

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Richmond COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

QUAD

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 King Edward Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rockingham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

037

8th

COUNTY

Richmond

CODE

153

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rockingham Associates

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York 10017

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Richmond County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

114 E. Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockingham

STATE

North Carolina 28379

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Heather M. Hallenberg

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for

DATE

May 31, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Archives and History, Survey and Planning Branch

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

27611

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1, located at 300 King Edward Street two miles southeast of the Rockingham commercial district, is for the vicinity an unusually outstanding and well preserved example of early twentieth century textile mill construction.

The industrial complex consists of a large two story main building with tower, two large attached weave rooms, two adjacent cotton warehouses, and a small brick veneered office building. The main building was constructed between 1906 and 1908. In 1915 part of the mill was destroyed by a cyclone, but the damage was quickly repaired. The weave rooms, cotton warehouses, and office were subsequent additions dating from the early 1920s.

The most prominent feature of the main building belonging to Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1 is the offset stair tower. Modeled after a campanile or bell tower in the Italianate or Romanesque Revival Style, the dominating feature softens the otherwise stark lines of the structure. The base of the tower is constructed in rusticated molded stone, one bay wide and one bay deep. A four story brick shaft rises from the base accented at two levels with narrow, lancet arch windows and continuous corner pilasters. The tower culminates in a magnificent corbelled cornice and running band of ocular windows. A pyramidal roof cap with wide projecting eaves terminates the structure. Functional as well as handsome, the tower encloses alarms to indicate shift changes and an elevated water tank providing pressure for the sprinkler system.

The large central tower divides the principal facade into two multi-bay expanses. Giant, paned windows set in segmentally arched openings, provided the workers with light and a source of ventilation. The 1920s brick additions are plain, functional and lacking superfluous architectural ornamentation.

The buildings have not housed textile machinery since 1957. Interior features include thick wood floors, slow combustion structural timbers, and cast iron supports.

Building 1, 1907, Main Building. Two story brick and molded stone structure with offset four story tower, flat roof, raised skylights, and exposed roof rafters. Triple-sash windows are set within segmentally arched openings. Building housed warp, filling, and spinning machinery. Picker and boiler rooms are attached to the rear.

Building 2, ca. 1920. Two story brick building with flat roof, raised skylights, and exposed roof rafters. Triple-sash windows are set within segmentally arched openings. The first floor housed the carding and warp operations and the second floor the warp and spinning.

Building 3, ca. 1923-1924. Two story brick weave mill with flat roof, raised skylights, and exposed roof rafters. Large multi-pane windows with flat stone lintels illuminate the interior, which at one time housed over 2,200 looms.

Buildings 4 and 5, ca. 1923. One story, frame cotton warehouses with brick fire walls between each of the four bays.

Building 6, ca. 1920. One story, red brick veneered office building with low hipped roof and six over six sash windows.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

LOCAL

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1907	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906-1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1, built as a hosiery mill between 1906 and 1907, is an unusually handsome and well preserved example of early twentieth century textile mill construction. The history of the mill is intimately associated with the life of W. B. Cole, leading textile promoter and industrialist in Richmond County.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1 survives today as the least altered of the eleven original mill complexes; the others have succumbed to fire or repeated renovations and additions. Its central stair tower is truly magnificent.
- B. W. B. Cole, founder of Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1, and fourth generation Richmond County textile industrialist, was a prominent leader in Rockingham during the first half of the twentieth century.
- A. The history of Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1 is interwoven with the history of the textile industry in the Rockingham vicinity, which dominated the local economy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The aftermath of the Civil War forced the reorganization of an agrarian economy, tending to break up some of the larger estates. Many of the county's elite were drawn to the industrial development potential in Rockingham, and its accessibility to the water power of Hitchcock and Falling creeks made it an appropriate location for industrial sites. By the early 1920s eleven textile mills were in full operation in the Rockingham vicinity, making Richmond County one of the leading textile producers in the state.

Papers of incorporation for Hannah Pickett Mills were granted on February 19, 1906. The principal organizers were Robert L. Steele, Jr. (1853-1926) and the young W. B. Cole (1872-1954).¹ The main building was completed as a hosiery-yarn mill and put into operation on October 1, 1908.² The mill later changed over to cloth and was expanded. Eventually, the total operation was the largest in Richmond County and one of the larger textile mills of its kind in the state.³ "By the late 1920s the mill eventually comprised 353,583 square feet of space devoted to the complete process of manufacturing cloth from raw fibers, and there was a warehouse with a total of 30,000 square feet of floor space. The mill contained 80,000 spindles, and the weave shed alone housed 22,000 looms."⁴

For thirty-six years the prime mover of Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1 was W. B. Cole. He was the son of attorney, John Wyatt and Kathryn Steele Cole. His mother's father was Robert L. Steele, Sr. (1821-1895), founder of Pee Dee Mill in 1876, Roberdel Mill in 1882 and Steele's Mill in 1895, and his great-grandfather was Walter F. Leak (1799-1879), founder of Richmond Mill in 1833 and Great Falls Mill in 1869.⁵ W. B. Cole named the mill⁶ in honor of his grandmother, Hannah Pickett Leak, the wife of Robert L. Steele, Sr.

On November 28, 1892 W. B. Cole was elected bookkeeper for Great Falls Mill. He went to business school in Lowell, and then in 1898 went to Concord as superintendent of Cabarrus County Mill. In 1899 he returned to Rockingham as superintendent of Steele's Mill until 1907 when he resigned to devote his total attention to Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1.⁷ In 1929 Mr. Cole purchased Leak Mill, built in 1923, which became known as Hannah Pickett Mill No. 2.⁸

In 1940 W. B. Cole made himself chairman of the board of the Hannah Pickett Mills and his son, Robert Little Cole, president and treasurer. The mill was sold to Joseph Safie and Associates of New York on September 22, 1944.⁹ Safie Mill closed on December 2, 1957. The mill is today owned by Rockingham Associates of New York City.¹⁰ It is used for warehouse purposes and a vocational training branch for Richmond Technical College.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "Historical Sketch of Safie Mill at Rockingham," Post-Dispatch (Rockingham), January 24, 1954, hereinafter cited as Post-Dispatch, January 24, 1954.
2. Post-Dispatch, January 24, 1954.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

Lat. 34° 55' 02" Long. 79° 45' 40"

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of I-D and I-E, Map 53, Wolfpit Township, consisting of irregularly sided city lot measuring approximately 750' x 815'.

The property being nominated includes the mill complex and the lot on which it stands.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 1

Footnotes (Continued)

3. James E. and Ida C. Huneycutt, A History of Richmond County (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company), 1976, p. 365, hereinafter cited as Huneycutt, A History of Richmond County.
4. Huneycutt, A History of Richmond County, p. 365.
5. Post-Dispatch, January 24, 1954.
6. Post-Dispatch, January 24, 1954.
7. Post-Dispatch, January 24, 1954.
8. Post-Dispatch, January 24, 1954.
9. Post-Dispatch, January 24, 1954.
10. Safie Brothers Incorporated sold the Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1 property in 1960. The fourteen acre piece of property was divided into two lots, Tax Map 53, WP, I-D and I-E. I-E is 2.3 acres and contains the main building of Hannah Pickett Mill No. 1 (1907). Safie Brothers Incorporated sold I-E to Richmond County Industrial Development Corporation on April 11, 1960, Richmond County Deed Book 410, p. 175. Richmond County Industrial Corporation sold I-E to Baldwin Manufacturing on February 5, 1971, Richmond County Deed Book 530, p. 325. Baldwin Manufacturing sold I-E to Southern National Bank on June 10, 1971, Richmond County Deed Book 535, p. 251. Southern National Bank sold I-E to the United States Small Business Administration on April 30, 1976, Richmond County Deed Book 582, p. 737. The United States Small Business Administration sold I-E to A & A Investors on October 14, 1977, Richmond County Deed Book 598, p. 727. A & A Investors sold I-E to K and M Realty on November 11, 1977, Richmond County Deed Book 598, p. 727. K and M Realty sold I-E to Rockingham Associates on November 30, 1977, Richmond County Deed Book 600, pp. 348, 349, 350, and 351. I-D is 11.7 acres and contains the 1920s weave room buildings and cotton warehouses. It was sold to Reliance Manufacturing Company on October 25, 1960, Richmond County Deed Book 410, p. 551. Reliance Manufacturing Company sold I-D to RNI Corporation on October 27, 1965, Richmond County Deed Book 475, p. 423. RNI Corporation sold I-D to Delaware Valley Realty on June 27, 1973, Richmond County Deed Book 558, p. 304. Delaware Valley Realty sold I-D to Rockingham Associates on February 15, 1977, Richmond County Deed Book 594, p. 796.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Historical Sketch of Safie Mill at Rockingham," Post-Dispatch (Rockingham), January 24, 1954.

Huneycutt, James E. and Ida C., A History of Richmond County (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Company), 1976.

London, Isaac S., The London Papers are found in three separate collections housed at the North Carolina State Archives, the Richmond County Office of the Superior Court, and the Richmond County Library. Only the notes at the State Archives are loosely indexed according to general subject headings. The other two collections are not indexed.

Richmond County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Richmond County Courthouse, Rockingham, N. C.

Located 2 M

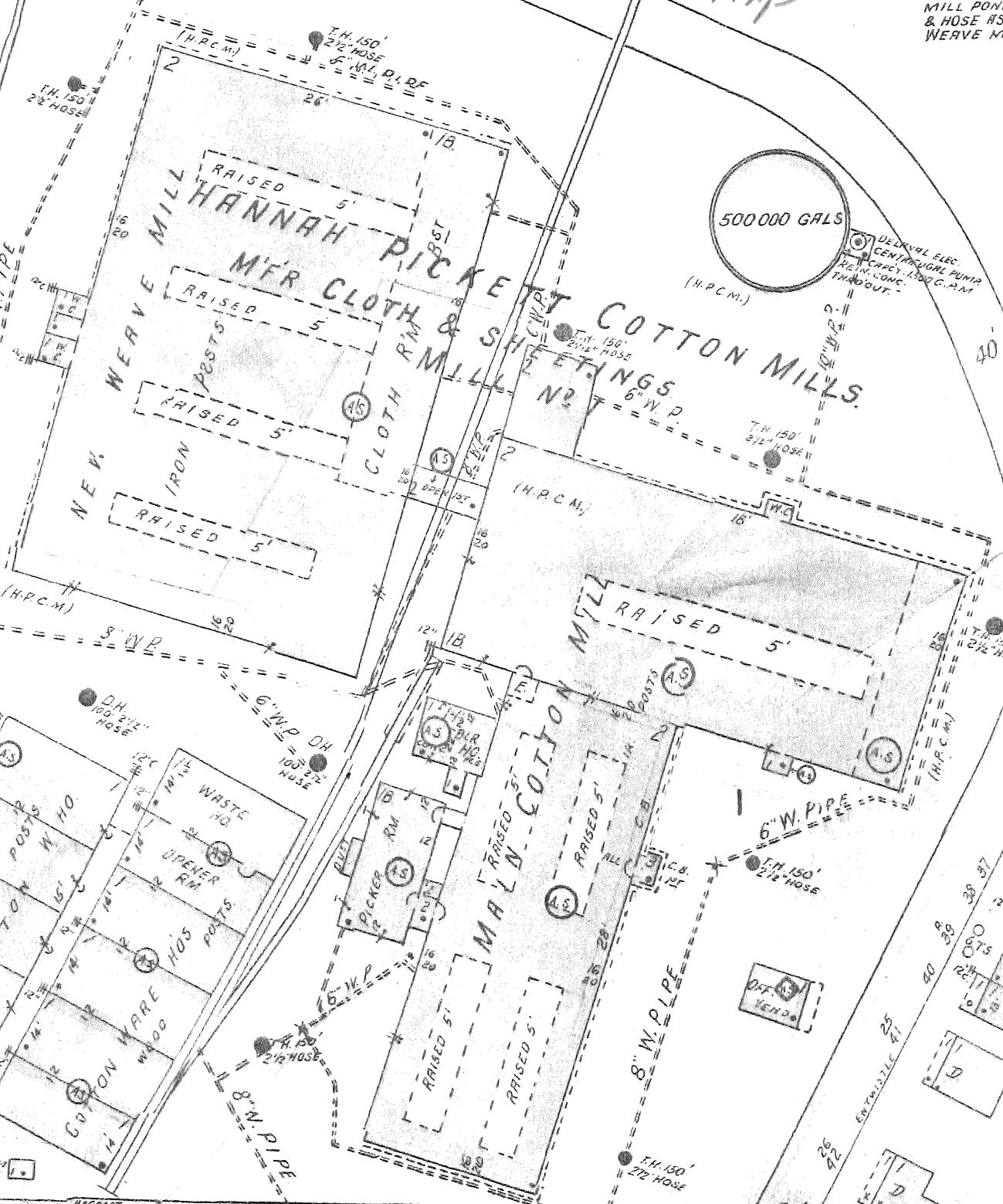
35'

HANNAH PICKETT

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING APPROXIMATE
ELECTRIC MOUNTING SYSTEM
OF AMERICA TO BE INSTALLED
CONSTRUCTION - WET SYS
(WET SYSTEM THROUGHOUT)
WARE HOSE: WATER SUPPLY
DELTAVAL ELEC CENTRIFUGAL
DRAWING FROM 500000
AT SPRINKLER HEADS: 60
IN EMERGENCY: ONE 100
PUMP AT ROBERTS MILL
50000 GAL. MILL POND
AT ENTWISTLE WIFE CO
MILL POND - 60000 GAL. T
& HOSE AS SHOWN - 1" A
WEAVE MILL - METAL P

Hannah Pickett
1924
Sanborn
map 227

ENTWISTLE



HAGOORT

ARBITRARY

MIDDLE

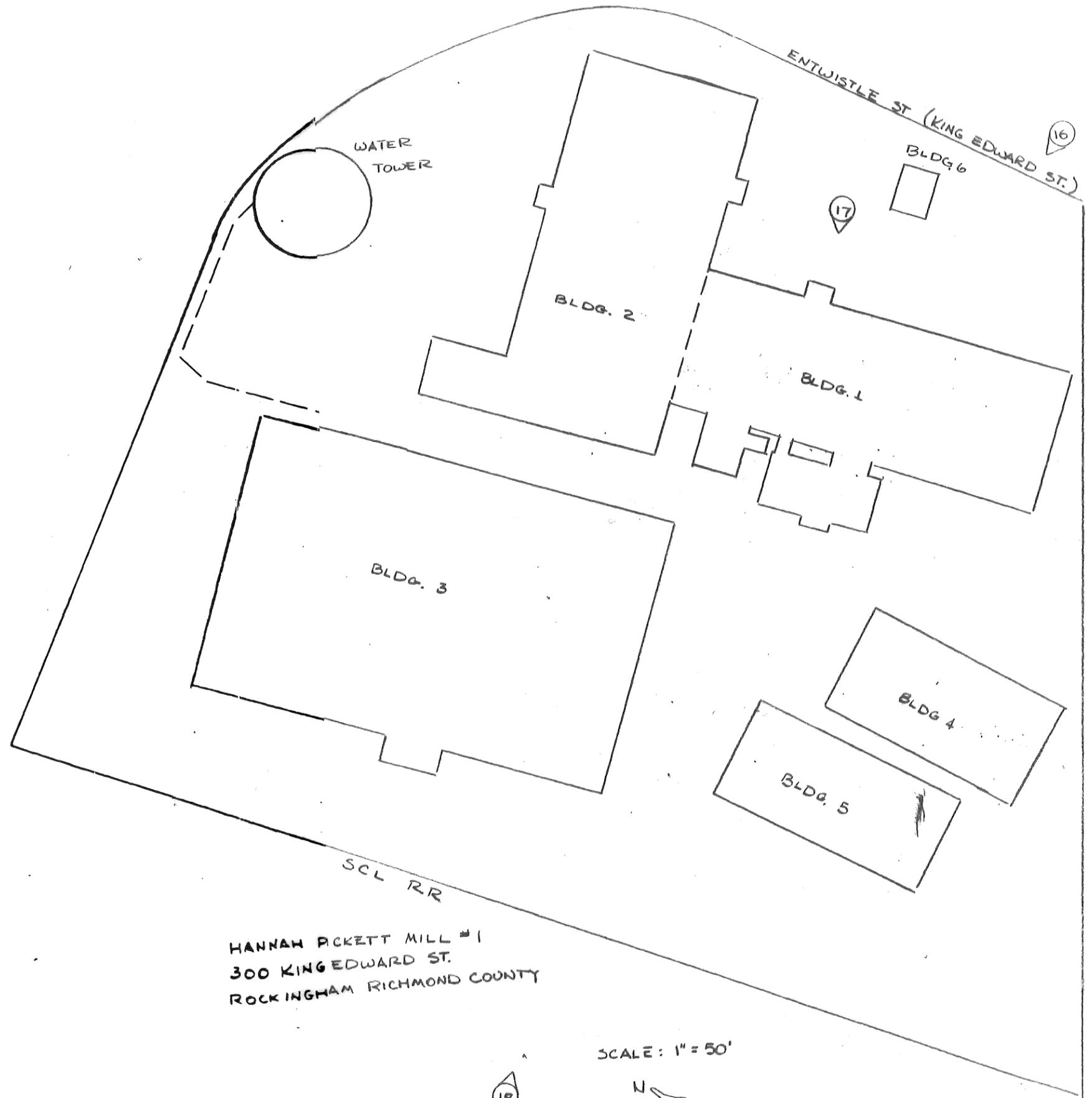
ENTWISTLE

29

230

70

70



LOCATION: RICHMOND COUNTY, NC. TAX MAPS
WOLF PIT TOWNSHIP, MAP # 53,
PARCELS I-D & I-E.

DRAWN BY: ROCKINGHAM PLANNING DEPT.
AUGUST 1981

HANNAH PICKETT MILL #1
300 KING EDWARD ST.
ROCKINGHAM RICHMOND COUNTY

SCALE: 1" = 50'

