with a trophy wall. The McAdenville Community Center was formed in 1949. Its building was erected by the McAdenville Foundation in 1949 and dedicated to the memory of soldiers who lost their lives in the first and second World Wars. (The plaque on the building gives the date 1950, which may be the date of dedication.) A historic photograph shows that the meeting room originally had unpainted walls and a flat, uncoffered ceiling (the photo shows the room being used for a banquet). The small meeting room could be separated from the main one by an accordion partition. The present main meeting room treatment was in place by the late 1960s. Another photograph shows a two-lane bowling alley with ball return in the basement. (The bowling alley has been removed and the space converted to

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an exercise area.) Among the activities that took place in the building in the past were arts and crafts classes, dance classes, Girl Scout meetings, men and women club meetings, and story telling. A Yule log ceremony has been held in the building since the 1950s.

a. Carillon. Ca. 1980. NStructure.

At the front corner of the lot are Chrono-chime bells on a thirty-foot tall support. The carillon plays Christmas carols during the season.

b. Swimming pool. Ca. 1965. NStructure.

c. Pool house. Ca. 1965. NB.

Modernist one-story bath house of brick-veneered construction (probably cinder block) with a flat concrete roof which serves as an observation deck (and perhaps for entertainment as well). Across the two halves of the bath house are signs reading "McAdenville Dolphins."

d. Playing field. Ca. 1950. CSite.

e. Building. Ca. 1965. NB.

Small one-story brick or brick-veneered building with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The building stands next to the ball field and may have functioned as restrooms or a concession stand.

215 Main St. Ray-Pharr House. 1890s. CB. Late Victorian/Colonial Revival.

Two-story weatherboard-sided frame house with a slate-shingled hip roof with gabled extensions. Across the front is a two-story portico on monumental Corinthian columns added in the late twentieth century. The present columns replaced ca. 1940s monumental square columns which in turn replaced an original one-story porch. The front entry has blind transom and sidelight panels and a cross-topped surround. Most window sashes date to the mid-twentieth century and have 6/1 patterns, but there are also a few 6/6 windows that may date to the 1890s. A bedroom extension on the east end has a two-story angled bay window. To the rear are one-story additions including a 1950s wing with a large bow window and a late twentieth century indoor swimming pool with brick walls, skylights, and large windows on its south gable end. The wing has a festoon-like treatment in the frieze; a similar treatment ornaments a one-story dining room projection on the opposite west elevation. A carport with spaces for three vehicles is built along the south side of the swimming pool wing. Other exterior features include a brick foundation, interior brick chimneys, cornice returns and rectangular louvered vents that may date to the 1890s, decorative metal foundation vent grilles, and an ornate iron and bulls-eye glass pendant light fixture inside the portico.

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The front entry opens into a sitting room with a coffered ceiling and a Georgian Revival mantel (most other mantels are similar). The dining room has a bow window with blue fabric window treatments designed by the firm of Greensboro interior designer Elizabeth Freeman in the 1970s. The two-run stair, contained in a side hall, has rectangular balusters and paneled square newels. The largest interior space is a living and entertaining room contained in the 1950s rear wing. The room has a sunken floor, wood paneled walls, and a mantel and door surrounds with keyblocks and trim that evokes draped fabric. The Ray-Pharr House stands amid extensive landscaped grounds with specimen trees, beds of azaleas and other flowering shrubs, and brick walkways, retaining walls, and isolated patio areas.

The house was built in the 1890s for Robert Rankin Ray (1852-1941), a Charlotte native who was hired as McAden Mills' bookkeeper in 1884. Ray was promoted to treasurer in 1888 upon the death of Benjamin T. McAden. When R. Y. McAden died the following year, Ray was made general manager of the mill's cotton spinning and weaving operations. In 1908 Ray was the principal organizer of the Gaston County Cotton Manufacturers' Association, which evolved into the American Yarn Spinners Association. He also served as president of the Cotton Manufacturers' Association of North Carolina. Ray was elected to the North Carolina Senate in 1917 and during his term was instrumental in gaining state support for the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital in Gastonia. Ray and his wife, Mary Downs Ray, lived here until his retirement in 1935. William James Pharr (1898-1981) and his wife, Catherine Stowe Pharr (1904-97), acquired the house with the Stowe Mills Inc. purchase of McAden Mills in 1939. Initially Bill Pharr served as vice president, treasurer, and general manager of Stowe Mills. In later years he was president of the corporation and its subsidiary, Pharr Yarns Inc., created in 1950. In addition to serving on the board of directors of a number of manufacturing and financial concerns, Pharr was McAdenville's mayor from 1939 to 1964 and he was involved in many regional charitable and educational organizations. Like Robert Ray he served as a president of the American Yarn Spinners Association, in 1944-45 (the association was then known as the Southern Combed Yarn Spinners Association). Catherine Stowe Pharr hired designer Alice Rhyne of Mount Holly to assist with renovations to the house in the 1940s and 1950s. Julian Morton did design work for the family in the 1950s and 1960s.

a. Garden enclosure and patio. 1950s. CStructure.

Garden and outdoor entertainment area adjoining the 1950s rear wing. The garden is enclosed by a high painted brick wall decorated with corbelling and dogtooth courses. There is an outdoor fireplace with a brick chimney set with irregular flagstones (the brick and stone both painted) and a flagstone patio. At the outside corner of the wall is a gate for the driveway that curves around the house.

b. Caretaker's house. Ca. 1940. CB. Craftsman.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. As

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constructed the house had an inset front corner porch which was later infilled with weatherboarded frame construction but leaving a recessed entry. Other features include triangular gable brackets, 6/6 windows, a cinder block foundation, an interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap, and a large shed-roofed addition on the east side. The house is typical of the simple gable-fronted Craftsman bungalows built for small farmers and textile workers throughout North Carolina in the 1920s and 1930s, and it may have been built during those decades. However, its cinder block foundation suggests it was added when the Pharr family occupied the property beginning in 1939. It may have been built at that time or it may be a pre-existing mill village house moved to the site.

c. Pond. Ca. 1940. CSite.

Pond formed by the damming of an intermittent stream below the house. In the center of the pond is a small islet, girded by a metal ring, from which grow shrubs and small trees. In the second quarter of the twentieth century the Pharr family hosted parties on the grounds around the pond. The pond also served as a reservoir for fire-fighting purposes.

d. Adam Springs Memorial. Ca. 1995. NSite.

Small park featuring a granite monolith that commemorates Adam Springs (1776-1840), owner of the site of McAdenville in the nineteenth century. The memorial, which is accessible from the sidewalk along Main Street, is accompanied by two granite benches. The benches were made from blocks that formed the steps of Old East Dormitory at UNC Chapel Hill (Adam Springs was a member of UNC's first graduating class in 1797). Near the benches and memorial stands a large cast iron urn. The memorial was developed by James Martin "Bip" Carstarphen.

218 Main St. 1958. CB. Ranch.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The entry, located at the re-entrant corner of the main house block and an off-center gabled front wing, has a fluted pilaster surround and opens onto a terrace with a decorative metal railing. The house may have a habitable attic space. Other features include a brick foundation, interior brick chimneys, 8/8 windows, a rear patio, and a large rear wing with a garage.

230 Main St. Ca. 1950. CB. Ranch.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. Most windows are 6/6, although there is a front picture window with a 24-pane window flanked by 4/4 windows. There is a brick foundation and two interior brick chimneys. Other features include deep overhanging eaves and a garage and attached carport to the rear.

256 Main St. Ca. 1955. CB. Ranch.

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One-story frame house, apparently weatherboard-sided, with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. A front gable projects over an entry porch with Doric columns, a brick base, and a lunette in the gable. The porch shelters a double-leaf entry and a large angled bay window. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, a garage wing with two vehicle bays, and 6/9 windows (possibly with fake muntins). The large lot has many oaks, pines, spruces, and other trees.

261 Main St. Ca. 1920. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. A flared shed extension of the roof engages a wraparound porch that stands on tapered wood posts and has square balusters. The brick foundation raises to a full basement level on the rear and has a garage that may be original. Other features include a hipped front dormer with two windows, 1/1 windows, and a shed-roofed rear screened porch with a vertical-board solid railing.

279 Main St. Ca. 1920. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof with hipped ventilation dormers on the front and sides. The dormers and main roof have exposed rafter ends. The roof engages a full-width front porch with square wood columns on brick pedestals. There is wood-shingle siding above the windows and on the sides of the dormers. Other features include a foundation of brick piers with brick infill, replacement 2/2 windows, interior brick flues, and a rear shed addition.

a. Carport. Ca. 1970s. NStructure.

Carport supported by narrow metal poles.

280 Main St. Ca. 1955. CB. Ranch.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. A small gabled porch with Doric columns shelters an entry with fluted pilasters. The front façade is slightly recessed and is crowned by a dentil cornice. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, 6/6 and 8/8 windows (the latter with molded apron panels under them and fake muntins), and a west end addition. A curved drive leads to the front of the house.

290 Main St. Ca. 1925. CB. Craftsman bungalow.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house of bungalow form with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The nearly full-width gable-fronted front porch has wood posts on brick pedestals linked by square balusters. The west wing, which has novelty weatherboard siding, is an addition, and a slight jog in the roofline suggests the east wing is also an addition. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick flue, 6/9 and 8/12 windows, exposed rafter ends, and a rear addition and attached carport.

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a. Shed. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story frame shed has T1-11 siding and an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

291 Main St. Ca. 1925. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled roof of almost pyramidal hipped form. The small hipped entry porch stands on decorative metal supports. Other features include a foundation of brick piers with brick infill, 6/6 windows, a gabled rear addition, and a gabled rear screened porch. The house is nearly identical in form to its neighbor at 297 Main.

a. Carport. 1970s. NStructure.

Carport supported by narrow metal poles.

296 Main St. Ca. 1925. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The roof has a front shed ventilation dormer and it engages a porch with decorative metal supports and a plain metal railing. The porch frieze has wood-shingle sheathing as does the top of the house wall under the porch. Other features include replacement 2/2 windows, exposed rafter ends, a brick foundation, and an attached shed-roofed rear carport.

297 Main St. Ca. 1925. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled roof of almost pyramidal hipped form. The small hipped entry porch stands on decorative metal supports. Other features include a foundation of brick piers with brick infill, replacement 2/2 windows, and a gabled rear addition built in two phases, both with novelty weatherboard siding. The house is nearly identical in form to its neighbor at 291 Main.

a. Carport. 1970s. NStructure.

Carport supported by narrow metal poles.

303 Main St. Ca. 1915. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. A gabled roof extension engages a front porch with decorative metal supports and a decorative metal railing. The porch gable has novelty weatherboard siding suggesting it is an early addition. On the west end is an exterior brick chimney that corbels out at the level of the window sills and has an arched brick cap. Other features include a foundation of brick piers with brick infill, replacement 2/2 windows, an ell with a rear extension, and a rear addition with 6/6 windows.

a. Carport. 1970s. NStructure.

Carport supported by narrow metal poles.

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304 Main St. Ca. 1925. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story asbestos-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The engaged front porch has square posts and balusters. There are hipped and gabled wings, presumably additions, on the west side, and an addition and attached shed-roofed carport to the rear. Other features include a brick foundation and replacement 2/2 windows.

309 Main St. Rankin House. Ca. 1898. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story aluminum-sided house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The house has an off-center gabled front wing with sawtooth wood shingles and a rectangular louvered vent in the gable. At the corner of the front wing is an angled bay window. The wraparound porch, which has decorative metal supports and a partial metal railing, has a rounded corner and jogs in response to the house form. Other features include replacement 2/2 windows, a brick foundation, and a modern rear addition with an exterior brick chimney. Present owner Shirley Rankin believes the house was built in 1898. Rankin, a former owner, sold it to her father-in-law, barber William Rankin, who lived here with his wife, Lottie, in the mid-twentieth century. Shirley and her husband Steve Rankin redid the porch in the 1970s and added the rear wing and built a swimming pool in the 1980s. The porch balusters are stored on site. The present owners also rearranged the interior, removing a center passage among other changes.

a. Swimming pool. 1980s. NStructure.

b. Pool house. 1980s. NB.

Frame pool house with two dressing rooms, an open center section, and an asphalt-shingled flat/hip roof with deep eaves.

316 Main St. Ca. 1955. CB. Ranch.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The house has an original, narrower extension on the east end and a small gable supported by triangular brackets over the front entry. Other features include a brick foundation an interior brick flue, 2/2 windows (of the stacked-pane form, in this case probably original rather than replacements), and louvered rectangular gable vents.

a. Carport. 1970s. NStructure.

Carport supported by narrow metal poles.

317 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof, replacement 2/2 windows, a foundation of brick piers with brick infill, and a flat-roofed front entry porch on

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square posts. According to owner Shirley Rankin, this building is half of a store that local residents called "the little store." The other half of the building was moved to Lowell. The remaining section was then made into a dwelling. These changes appear to have occurred in the late 1940s or early 1950s.

324 Main St. Albea House. Ca. 1895. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with a side-gable roof with two prominent front gables. The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal (small sheets, indicating it may be original roofing) except for the inward-facing slopes of the front gables, which are asphalt-shingled. The wraparound porch has turned posts and balusters, sawn brackets, and a dentil bed molding in the cornice. Attached to the front corners of the house inside the porch are small shelves on sawn brackets. The gables are ornamented with sawn decoration and have rectangular vents with decoratively sawn louvers. The front entry is notable for its original double-leaf doors, which have glass panels above chamfered wood panels, and its ornamental surround, which features turned corner blocks and applied arabesque and shell-like decoration. Other features include a brick foundation, interior brick chimneys, 6/6 windows with louvered shutters, and a modern rear addition sided with corrugated metal. Hallie Albea Bentley was born in this house in 1898 and lived here into her nineties. Her husband was John Bentley. Local residents called this section of McAdenville Alby Town.

a. Well shelter. Ca. 1900. CStructure.

Small open wooden structure with an asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof. The structure is mostly hidden from view by undergrowth.

325 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Hip-and-gable cottage.

One-story vinyl-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip-and-gable roof. The shed-roofed front porch stands on square posts. Other features include a brick foundation, replacement 2/2 windows, and a gabled rear wing with an enclosed side porch. Will Bentley lived here in the early twentieth century.

a. Structure. Ca. 1940. CStructure.

This one-story brick structure has a shed roof and an east-facing entry. The structure is probably a pump house.

b. Carport. 1970s. NStructure.

Carport supported by narrow metal poles.

335 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story vinyl-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled triple-A roof (side-gable with centered front gable). The front porch, which shelters about three-quarters of the elevation, has turned posts

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and balusters and sawn brackets. It shelters an entry with an ornate surround featuring incised flutes, scalloped panels, and starbursts capped by a bracketed lintel. Other features include interior brick chimneys at the junctures of the front and two rear ell sections and an addition to the end of the east ell.

a. Garage. Ca. 1965. NB.

This one-story masonite-sided frame building has an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof and a wide vehicle bay with a vinyl roll-up door.

b. Shed. Ca. 1965. NB.

This one-story vinyl-sided frame shed has a gable roof and an attached carport.

342 Main St. Ca. 1940. CB. Period Cottage.

One-story novelty vinyl-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. There is a front wing under an asymmetrical gable that engages an entry porch inside a round archway. Other features include a brick foundation, an exterior brick chimney, an interior brick flue, a small front terrace, an enclosed back porch, and 1/1 and replacement 2/2 windows.

a. Outbuilding. Ca. 1945. CB.

This one-story building has plywood siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The two-part building has six-pane windows and stack-panel doors consistent with a 1940s date of construction, although the present siding is a replacement. The building may have functioned as a workshop.

b. Garage. Ca. 1970. NB.

This one-story frame building has particle-board siding and a front-gable roof covered with asphalt roll roofing.

346 Main St. Ca. 1910. NB. Colonial Revival.

One-story vinyl-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A prominent front gable engages a porch with paneled square wood columns with molded caps and neckings. The porch, which has a six-pane window in the gable, is nearly full-width. The symmetrical three-bay façade has tall windows with molded surrounds and lintels and narrow apron panels. The front entry surround has fluted pilasters. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney with a rebuilt cap, cornice returns, 2/2 windows, and an enclosed rear shed porch. The house appears to be a mid-twentieth-century reworking of an early twentieth-century house.

a. Garage. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story vinyl-sided frame garage has an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof and two

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vehicle bays with vinyl doors.

b. Outbuilding. Ca. 1950. CB.

This one-story frame building has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof and what appears to be masonite siding.

c. Outbuilding. Ca. 1950. CB.

This one-story weatherboard-sided frame building has a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. It may have been built as a garden shed or playhouse.

355 Main St. 1977. NB.

One-story brick-veneered frame or cinder block building with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, textured brick (mostly dull red with some olive green bricks), plate glass doors and windows, and a deep overhang on the east side. Optometrist Dr. Gwen R. Bynum moved into this newly completed building in October 1977. Dr. Christopher K. Mauney Family Eye Care is the present occupant.

356 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story asbestos-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled triple-A roof (side-gable with centered front gable). The wraparound porch has turned posts. Sawn decoration survives in the east gable. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, replacement 2/2 windows, and a large front picture window.

360 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with a shingle-pattern pressed-metal triple-A roof (side-gable with centered front gable). The wraparound porch has turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets. The front entry has a surround with a bracketed lintel and an early or original wood and glass panel door with chamfered panels. In the gables are sawn ornament and peaked vents with decoratively sawn louvers. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, 2/2 windows, and an ell with a side wing and a diminutive interior brick flue.

367 Main St. W. H. Rumfelt House. Ca. 1890. CB. Italianate.

Two-story vinyl-sided frame house with a metal-sheathed hip roof and a bracketed cornice. The two-tier porch has a lower tier that shelters the entry and flanking pairs of windows and an upper tier that shelters only the center bay (an entry). Each tier has turned posts and balusters and arched brackets. On the first tier the curve of the brackets continues as an arched cut-out in the porch frieze. The main entry has a surround with brackets and dentils and the dentils also ornament the lintels of the windows under the porch. Other windows have modern dentils that evoke the historic ones. The brick foundation is parged, and there are interior brick flues with unusual stepped caps with deleted bricks to create smoke holes. The form of the house suggests it has a one-room-deep

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plan. Other features include 2/2 windows (paired on the front), an integral two-story ell with an enclosed two-tier side porch, and a small one-story addition on the west side. W. H. Rumfelt is believed to have had the house built in the late 1880s, a period of construction borne out by the style of the house. G. W. Rumfelt—perhaps a later owner of the house—served as McAdenville's postmaster in the early twentieth century and is listed as a grocer and fruit and confectionery dealer in period business directories.

a. Garage. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story frame garage has aluminum or other synthetic siding, an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof, a cinder block foundation, an open shed or carport addition, and plywood and glass panel doors.

b. Outbuilding. Ca. 2000. NB.

This one-story frame outbuilding has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. It may be a storage shed or playhouse.

c. Shed. Ca. 2000. NB.

This one-story frame outbuilding has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, T1-11 siding, and an open shed addition.

d. Gazebo. Ca. 2000. NStructure.

This frame gazebo has an asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof and an octagonal form.

e. Privy. Ca. 2000. NB.

This one-story frame privy has the standard narrow form and shed roof. It may be functional but is more likely a reproduction.

368 Main St. Ca. 1975. NB. Minimal Traditional.

Story-and-a-half brick-veneered frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The engaged front porch has square wood or metal posts. Other features include light red brickwork, 8/8 windows, an east wing with multiple windows (perhaps a sunroom), an interior brick flue, and interior brick chimney, and a large shed dormer across the rear.

374 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Hip-and-gable cottage.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with a high asphalt-shingled hip-and-gable roof. The nearly full-width front porch has square wood columns that are mid-twentieth-century replacements. A side wing that terminates in an angled bay window appears to be an original feature. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, 4/4 windows with louvered shutters, a rectangular louvered vent in the front gable, and a side porch with modern

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turned posts. According to present owners Donna and Jim Randolph, wood shingles survive under the present asphalt-shingle roofing, and a well is located under the kitchen.

a. Shed. Ca. 1970. NB.

This one-story weatherboard-sided frame shed has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof and an open shed wing on the south side. The building is barely visible from the street.

379 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story aluminum-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled triple-A roof (side-gable with centered front gable). The nearly full-width front porch has decorative metal supports and a simple metal railing. Other features include a brick foundation, replacement 2/2 windows, and an attached carport on the east side that stands on square posts.

382 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story vinyl-sided frame house with a shingle-pattern pressed-metal side-gable roof. The wraparound porch stands on tapered wood posts that are probably replacements dating to the second quarter of the twentieth century. Other features include an interior brick chimney, 4/4 and replacement 6/6 windows, cornice returns, and a gabled front wing.

a. Shed. Ca. 1930. CB.

This one-story weatherboard-sided frame shed has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, a reused nineteenth-century five-panel door, and a modern wood shed addition.

387 Main St. Ca. 1890. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled triple-A roof (side-gable with centered front gable). The nearly full-width front porch has square wood columns that are not original. In the gables are rectangular louvered vents and Gothic-inspired sawn ornament featuring trefoil and quatrefoil cutouts. Other features include replacement 2/2 windows, cornice returns, an attached carport on metal poles, and a rear wing with a modern deck.

393 Main St. Ca. 1940. CB. Front-gable cottage.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The gabled front porch, which shelters about half of the elevation, has square wood columns with molded caps and replacement square balusters. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick flue, 6/6 windows, and an attached carport on metal poles.

396 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story novelty vinyl-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front porch has square posts and modern square balusters. Other features include a brick foundation, 4/4

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and 6/6 windows, a late twentieth-century shed addition, and a rear deck.

a. Shed. Ca. 1980. NB.

This one-story frame shed has T1-11 siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof.

403 Main St. Ca. 1900. CB. Late Victorian.

One-story weatherboard-sided frame house with a complex asphalt-shingled gable roof. The wraparound porch has replacement metal supports and is screened at the east end. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick flue, reeded corner boards, 4/4 windows, and rectangular louvered vents in the gables. There is a rear wing with an extension with novelty weatherboard siding.

413 Main St. Ca. 1940. CB. Minimal Traditional.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The gabled front entry porch stands on classical columns and has exposed rafter ends. Other features include a brick foundation, an interior brick chimney, an interior brick flue, mostly 6/6 windows, and an attached gabled carport.

149 Park Dr. McAden House. 1880s or 1890s. CB. Queen Anne.

Architecturally sophisticated two-and-a-half-story weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled gambrel roof. The roof, which has flared eaves, features three hipped dormers on the front and back faces. In the wood-shingled gambrel ends are decorative window and louvered vent arrangements, the vents capped by small keyblock lunette panels. The one-story wraparound porch has turned posts with brackets made from turned elements (the balustrade has been replaced by the present 2x4 railing. On the south end are two one-story projections, above one of which is a balcony with a hip roof, spindle frieze, square posts with flowing pierced brackets, and a low railing. There is a gabled two-story ell with a gabled one-story extension that was probably a kitchen. It has a screened side porch with turned posts. The front entry has sidelights and a reeded surround. Other exterior features include a brick foundation and a concrete handicap ramp to the west end of the porch. The interior has a wide center passage and a stair with square balusters and newels, the latter with carved rosettes and intricate chamfering. The mantels feature turned elements, reeding, and other decorative carving, and several have mirrored overmantels with whatnot shelves supported by spindles. Many interior walls have paneling that probably dates to a 1969 renovation.

Rufus Yancey McAden (1833-89) was born in Caswell County and served in the state legislature in the 1860s. In 1866 he was elected speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives and the following year he was recruited to serve as the president of the newly formed First National Bank in Charlotte. In 1868 he became vice president of the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad and was

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involved in the construction of that line as well as two others, the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad and the Spartanburg, Union and Columbia Railroad. His involvement in the textile industry is outlined in Section 8 of this report. McAden married Mary Floyd Terry (1840-1902) of Virginia in 1859 and the couple raised six children. Most of the time the family lived in Charlotte; their McAdenville house served in part as a summer retreat. As Robert A. Ragan puts it, the McAdens "would use the home often in the summer months or whenever they were in the village." A provision of R. Y. McAden's will gave Mary McAden lifetime ownership of the house and twenty acres. (Presumably the will referred to this house, although the advanced design of the house and Colonial Revival influence suggests it was built later, possibly in the 1890s.) After Mary's death in 1902 the house passed to McAden Mills. Caretaker Bill Campbell and his family lived in the house in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. A ca. 1930 photograph shows that the house had a polychrome paint scheme probably left over from an earlier period.

a. Playing field. Ca. 1970. NSite.

Occupying a man-made terrace behind (west of) the house is a football field with concrete bleachers on its south side. A portable concession stand sits next to the bleachers.

b. Shed. Ca. 1990. NB.

This one-story frame shed has a shed roof and wooden siding. It is probably used for sports equipment storage.

c. Pharr Monument. 1982. NObject.

This small granite monument bears a bronze plaque dedicated to former mill owner William James Pharr. It is encircled by a brick walkway and shaded by an oak tree in the island formed by the circular drive that comes up to the house.

1XX Park Dr. Pump station. Ca. 1940. CB.

One-story cinder block building, overgrown with ivy, that has several rectangular louvered vents and may have a flat roof. The building is downhill from the two water towers on Hallie Bentley Drive, to which it may be functionally related.

107 Poplar St. 1880s, 1960s. NB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The nearly full-width, pedimented front portico has square wood columns and is added so that it covers the front second-story windows. Other features include an interior flue (cinder block above the ridge), replacement 2/2 windows, and part of a one-story weatherboard-sided frame rear addition with one surviving undercut forward-facing entry. In the late twentieth century, perhaps in the 1960s, a Colonial Revival style service station was added

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to the east side and rear of the house. The station has brick-veneered cinder block construction and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof with a prominent front gable over the office. The front gable projects slightly and is supported by square posts (probably steel) with molded caps and neckings. Next to the office is a shed-roofed brick compartment with a roll-up metal door that may once have contained vending machines. Other features of the station include multi-pane office windows, two garage bays facing Wesleyan Drive (the station's address is 118 Wesleyan), a rear garage extension, and a sunken parking lot bordered by a brick retaining wall. The service station was a Union station in 1967. A cobbler named Steve Watts may have occupied this house around the turn of the twentieth century.

117-119 Poplar St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The nearly full-width, two-story, one-tier front porch has square wood columns and a novelty weatherboard frieze. There is a one-story weatherboard-sided frame rear addition with an asphalt-shingled hip roof, a brick foundation, and undercut forward-facing entries. Other features include an interior brick chimney, replacement 2/2 windows, and a side parking lot.

123 Poplar St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (single dwelling).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings, although this house and the ones at 143 Poplar Street and 149 Main Street are the only surviving original mill houses with single entries. The present, full-width, one-story front porch has wood posts and a shed roof. It replaces a lower hip-roofed porch. There are no door or window openings on the east elevation of the brick section, which is the wall on which the stair rises on the interior. Other features include a one-story weatherboard-sided frame rear addition and replacement 2/2 windows. The house is surrounded by parking lots on both sides.

143 Poplar St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (single dwelling).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings, although this house and the ones at 123 Poplar Street and 149 Main Street are the only surviving original mill houses with single entries. The full-width, two-story, single-tier front porch has square wood columns and a wide beaded tongue-and-groove frieze. To the rear is a one-story weatherboard-sided frame addition with an asphalt-shingled gable roof and a shed-roofed extension. Other features include a honeycomb brick vent in the front gable, an interior brick chimney, and a lack of openings on the east side of the brick section. A

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Truliant automatic teller machine stands in the parking lot on the east side of the house.

147 Poplar St. Ca. 1925. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof (almost pyramidal). A small gable on triangular brackets shelters the front entry. Other features include a foundation of brick piers with brick infill, original 6/6 windows on the sides, replacement 2/2 windows on the front, and a rear shed extension.

151-153 Poplar St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch first-story side window openings. The front windows and doors have flat heads. The full-width, one-story front porch has square posts, a shed roof, and a wide beaded tongue-and-groove frieze that has been mostly replaced with plywood. There is a patch in the roof where the former interior brick chimney was. Other features include a honeycomb brick vent in the front gable (filled with mortar) and a one-story weatherboard-sided frame rear addition with an asphalt-shingled hip roof and forward-facing entries on each side. The brick part of the house is in fairly good condition but the frame part is deteriorated.

155 Poplar St. Ca. 1925. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof (almost pyramidal). The inset front corner porch has a single square post, a 2x4 railing, and a modern wood handicap ramp. Other features include a foundation of brick piers with brick infill, replacement 2/2 windows, and a rear shed extension.

161-163 Poplar St. 1880s. CB. Brick mill house (duplex).

Two-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has the characteristic McAdenville mill village house form with American-bond brickwork, a two-bay front elevation, and segmental-arch door and window openings. The full-width, one-story front porch has an almost flat shed roof and square wood columns. The one-story weatherboard-sided frame rear addition has an asphalt-shingled hip roof and forward-facing entries on each side. Other features include an interior brick chimney, replacement 2/2 windows, and a concrete front walk that splits to serve both front entries.

165 Poplar St. Ca. 1925. CB. Hip-roof cottage.

One-story novelty weatherboard-sided frame house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The engaged full-width front porch has square wood columns. There are two entries on the east side, one under a small shed roof supported by struts, the other with a concrete pad. Other features include a brick foundation, replacement 2/2 windows, and a rear shed wing with a hip-roofed extension.

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### **Architect/Builder (continued)**

Gray, George Alexander (builder or engineer of Mill No. 1)  
McMichael, James Mackson (architect of R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall)  
Moore, Joe Tandy Sr. (architect of McAdenville Community Building)  
Morton, Julian (designer for remodeling, Ray-Pharr House)  
Ray, Robert Rankin (a builder of Mill No. 2 and Mill No. 3)  
Rhyne, Alice (interior designer, Ray-Pharr House)

### **NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **Summary Statement of Significance**

The McAdenville Historic District, located in Gaston County, North Carolina, encompasses most of the historic McAdenville mill village. McAdenville was established around McAden Mills, a textile manufacturing complex established by Charlotte businessman Rufus Yancey McAden in 1881. McAden's first mill, McAden Mill No. 1 (1881-82), is mostly gone, and of McAden Mill No. 2 (1884-85) only the bell tower, medieval turrets, and a castellated façade survive. More complete is McAden Mill No. 3 (1906-07), with its unusual Classical Revival façade. R. Y. McAden and his associates developed an adjacent mill village comprised of two-story duplexes and single dwellings constructed of brick, a material rarely used for Southern mill village housing. Fifteen 1880s brick mill houses survive along Main and Poplar streets. On the hill overlooking the mills and village the McAden family erected two large Queen Anne residences of unusual form and detail. In the early and mid-twentieth century a commercial district emerged at the east end of Main Street. Frame mill houses were interspersed among the brick ones and erected along Aviary Court, an offshoot of Main Street. An enclave of privately owned houses including several notable examples of the Late Victorian, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles developed along the west end of Main Street. The social center of the village was the R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall, a Classical Revival library and assembly hall constructed in 1907. McAden Mills was the largest manufacturer of cotton goods in Gaston County in the early 1880s, but the company's output was eventually eclipsed by mills in Gastonia and the county's other communities. After closing during the Great Depression, the mill was acquired by the Stowe and Pharr families in 1939 and returned to prosperity. The new ownership also revitalized the mill village, which gained a community center and Baptist and Methodist churches in the Colonial Revival style during the late 1940s and 1950s. Today McAdenville is known for its village ambiance and world-famous Christmas Town lights.

The McAdenville Historic District meets National Register Criterion A in the area of industry and Criterion C in the area of architecture. The period of significance extends from the begin date of

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construction of McAden Mill No. 2 in 1884, also the approximate date of construction of at least some of the brick mill houses, to 1961, embracing development up through the period of the village's revitalization in the late 1940s through the early 1960s. The period of significance extends into the fifty year period to acknowledge the architectural contribution of the Colonial Revival-style McAdenville United Methodist Church which was designed in 1960 and completed in 1961. Its classical portico and Colonial Revival design follows the local design trend established with the 1949 Community Building and 1956 McAdenville Baptist Church, in addition to the tall porches added to some of the houses. The period after 1961 is not of exceptional significance. The McAdenville Historic District is of local significance.

### Historical Background/Community Development and Industry Contexts

R. Y. McAden established McAden Mills and McAdenville in the early 1880s, but a settlement of some sort already existed at the location on the west bank of the South Fork of the Catawba River. In the eighteenth century the site was known as Henderson Shoals, combining the name of landowner James Henderson and shoals on the river that served as a ford. Around 1800 Adam Alexander Springs (1776-1840) acquired land at the ford, which became known as Springs Shoals. After Springs' death, W. A. Stowe and Jasper Stowe purchased land at Springs Shoals and operated a tanyard there. It was from the Stowe family and others with rights to the property that Rufus Yancey McAden and his executors acquired the Springs Shoals property beginning in 1880.<sup>1</sup>

Charlotte businessman Rufus Yancey McAden (1833-89) pursued a career in politics and finance before branching into the railroad business in 1868. That year he was made vice president of the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad, which was completed through Gaston County in the early 1870s. McAden managed the construction of the Atlanta and Charlotte line as well as two others, the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad and the Spartanburg, Union and Columbia Railroad. The enhanced rail service of the era was a factor in the phenomenal rise of textile manufacturing in Gaston County and the surrounding region. North Carolina's cotton manufacturing industry had its beginnings in the region with the establishment of the Lincoln Cotton Mills in Lincoln County in the 1810s (at the time, the Gaston County area was part of Lincoln County, which now adjoins it to the north). During the period 1848 to 1853 three cotton mills were established on Gaston County's South Fork of the Catawba River. One of the mills was begun by Jasper Stowe, who also owned the

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<sup>1</sup> Miller, *McAdenville*, 19, 30; Gaston County Deed Book 10, p. 417, and Deed Book 18, pages 114 and 561. A number of individuals and organizations helped with the preparation of the nomination. Foremost among these were preservationist Lucy Penegar, Gaston County Planner, David Williams, and the Carstarphen family. Tim Gibson with Pharr Yarns Inc. assisted the author in accessing various mill-owned buildings. Assistance was also provided by Catherine Stowe Pharr Carstarphen, James Martin "Bip" Carstarphen, Bill Clay, William H. Cozart Jr., Jenna Koone, Joe Tandy Moore Jr., Joe Tandy Moore III, Donna Randolph, Jim Randolph, Shirley Rankin, Harvey Roberts, R. V. D. "Dick" Roberts Jr., and Gail Sisk.

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Springs Shoals property, which he presumably acquired with the intention of eventually establishing a cotton mill there. In addition to its rail connections, Gaston County was a prime location for water-powered cotton manufacturing on account of its many fast-flowing rivers and streams, its location in the midst of a cotton growing region, and the availability of cheap labor. By 1897 Gaston County had the largest number of cotton mills of any county in the state, twenty-two total, representing 10.6 percent of the state total of 207 cotton mills. The county also ranked number one in manufacturing capacity, with 115,034 spindles in operation (eleven percent of the state total).<sup>2</sup>

No doubt inspired by other Charlotte entrepreneurs who entered the cotton manufacturing business after the Civil War, R. Y. McAden incorporated the Springs Shoals Manufacturing Company in February 1881. McAden's partners included his son Benjamin T. McAden, Dr. J. H. McAden (probably a brother), and Jasper Stowe. Construction of the factory known as Mill No. 1 began in 1881 and was completed the following year. As historian Robert Ragan notes, the company's original charter made no provision for a town at the location, but an amendment made in February 1883 stated "that portion of the county of Gaston which lies within a radius of a half-mile from the main factory building of the said corporation be incorporated into a town by the name of McAdenville." The amendment also changed the name of the corporation to McAden Mills. Mill No. 1 was supplied with water channeled from a stone dam across the river via a 600-foot mill race. A waterwheel, probably an undershot wheel, powered the mill machinery. The factory was equipped with 8,500 spindles and by 1883 it employed 160 workers in the daily production of 3,000 pounds of carded cotton yarns and warps. In 1885 the total number of spindles was increased to 15,000 and 300 looms were added. Company letterhead from the 1880s listed warps, yarns, plaids, ginghams, and towels among the mill's products. Other accounts listed "plaids, outings, and other fabrics, plain and dyed," and "colored plaids and drills" among the mill's offerings. In the early 1880s the McAden enterprise was the largest of the county's six cotton mills in terms of capacity. In 1897 it had the most spindles (still 15,000) of the county's twenty-two mills, although not the most looms.<sup>3</sup>

McAden Mills claimed to be the first textile mill in the South to install electric lights. According to historian Billy Miller, "In 1884 Thomas Alva Edison came to McAdenville to oversee and help install the first electrical generator in the South . . . The lights hung from the ceiling of the mills and were spaced about thirty feet apart." "People came from everywhere," Miller adds, to gawk at the miraculous new lighting technology. Robert Ragan dates the electrification to 1883 and states that

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<sup>2</sup> Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 11; Alexander and Mattson, "Belmont Historic District," 8.3-8.4; *Eleventh Annual Report*, 11, 19, 23.

<sup>3</sup> Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 30-32; Miller, *McAdenville*, 54; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 178; Alexander and Mattson, "Historical Architectural Resources Report," 14; *Eleventh Annual Report*, 34; William H. Cozart Jr. and R. V. D. "Dick" Roberts Jr. personal communication.

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Mill No. 1 was the first electrically lighted textile mill in the world. According to another account, mill engineer George A. Gray oversaw the installation of the lights in 1882. Gray is believed to have superintended the construction of the McAden Mills, so his involvement with the electrical engineering is likely, but the date of the lighting installation was most likely 1884, which suggests it was done in conjunction with the building of Mill No. 2 in 1884-85. The lights were powered by an Edison No. 31 Hydro Electric Dynamo, which remained in use until 1955 and is now displayed in the textiles exhibit at the Gaston County Museum in Dallas, North Carolina. For powering the machinery in Mill No. 2, the mill may have had a second mill race.<sup>4</sup>

McAden Mills employed men, women, and children—"mostly women and children in the early days," notes Robert Ragan. The story of Dan Lorance provides a child's perspective on life at the mill. In 1885, at the age of six, Lorance and a relative walked to McAdenville from Lincoln County to see "light in a bottle." Lorance went to work at the mill in 1888 and was paid fifteen cents for a twelve-hour day. His family took the money and gave him a twenty-five-cents allowance. By 1896 Lorance had been made an overseer and his wages were increased to \$1.00 a day. Lorance's father, Lafayette Lorance, operated the mule-drawn narrow-gauge freight railroad that connected the mills at McAdenville with the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railway at Lowell. Known as the "dump," the line extended along Poplar Street and was in existence by 1889. According to Lorance family tradition, Lafayette Lawrence once got into a dispute with the company management over one of his children. Lorance wanted the child to go to school whereas general manager R. R. Ray wanted the child to work in the mill. As Robert Ragan notes of Gaston County's mill owners, they "did not encourage education in the early days, and many children dropped out of school by the eighth grade to contribute to their family's income, just as they had on the farms in earlier times." The Lorance family account does not record how the dispute was resolved, although a public school is known to have been established in McAdenville by the early twentieth century. The family aspect of millwork is also illustrated by the Roberts family. Three generations of Roberts family members worked for the mill from 1896 to the early twenty-first century. Their standing in the community is also reflected by the fact that J. N. Roberts served, in 1896, as one of McAdenville's early mayors.<sup>5</sup>

According to Billy Miller, who drew his information from long-time residents of the town, McAdenville's mills and its brick mill houses—once known as "Brick Row"—were built with contract prison labor. Specific information as to the date of the brick mill houses has not come to light, although most accounts agree they were built in the 1880s, and their style and construction and the needs of the expanding mill workforce also point to that period. Most likely the first brick

<sup>4</sup> Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 31; Miller, *McAdenville*, 36; Bishir and Southern, *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 487; Steele, "Museum exhibit tells textile story;" R. V. D. "Dick" Roberts Jr. personal communication.

<sup>5</sup> Miller, *McAdenville*, 35, 42-44, 66, 75; Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 13, 32; Gaston County Deed Book 18, p. 562; R. V. D. "Dick" Roberts Jr. personal communication.

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mill houses were built in 1882 or 1883, since Mill No. 1 went into production during the second half of 1882 and McAdenville was incorporated soon after in February 1883. The houses may have been erected over a number of years as the mill workforce grew. Subtle variations in house form and detail suggest this, although the variation may instead be due to construction by different builders. An indication that at least some of the houses were built in the early 1880s is suggested by the story of merchant G. W. "Wash" Ragan, who came to town in the early 1880s to operate the company store and lived at first in one of the brick mill houses until a house was secured for him in Lowell. Ragan moved to Gastonia in 1886, therefore his residence in one of McAdenville's brick houses occurred before 1886, presumably several years before. McAdenville's fifteen surviving brick mill houses appear to have been the majority of those that were built. Another house probably stood on an extension of Poplar Street now occupied by Wesleyan Drive and the Mill No. 2 parking lot, and it is possible one stood at the location of the large parking lot between the brick houses at 123 and 143 Poplar Street.<sup>6</sup>

An important fixture in the life of the town was the company store. Billy Miller believes the store was established before or at the same time construction began on Mill No. 1 in 1881. A 1916 photograph in Miller's history of McAdenville shows a board-and-batten building identified as the "company store" washing away in a flood, suggesting the original building stood in the flood-prone area between Mill No. 1 and the South Fork River, or possibly in the equally low-lying area to the south of Mill No. 2. Historian Ila Poole also believes the company store pre-existed the construction of Mill No. 1: "A company store was built to supply the needs of those who took part in the construction work." Members of the McAden family and George Washington Ragan were the original operators of the store, which issued scrip (payment vouchers) reading "McAden Mills will pay to their employees 10 [cents] in merchandise at the McAden & Ragan Store." Edward M. Young joined the firm in 1886, resulting in a name change to McAden-Young General Store, and in 1905, after Young had left, the store went by the name H. M. McAden Mercantile Company (named for Henry M. McAden, a son of Rufus Y. McAden and an official of McAden Mills). The main floor was stocked with groceries, dry goods, notions, and farm implements. The basement contained coffins made by a Mr. Turner at his sawmill located on the river east of Mill No. 3. Turner's coffins were covered with black calico, lined with white cloth, and padded with cotton made at McAden Mills. Robert Ragan writes that Edward M. Young "expanded the business" after he acquired his interest in 1886, perhaps an indication that the present building at 121 Main Street dates to the late 1880s or ca. 1890.<sup>7</sup>

Architectural evidence suggests other commercial buildings were built in the vicinity of the

<sup>6</sup> Miller, *McAdenville*, 31, 97; Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 31-32.

<sup>7</sup> Miller, *McAdenville*, 61; *North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, 1905*, 269; *North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, 1910*, 217; Poole, "Town of McAdenville," 123; Huffman and Hanchett, "Henry M. McAden House;" R. V. D. "Dick" Roberts Jr. personal communication.

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company store by the 1920s (for example, the store buildings at 125 Main Street). A 1905 business directory lists barber shops, a butcher, and a general store in addition to the company store, and a 1910 directory lists many more businesses, including boot and shoe dealers, confectioners, furniture stores, grocers, fruit dealers, and fish and oyster dealers. There are indications that frame commercial buildings once stood in the vicinity of the brick ones that now cluster along the east end of Main Street. At the opposite end of the street at 317 Main Street was a building that according to longtime next-door neighbor Shirley Rankin served the neighborhood as a store (the building, which survives in part, was converted to a dwelling). Dick Roberts, whose family has lived in McAdenville since the 1890s, believes the original commercial district comprised of a store, post office, and barbershop, was located in the Frog Level area (the lake to the south of Mill No. 2, located outside the district), but “kept getting flooded out so much” it moved to Main Street.<sup>8</sup>

The social center of the village for much of the historic period was the R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall, built in 1907 through a bequest of Giles M. McAden. The building’s first-floor library served McAdenville’s public school as well as the broader community. Fraternal organization meetings, youth group meetings, and dances were held in the upstairs hall, which also functioned as a polling place and meeting space for the town government. Librarian Elsie Deaton ran McAden Hall’s various operations from the 1930s to the 1970s and was a force for civic betterment, especially during the difficult years of the Great Depression. In 1949 McAden Hall’s social functions were assumed by the newly completed McAdenville Community Center, which offered banquet facilities, a bowling alley, and other amenities. The community center remains an important village fixture.<sup>9</sup>

At the beginning of the twentieth century, with a population of 1,144 in 1900, McAdenville was Gaston County’s fourth most populous town. The construction of Mill No. 3 in 1906-07, the new office building in 1906, and scores of frame mill houses during the same general period points to continued growth in the early twentieth century. As late as 1935, according to a government survey, McAden Mills had 28,000 spindles and a capitalization of \$500,000, respectable figures compared to other of the county’s mills. Manufacturing capacity was not the whole picture, however, for demand collapsed during the Great Depression. The year 1935 happened to be a dark one for the community. McAden Mills closed and historians note that McAdenville turned into a virtual ghost town as residents moved away in search of employment. The community’s fortunes improved in 1939 when three local industrialists—R. L. Stowe, his son Daniel Jonathan Stowe, and his son-in-law William James Pharr—purchased the mills and village with their own capital and a \$150,000 loan from the New Deal Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Billy Miller describes conditions found by the new owner, Stowe Mills: “The machinery was old, out-dated, rusted, and some had

<sup>8</sup> Miller, *McAdenville*, 31, 37; Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 31-32; Poole, “Town of McAdenville,” 123; Shirley Rankin and R. V. D. “Dick” Roberts Jr. personal communication.

<sup>9</sup> Huffman, “R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall and Library;” R. V. D. “Dick” Roberts Jr. personal communication.

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fallen partly through the floor. The roof on each of the three mill buildings needed to be repaired and/or replaced.” The mill village housing was also in deplorable condition. Stowe Mills began to install new equipment in May 1939 and in October the first shipments of cotton yarn were made. The renewed operations coincided with the beginnings of World War II, and Miller notes, “Soon the plants were running full blast and demand exceeded supply for the first time in many years.” McAdenville’s population of 887 in 1940 probably represented a rebound from the disastrous 1930s. Still, because of the growth of the county’s other textile communities since 1900, the figure ranked McAdenville only the tenth most populous town in the county.<sup>10</sup>

Stowe Mills and McAdenville prospered through World War II and after. In 1950 the company formed a subsidiary, Pharr Yarns Incorporated, to spin yarn from nylon and other synthetic fibers. Growth in the use of synthetics for carpeting led Stowe Mills/Pharr Yarns to convert two of the three McAdenville mills to carpet yarn manufacturing. According to Robert Ragan, the post-war move into synthetics created “one of the largest and most progressive textile firms” in the state and generated “personal fortunes matched by few others in North Carolina” for William Pharr and Daniel Stowe. Pharr Yarns eventually eclipsed Stowe Mills as the larger manufacturer and today is the principal concern in McAdenville. Changes in the industry during the late twentieth century and the early years of the twenty-first have led to a decrease from peak company payrolls of 6,000 employees in the 1970s to just over 2,000 in 2006. The town lost a third of its population between 1970 and 2002 and the housing vacancy rate increased from 5% in 1990 to 12% in 2000. In 2006 Pharr Yarns joined with Charlotte homebuilder Saussy Burbank to redevelop the section of town located to the south of the district on Wesleyan Drive. When the redevelopment is complete, close to two hundred “neotraditional” houses with front porches and detached garages will replace the fifty mill houses that formerly occupied the section.<sup>11</sup>

McAdenville is best known today for its popular Christmas Town lights. In 1956 (or 1957, accounts differ) the McAdenville Men’s Club decorated a few trees around the McAdenville Community Center. The mill management adopted the nascent initiative and William Pharr’s wife, Catherine Stowe Pharr, suggested a color scheme of red, green, and white lights. In the late 1950s the mill began to plant spruce trees throughout the town to augment the Christmas theme. Many spruces were lost during Hurricane Hugo in 1989 but have since been replanted. In 1999 over 300,000 vehicles toured the town-wide event and in 2004 more than 375 trees were decorated. The spruces and other evergreen plantings lend visual appeal to McAdenville year round.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Pope, *Millhands and Preachers*, 52; Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 181-182; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 151, 158, 159; Miller, *McAdenville*, 83, 85, 88; Hains, “Doffing the Mill Houses.”

<sup>11</sup> Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 181-182; Hains, “Doffing the Mill Houses;” *Charlotte Observer*, May 17, 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Christmas Town, USA, website; Gaston County tourism website; Miller, *McAdenville*, 166; Catherine Stowe Pharr Carstarphen personal communication.

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### Architecture Context

In their guide to the architecture of Piedmont North Carolina, architectural historians Catherine Bishir and Michael Southern suggest McAdenville is “surely the state’s most picturesque textile mill town.” The community’s picturesque character is the result of a number of factors. One is the quality of the architecture—the well-constructed brick mill houses; the ornamental fronts of the mill buildings; anchor buildings such as the Baptist and Methodist churches, the R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall, and the McAdenville Community Building; and the stylistic variety of the frame houses that line the west end of Main Street. The trees that line village streets and form a backdrop for the houses create a refreshing leafy setting for the architecture, and the gentle curve of Main Street as it descends into the South Fork River valley provides topographical relief. The fact that much of the village was and is owned by the mill interests, coupled with the fact that the mill owners have traditionally maintained residences in the village or (particularly since 1939) have permanently resided there, contributes to a high standard of maintenance of buildings and yards. Commercial and residential buildings are for the most part occupied. From its earliest years McAdenville had something of a promotional quality, manifested in the whimsical castle design of Mill No. 2, and that aspect of the community’s persona was reinforced in the 1950s and 1960s by the development of the McAdenville Aviary Gardens and the ongoing Christmas Town event, an important seasonal tourist attraction.<sup>13</sup>

From the 1880s onward the manufacturing plants—the mills—were the dominant buildings in the community. The first of these were Mill No. 1 (1881-82) and Mill No. 2 (1884-85). The two mills were built only a few years apart, but they differed dramatically in architectural character. Mill No. 1 was a competent building that met the key requirements of its type. The mill was built of brick, an aspect of the “slow-burn” construction strategy intended to limit fire risk, and it had multiple large windows to provide adequate illumination for workers. The fire-preventive construction of Mill No. 1 and McAdenville’s later mills was an outgrowth of practices first codified in the 1830s by the New England Factory Mutual, an association formed by New England textile manufacturers to reduce fire insurance costs. Slow-burn construction and provision for natural illumination were standard elements of the cotton mills built in Gaston County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>14</sup>

The principal decorative feature of Mill No. 1 was the corbelling that formed a sawtooth pattern under the stepped front parapet—a slightly more elaborate version of a standard treatment for brick buildings of the era. Mill No. 2, on the other hand, was designed to make an architectural statement for promotional purposes. The battlemented corner turrets and front parapet evoked the romance of

<sup>13</sup> Bishir and Southern, *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 486.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 52; Brengle, *Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 16-17.

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medieval castles and made a visit to McAdenville to see the mill a memorable event. Through its height the central tower added to the effect (whether it too originally had a medieval character is uncertain). The electric lights installed in 1884 had a primarily functional purpose, but considering the novelty of the technology it seems likely R. Y. McAden and his associates knew the lights would have public relations value as well. The theatrical architecture and innovative technology may have been planned to be complementary—a magically illuminated fairy castle in the vale of the South Fork River. Mills in Gaston County and elsewhere in the state often featured at least a modicum of decoration, including Romanesque Revival treatments of focal points such as towers, but medievalism as literal as that conceived for Mill No. 2 is apparently rare. (An exception is Gastonia's Trenton Cotton Mill, discussed on page 51.) Behind the medieval façade, Mill No. 2 was as utilitarian as Mill No. 1.<sup>15</sup>

Presumably McAden and his associates directed their architectural promotion at two audiences: potential investors and potential employees. The 1880s and 1890s were a period of rapid increase in the number of cotton mills in Gaston County. From the six plants in operation in the early 1880s the number quadrupled to twenty-four plants in 1900. A mill that stood out through distinctive architecture or innovative technology would have been more likely to impress potential investors. Competition also existed for workers. Robert Ragan writes: "As the local labor source dwindled and the mills' needs continued to increase, mill owners and chambers of commerce looked west and sent agents, also known as 'hawkers,' to begin posting signs on mountain tree stumps: 'Mill Hands Wanted. Paying Good Money.'" Historical accounts note the regional inhabitants who came to admire the "light in a bottle" at McAden Mills, and many of these would have been induced to work at the mills. Considering other mills would have offered comparably good wages and prospects for steady employment, any inducements that would have given McAden Mills an edge in the competition for quality labor would have been a plus for the enterprise.<sup>16</sup>

Good housing was one of the inducements offered by mill management. To understand the unusual brick mill houses constructed for the McAden Mills operatives it is helpful to consider the characteristics of mill housing and labor arrangements in New England, the nation's premiere textile manufacturing region during the nineteenth century and an important source of inspiration for the industry in North Carolina. Two basic labor arrangements developed in New England during the early nineteenth century: the Lowell system, predicated on single females lodged in boarding houses, and the "Rhode Island or family system of labor," based on the recruitment of "families that could contribute several members and housing them in single family units." Historian Bess Beatty notes that some early southern manufacturers, such as South Carolina's William Gregg, the so-called father of the southern textile industry, experimented unsuccessfully with the Lowell system

<sup>15</sup> Brengle, *Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 16-17, 192.

<sup>16</sup> Ragan, *Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 13.

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in the antebellum period before turning to the Rhode Island system. North Carolina industrialist Edwin M. Holt adopted the Rhode Island system at the outset when he developed his Alamance Factory and mill village in the 1830s and 1840s. A visitor to the Alamance Mill Village in 1849 commented, “around this mill quite a village of neat log-houses, occupied by the operatives, [was] collected, and every thing had the appearance of thrift.”<sup>17</sup>

In Rhode Island itself, the family system of labor was expressed by a diversity of mill housing types and methods of construction. Early mill housing, such as four 1810s frame mill houses with gambrel roofs in the village of Old Ashton, could be similar to vernacular house forms. Also from the 1810s is a courtyard arrangement of three stone duplexes associated with the Granite Mill in Providence. The three houses have simple rectangular forms and gable roofs with habitable garrets. Surviving examples from later decades suggest duplex mill houses of masonry (usually brick) construction were the norm in Rhode Island, with single-family and three- or four-family residences less common. As architectural historian William Jordy notes of mill housing in the textile center of Woonsocket, “Two-family houses were the rule until the appearance of the triple-decker around 1885.” Virtually all Rhode Island mill houses were constructed as detached dwellings, albeit often with little space between the houses. Another aspect of Rhode Island mill houses was their size. Most documented surviving examples are at least a story-and-a-half in height, and many are a full two stories or even two-and-a-half stories in height.<sup>18</sup>

As products of the Rhode Island labor system, North Carolina’s detached family mill houses were broadly similar to their Rhode Island counterparts. They differed in two important respects, however. North Carolina mill houses were generally one story in height. A preponderance of Gaston County’s mill houses were one-story high, as documented by architectural historian Kim Brengle. The other difference was construction material. North Carolina mill houses were almost invariably frame. In the South as a whole, according to a 1917 U. S. Department of Labor survey, only three percent of the 10,609 houses covered in the survey were built of brick or other non-frame construction. Daniel A. Tompkins of Charlotte, a leading authority on the design of mills and mill villages in the South during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, pointed to the rural Southern tradition of wooden construction as the reason. Tompkins, who had worked in a Northern industrial city as a young man, stressed the importance of taking into consideration the expectations of the workforce in the design of mill housing. In *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features* (1899), Tompkins related the example of the “utter failure” of a Southern cotton mill that misjudged the living preferences of its workforce, leaving it with “only the least competent operatives.” Tompkins published frame mill house designs from the Atherton Mill Village in Charlotte, which he constructed in 1893, as appropriate models for Southern mill villages. According to research by

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<sup>17</sup> Beatty, *Alamance*, 53-54; Lupold, “Gregg, William,” 743.

<sup>18</sup> Jordy, *Buildings of Rhode Island*, 202, 205, 234, 261-262, 271, 418.

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historian Dan Morrill, in a 1906 letter to a New Jersey textile official, Tompkins “answered the charge of those who insisted that he was derelict in not erecting brick row houses like those found in the industrial cities of the North . . . He justified his actions by emphasizing the rural background of his mill workers. He argued that frame cottages on individual lots were more in keeping with the desires and proclivities which his laborers had brought from the farm.”<sup>19</sup>

The 1917 housing survey identified a number of attributes of the small percentage of brick-built southern mill houses. Most significantly, brick mill houses were generally the oldest dwellings. Of the 547 mill houses reported to have been built before 1881, 173, or 32 percent, were brick. The percentage dropped to 2 percent in the 1881-1890 period and a miniscule four houses out of 2,622 in the 1891-1900 period. No brick mill houses were reported to have been built during the years 1901 to 1917. (The 1917 survey collected data from a small sample of mills—only 3.9 percent of the mills in operation in North Carolina, for example, although the selected mills tended to be among the state’s larger plants. Whether McAden Mills was included in the survey is unknown.) On average brick mill houses were more highly valued as assets than frame houses. Most were in the form of row houses (42.66 percent), followed by semidetached houses (21.16 percent; the survey appears to have used semidetached to describe duplexes), detached (13.65 percent), and miscellaneous (22.53 percent). The 1917 survey noted that 191 of the 293 enumerated brick mill houses were located in a single Georgia city.<sup>20</sup>

The 1917 survey indicates that brick mill housing was viable early in the development of the southern textile industry but that it was quickly supplanted by the less expensive frame construction. Paralleling this trend is the drop off in row house construction, from 127 units before 1881, none during the 1881-1890 period, thirteen during the 1891-1900 period, and none thereafter. Of the 140 row houses (1.3 percent of the total number of mill houses in the survey), 119 were brick. The association of brick construction and the row house form suggests the adoption of northern industrial housing practices by the early industry followed by movement towards the detached frame housing that became the norm in southern mill villages as the industry matured. In this context, McAdenville’s detached, brick, two-story mill houses are transitional between northern and southern mill housing practices, although closer to the northern model and especially to the norm in Rhode Island, where row-house mill housing was rare. Except for the wide-spacing between the houses—which was most likely for garden space, although it also provided for future infill—the McAdenville mill village as built in the 1880s would not have been out of place on the banks of a Rhode Island river.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Brengle, *Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 18-22, 202; Hyde, “Southern Cotton-Mill Villages,” 139, 145; Tompkins, *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features*, 117; Morrill, “Atherton Mill House.”

<sup>20</sup> Hyde, “Southern Cotton-Mill Villages,” 140, 141, 145, 153.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 140; Lucy Penegar personal communication; Jordy, *Buildings of Rhode Island*, 202.

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As D. A. Tompkins pointed out in his cautionary tale of dissatisfied southern mill workers, mill houses like McAdenville's still had to function within the local culture. The brick construction of the houses may have been important in this regard, since brick houses were traditionally a sign of affluence. Tompkins' theory of frame construction notwithstanding, R. Y. McAden and his associates may have wagered that the economically disadvantaged small farmers and laborers they hoped to attract to their enterprise would have seen brick housing as a distinct improvement over the rudimentary log and frame farmhouses with which they were accustomed. For the McAdens, the additional cost of brick construction must have seemed worth the investment—at least initially, during the early phase of the regional industry, for by the end of the century the McAden Mills management was erecting frame housing of the standard Southern mill village type. It is interesting that the 1880s management team chose brick for its mill houses when there may already have been a local frame-built mill village to serve as a model. In 1874 the Wilson and Moore Cotton Mill was constructed at Spencer Mountain several miles upstream from McAdenville on the South Fork River. The Spencer Mountain mill houses were one-story frame dwellings with gable and triple-A roofs. The date of construction for these houses (which were torn down in recent years) is uncertain, although at least some presumably dated to the establishment of the mill in the 1870s.<sup>22</sup>

The fifteen surviving McAdenville brick mill houses are of two types. The duplexes, which are the majority, have a wide form with dual front entries that signal the side-by-side living units within. The narrower single-entry houses, which were presumably intended for occupancy by a single family each, survive only at 123 and 143 Poplar Street and 149 Main Street. Both the duplexes and single dwellings have two-room-deep plans. A number of the duplexes have decorative gable treatments consisting of a spare gridwork of attached boards, a simplified Queen Anne or Stick Style influence. Many of the houses have changes in the color of the brickwork that suggest different brick lots were used in construction. Such variation is often seen in period industrial construction and the party walls of commercial buildings where appearance was not paramount, but is rare in domestic construction. It seems likely the houses were built with front porches, although evidence for this is sketchy. A 1910s photograph shows what may be the house at 142-144 Main without a front porch, and according to historian Billy Miller other brick mill houses on the street lacked porches at the time. In the 1940s at least some of the Main Street houses had one-story porches with decorative roof balustrades. The Poplar Street houses had one-story hip-roofed porches in the 1940s. The porches illustrated in 1940s photographs were apparently added after the change of ownership in 1939 and represent one of the many improvements made to the village after the neglect of the depression and war years. The great variety in the form and detail of the porches, most noticeably the mix of one- and two-story forms, was presumably done to vary their appearance for aesthetic effect, although some of the variation is due to changes over time. As built the houses lacked indoor plumbing. Historian Joseph Separk stated in 1949 that the town's

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<sup>22</sup> Brengle, *Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 19, 202; Lucy Penegar personal communication.

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residences “have the advantage of water, sewerage, and lights.” In 1956 and/or 1957 one-story frame rear additions containing modern bathrooms and kitchens were made to the 1880s brick mill houses.<sup>23</sup>

Ultimately, the McAden Mills management switched to frame mill house construction. The largest concentration of frame mill houses formerly stood in the mill village annex on the hill to the south of downtown along Wesleyan Drive. A 1910s photograph shows two-story weatherboard-sided frame dwellings with interior brick chimneys in this area. That some of these houses were built with two stories may reflect the precedent set by the multi-story 1880s houses. (The annex mill houses have been torn down and the area is excluded from the district.) Another group of frame mill houses, one story in height, appears to have stood in the area known as Frog Level which is now occupied by the pond on the south side of Mill No. 2 and outside the district. Flood photographs from the 1910s show these houses with gable roofs and hip roofs with wood shingle sheathing (the fact that the houses were photographed while under water suggests why they were eventually torn down and the area made into a pond). Boarding houses once stood in McAdenville as well. One was located between the intersection of Main and Elm streets and the Baptist Church at 192 Main. Another stood further down Main Street, just uphill from Mill No. 3, and is said to have been “the same length as the mill.” Whether these were boarding houses on the model of the Lowell system of unmarried female workers, or simply lodgings for single or temporary male workers, is unknown.<sup>24</sup>

McAdenville’s surviving frame mill houses are typical of the kinds of mill houses built in the county and the region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The two that stand at 129 and 131 Elm Street have the simple gabled three-bay form, front porch, and rear wings (with evidence of extension) that was normative for the area. Later examples were built as infill between 1880s brick houses on Poplar Street (147, 155, and 165 Poplar Street) and on lots acquired by the mill in the privately-owned enclave on the west end of Main Street (for example, 291 and 297 Main). These have hip roofs and the occasional Craftsman-style treatment such as exposed rafter ends and triangular roof brackets. The three Poplar Street houses appear to have been intentionally varied through the use of different front porch forms: one attached, one inset, and one cantilevered on brackets. The largest surviving group of frame mill houses in the village is located on Aviary Court off of Main Street. One of the eight houses (123 Aviary Court) has a high hip roof, four-over-four windows, and porch posts with molded decoration, features consistent with a date of construction at the very end of the nineteenth century or the opening years of the twentieth, whereas the seven other houses, which may date to the 1910s, have side-gable roofs and simpler treatments.

<sup>23</sup> Miller, *McAdenville*, 63, 101, 152; Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 28; R. V. D. “Dick” Roberts Jr. personal communication.

<sup>24</sup> Miller, *McAdenville*, 28, 41; R. V. D. “Dick” Roberts Jr. personal communication.

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Aviary Court is itself notable for its partially curving layout, which contrasts with the orthogonal planning of the 1880s Main/Poplar/Elm section of town and the plans of most other mill villages in the county. In the early twentieth century some mill owners turned to landscape architects like Charlotte's Earle Sumner Draper to design mill communities with curving street layouts as an alternative to the regimented gridiron approach and its negative socioeconomic connotations. Draper may in fact have been involved in the Aviary Court neighborhood's layout, since he worked for McAden Mills official Henry M. McAden in the grounds design for McAden's Charlotte residence in the late 1910s. It is possible that the curvilinear elements of the Aviary Court plan are an overlay on an earlier orthogonal plan. The Aviary Court houses are mostly arranged in straight rows. One row lines up with Poplar Street, suggesting the houses on it were built on a now-discontiguous extension of Poplar Street. If this is so then the Aviary Court house may be earlier than the 1910s period suggested by the curvilinear elements of the street plan.<sup>25</sup>

By the end of the nineteenth century a residential neighborhood of linear "string town" form developed along the west end of Main Street outside the original mill village limits. Except for the infill mill-owned houses noted above, most of these frame houses were privately owned and constructed, resulting in a variety of form and ornamentation. The largest house in the section, and probably the oldest, is the W. H. Rumpf House at 367 Main Street. The late 1880s two-story house is notable for its Italianate bracketed cornice, ornamental two-tier porch, and innovative brick flue caps, which have side vents to allow the smoke to escape while keeping out the rain. The Rumpf House has the symmetrical three-bay façade and center-passage plan that was typical for houses of its size and era. The Albea House at 324 Main Street, which was in existence by 1898, is a multi-gabled one-story house with a wraparound porch supported by turned posts with sawn brackets, gable vents with decoratively shaped louvers, and a richly ornamented front entry door and surround. The ca. 1898 Rankin House at 309 Main Street features sawtooth wood-shingle sheathing in the front gable and a front corner bay window, placed to take advantage of low-angled southern winter light that would have made it ideal for overwintering plants. The late nineteenth-century house at 387 Main Street features trefoil and quatrefoil cutouts in its gables, Gothic-inspired details that are virtually identical to treatments on a contemporaneous house at 622 West Airline Avenue in Gastonia. Most of the neighborhood's late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century houses have conventional one-room-deep forms with frame construction and side-gable roofs. Craftsman bungalows such as the house at 290 Main Street were added to the section in the early twentieth century and were also a popular form along Ford Drive, an offshoot of Main Street with a number of houses dating to the 1930s and to the late 1940s period of renewed prosperity in the community. Several Ranch-style houses were constructed along Main Street in the 1950s, including examples in the formerly undeveloped section between the original mill village and its western corporate boundary. Ranch houses such as the ones at 256 and 280 Main Street were spacious and finely

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<sup>25</sup> Huffman and Hanchett, "Henry M. McAden House."

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detailed dwellings probably intended for upper mill management.<sup>26</sup>

Early outbuildings are rare in McAdenville. The 1880s brick mill houses had privies that stood behind the houses or in the garden areas between them. These still stood in 1939 but were removed soon after. One of the oldest secondary structures in the district may be the pyramidal-roofed well shelter that stands beside the late nineteenth-century Albea House at 324 Main Street. Those domestic outbuildings that survive are mostly located in the privately developed sections along west Main Street and Ford Drive. The houses in this section may not have been connected to the mill water system, which would account for the number of brick pump houses in the area (examples at 325 Main Street and 1340, 1343, and 1355 Ford Drive). A cluster of historic-period outbuildings stands behind the 1940s Frank Barnhill House at 1355 Ford Drive and includes a brick pump house, a novelty weatherboard-sided shed, and a garage with hinged tongue-and-groove doors. The garage was used by Barnhill for his automobile repair business. Beginning in the 1970s a number of property owners erected metal carports beside or behind their dwellings.<sup>27</sup>

Situated on high ground overlooking the mills and mill village are three large frame houses that were constructed for the mill owners and top management in the late nineteenth century. The largest of the group is the McAden House on Park Drive. The two-and-a-half-story house is reported to have been built as a part-time residence for the principal mill owner, R. Y. McAden (d. 1889), and his wife, Mary, in the 1880s. However, an 1880s date would be extremely early for the Colonial Revival influence seen in the gambrel roof and other features. Queen Anne influence is seen in the turned posts and brackets of the wraparound porch, the pierced ornament of a second-story balcony, and the intricate turned and sawn detail of the mantels on the interior. If the house was built in the 1880s, as most sources indicate, it was the work of an architect with an advanced understanding of period styles. Another McAden family house is that of Benjamin and Lottie McAden, built in the 1880s on Hallie Bentley Drive. The one-story house, which combines elements of the Italianate and Queen Anne styles, has a complex form with multiple gables, porches, and turret-like corner elements (perhaps conceptually related to the corner turrets of Mill No. 2). Elaborate mantels and overmantels and plaster ceiling medallions with scrolling foliated forms ornament the interior. The house was built for Benjamin T. McAden (d. 1888), a son of R. Y. McAden and the treasurer of McAden Mills, and his wife, Lottie. The third house in the group was built in the 1890s for Robert Rankin Ray, a McAden Mills employee who rose through the ranks to become general manager of the mill's cotton spinning and weaving operations in the 1890s. The two-story house, which was greatly modified in the Colonial Revival style in the mid-twentieth century, appears to have started out as a relatively conventional Late Victorian residence featuring an L-shaped plan with an off-center front gable wing and a two-tier front porch. The house became the residence of William and

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<sup>26</sup> Brengle, *Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 177.

<sup>27</sup> Catherine Ann Carstarphen interview; R. V. D. "Dick" Roberts Jr. personal communication.

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Catherine Stowe Pharr after Mr. Pharr and his partners acquired McAden Mills in 1939. The Pharrs made extensive improvements to the house and grounds through the end of the twentieth century. One of William Pharr's projects was the McAdenville Aviary Gardens, developed in the mid-1960s in the stream valley behind his house. The Gardens, which have been closed since they were damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, include a whimsical collection of rock bird houses and a classical pavilion surrounded by cascading rock-lined pools. Because of the dates of the resources, the McAdenville Aviary Gardens have been excluded from the district.

Research has identified a number of the individuals who were responsible for the design and construction of McAdenville buildings. Historian Joseph Separk wrote in 1936 that "mill No. 1 was built under the engineering superintendence of one of the early [industry] pioneers, George Alexander Gray." Before his work at McAdenville, Gray had equipped the Charlotte Cotton Mills, built in 1880-81 as Charlotte's first cotton mill, and he went on to found the Gastonia Manufacturing Company and the Loray Mill in Gastonia. Gray is also credited with installing electric lights in the McAden Mills. Separk wrote that Robert Rankin Ray "had a vital part in the construction of plants No. 2 and No. 3." Perhaps two of the bas-relief letters "GRR" in the panel over Mill No. 2's entry refer to Gray and Ray. The fact that the letters are a permanent feature of the panel suggests they convey information—such as the identities of the builders—that was not meant to be painted over in subsequent mill renamings. The third R may stand for George Washington Ragan, a partner in and apparently manager of the McAdens' company store in the 1880s. Ragan is said to have acquired materials for construction projects in the 1880s. Additional, circumstantial evidence for Gray and Ragan's involvement in the construction of McAdenville's 1880s mills is provided by the Trenton Cotton Mills in Gastonia. The 1893 mill, which formerly featured castellation in the same medieval vein as McAden Mill No. 2, was organized by G. W. Ragan and G. A. Gray. Ragan was also the lead organizer of Gastonia's Arlington Cotton Mills, built in 1900 and formerly distinguished by a heavily ornamented tower crowned with castellation and machicolated corbelling.<sup>28</sup>

Charlotte architect James Mackson McMichael (1872-1957) provided McAdenville with one of its most sophisticated historic buildings in 1907 when he designed the R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall. McMichael was a Pennsylvania native who established his practice in Charlotte in 1901. According to one account, McMichael's firm designed over fifty churches in the Charlotte area and between nine hundred and a thousand buildings nationwide. McMichael's crisply ornamented community hall and library features a pedimented classical entryway that befits a building dedicated to learning and one that functioned as the community's de facto town hall. Inside, the slanted tops of the book shelves running under the many library windows facilitated reading and combated eye strain,

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<sup>28</sup> Separk, *Gastonia and Gaston County*, 29; Bishir and Southern, *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 480, 487; Huffman, "Charlotte Cotton Mills;" Brengle, *Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 15, 17, 154, 192.

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indicating a progressive understanding of the needs and comfort of users (McMichael also designed Charlotte's early twentieth-century public library, now demolished). The original lighting scheme in the upstairs meeting hall, which features dozens of incandescent bulbs, is a rare survival and relates to the recreational, social, and political uses of the hall during evening hours when mill hands and their families had free time. McMichael's firm may be considered a candidate for the design of the Classical Revival façade of Mill No. 3, built in 1906-07 and like McAden Hall a prominent village building. Michael Southern and Catherine Bishir comment that Mill No. 3 "has apparently the state's only classically detailed mill façade."<sup>29</sup>

After World War II, Belmont retail lumber supplier Joe Tandy Moore Sr., who was active from the 1930s to the late 1960s, provided materials and design services to a number of McAdenville clients. Moore's principal known work was the design of the McAdenville Community Center in 1949. He is also believed to have designed and/or built additions to the Ray-Pharr House and to the McAdenville Baptist Church, and he may have been involved in the construction of residences in the town. McAdenville Baptist Church has the era's standard Colonial Revival design and temple-fronted nave form, as does the 1961 McAdenville United Methodist Church designed by William J. Gant Lewis of Gastonia. Joe T. Moore Sr. was "very knowledgeable about mill construction," recalls his son Joe Jr., so it is possible he was involved with at least some of the additions and alterations made to the Stowe and Pharr facilities. An important architectural development of the latter part of the twentieth century, apparently in the 1960s, was the addition of the covered walkway that links commercial and civic buildings along the east end of Main Street. The walkway is reminiscent of the covered walkways that were built for shopping plazas during the era. At or about the same time infill buildings in modernist and Colonial Revival styles were constructed between pre-existing 1880s mill houses and historic-period commercial buildings to form contiguous commercial blocks along the street.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Huffman, "R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall and Library;" Bishir and Southern, *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 487.

<sup>30</sup> Joe T. Moore Jr. personal communication.

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### **GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

#### **UTM References (continued)**

5. 17 492550 3901320
6. 17 492570 3901580
7. 17 492410 3901760
8. 17 492230 3901530
9. 17 491980 3901880

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nominated area are portrayed on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated area encompass the chief surviving, high-integrity historic sections of the mill village of McAdenville, namely the built up area along Main Street from Mill No. 3 on the east to Interstate 85 on the west and offshoots such as Aviary Court and Ford Drive. Because much of the nominated area includes mill-owned acreage that is not subdivided, a number of the boundary lines are drawn to encompass groups of contributing resources and do not reflect lot lines.

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Subject: McAdenville Historic District (same for all photos).  
2. Location: McAdenville, Gaston Co., N.C. (same for all photos).  
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos).  
4. Photo date: May 2008.  
5. Digital images archived at the N.C. Office of Archives and History, Raleigh  
(same for all photos).  
6. Description of view: 100 block of Main Street (south side) with McAden-Young General Store in foreground and McAden Mill No. 2 office in the distance.  
View looking east.  
7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos).
2. 4. May 2008.  
6. Pharr Corporate Offices (left) with Mill Building (right) and tower of Mill No. 2 beyond. View looking northeast.
3. 4. May 2008.  
6. McAden Mill No. 3. View looking southwest.
4. 4. May 2008.  
6. 300 block of Main Street (south side) with the Rankin House in foreground.  
View looking west.
5. 4. March 2008.  
6. 122-124 Main Street. View looking northwest.
6. 4. May 2008.  
6. 149 Main Street (rear). View looking north.
7. 4. May 2008.  
6. McAden House. View looking north.
8. 4. May 2008.  
6. 137 Aviary Court. View looking southeast.
9. 4. May 2008.  
6. R. Y. McAden Memorial Hall. View looking south.

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10. 4. May 2008.  
6. 1355 Ford Drive. View looking southwest.
11. 4. March 2008.  
6. Albea House. View looking northeast.
12. 4. May 2008.  
6. McAdenville Community Center with the grounds of the Ray-Pharr House in the foreground. View looking east.
13. 4. May 2008.  
6. 1357 Ford Drive. View looking southwest.