

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1**

High Point, Guilford County, GF8786, Listed 11/3/2020  
Nomination by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc.  
Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, January 2019



West elevation, 1928 storefronts, looking north from 1541 West English Road.



1931 addition, southwest oblique; late 1920s dye house addition; and early 1950s addition.

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 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1

other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 1533-1547 West English Road, 105-109 South West Point Avenue **N/A** not for publication

city or town High Point **N/A** vicinity

stat North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27262  
e \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.)

*Karin Cherry*

09-23-2020

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and 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:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 8            | 1               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 8            | 1               | 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 from instructions)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

INDUSTRY: Industrial Storage

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Heavy-timber construction

Other: Steel-framed, load-bearing-brick-wall construction

COMMERCIAL STYLE

ART DECO

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber

\_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1922-1971

**Significant Dates**

1922

1924

1928

1931

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Klein, Fred, architect, 1928

Willett, John, contractor, 1928

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill

High Point Museum

Guilford County Public Library, High Point

Melrose Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Guilford County, NC

County and State

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property** 1.4 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

See Latitude/Longitude coordinates continuation sheet.

1                                   
Zone Easting Northing

2                                 

3                                   
Zone Easting Northing

4                                 

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Heather Fearnbach

organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc.

date 1/15/2019

street & number 3334 Nottingham Road

telephone 336-765-2661

city or town Winston-Salem

state NC

zip code 27104

---

## Additional Documentation

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

## Property Owner

---

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

name Cohab Space LLC, John Muldoon

street & number 1547 West English Road

telephone 1 (888) 475-3030

city or town High Point

state NC

zip code 27262

---

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## Section 7. Description

The railroad corridor's alignment influenced road and building arrangement and spurred contiguous development as High Point was platted. The street grid surrounding the plant is rotated approximately thirty degrees from true cardinal direction. However, this document is written as though West English Road and the railroad tracks have true north-south orientation.

### Setting

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1 is located approximately one mile southwest of High Point's central business district in an area known as West End. By 1948 the manufacturing complex spanned the block bounded by Phillips Avenue on the north, West English Road on the west, West Point Avenue on the south, and West Broad Street and the Southern Railway line on the east. (West Broad Street, an unpaved service alley, is in the railroad right-of-way.) The nominated 1.4-acre south portion of the complex encompasses Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1, a series of interconnected one- and two-story brick, heavy-timber, concrete, and steel manufacturing, storage, and commercial buildings and additions erected between 1922 and 1956 at the West Point Avenue intersection. Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 2, a 1947 knitting department and warehouse at 109 Phillips Avenue, and the 1941 warehouse at 1513 West English Road, both now owned by City Transfer and Storage Company, are not included within the National Register boundary.

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's buildings have nominal setbacks in order to maximize lot utilization. Concrete municipal sidewalks abut the West English Road façades and the paved parking lot at the parcel's southwest corner and West Point Avenue. The concrete-paved alley between the 1928 buildings that permits egress from West English Road to the parcel's northeast quadrant has been closed to vehicular traffic with movable planters. Ornamental landscaping was historically nonexistent, but grass has been planted on the demolished building sites and in small strips bordering north, south, and east elevations of extant buildings.

A narrow gravel service drive runs north-south just outside the nominated parcel's eastern boundary from West Point Avenue to a gravel parking area that fills much of the tract's northeast quadrant. A two-story brick piano factory built prior to 1924, a two-story frame 1940s warehouse, and a one-story machine shop erected by 1938 stood in this area. Three rectangular painted-corrugated-metal shipping containers now line the chain-link-fence that delineates the north parcel boundary. A concrete-paver patio extends from the loading dock on the 1924 factory's north elevation. The portion of the parcel north of the loading dock and east of the buildings fronting West English Road has been excluded from the National Register boundary.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Contiguous one- and two-story commercial buildings once filled West English Road's 1500 block; today only five remain other than those once associated with Melrose Hosiery Mills. South of Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1, one- and two-story commercial buildings on the 1600 block's west side are interspersed with vacant and parking lots. The 1600 block's east side is primarily industrial. By 1956, McEwen Lumber Company's complex at the southeast corner of West Point Avenue and West English Road included an office, six long rectangular sheds, a freight platform, and several small outbuildings. All have been demolished and the area is now a parking lot. However, the former Marietta Paint and Color Company, Furniture City Upholstery Company-Dallas Inc., and Lilly Company-Valspar Corporation complexes further south survive.<sup>1</sup> Industrial buildings also line the railroad's east side.

## Complex Evolution

Melrose Hosiery Mills initially occupied a no-longer-extant one-story, gable-roofed, corrugated-metal-panel-sheathed warehouse and office erected adjacent to the Southern Railway line in 1920 for Amos Furniture Manufacturing Company.<sup>2</sup> The earliest remaining buildings on the site are the originally freestanding one-story brick 1922 boiler house (#4) and the two-story brick factory (#3) constructed by May 1924. The boiler house was expanded to the north by 1938, connecting it to the 1924 factory. The one-story brick 1924 dye house (#5) that extends from the east portion of the factory's south elevation was doubled in size with a late 1920s southern addition. The small one-story brick wing at the dye house's southeast corner was constructed between 1950 and 1956. The two-story brick 1931 wing (#6) west of the dye house on the 1924 factory's south elevation housed knitting equipment.<sup>3</sup> A narrow gravel alley separates the additions (#5 and #6).

High Point architect Fred Klein and contractor John Willett designed and constructed the two-story brick 1928 addition with commercial storefronts (#1) that fronts West English Road at the 1924 factory's west end as well as the three interconnected two-story, brick commercial and industrial buildings (#7-9) to the north, also completed in 1928. A narrow alley between the 1928 structures allowed access to the parcel's northeast quadrant. The elevated passage spanning the alley that connects the 1924 factory to Building #7 was likely constructed in 1928. Building #9's east elevation abutted a two-story, brick, pre-1924 piano factory that was demolished between 2003 and 2008.<sup>4</sup>

Melrose Hosiery Mills constructed a two-story frame warehouse south of the former piano factory between 1938 and 1950. An elevated passage linked the buildings' second stories. Aerial photographs indicate that the warehouse and the machine shop to the east were demolished sometime between the

---

<sup>1</sup> Sanborn Map Company, "High Point, North Carolina," Sheet 212, 1956.

<sup>2</sup> The exact location of the 1920 warehouse is unknown. It does not appear on the 1924 Sanborn map.

<sup>3</sup> Sanborn Map Company, "High Point, North Carolina," Sheet 210, 1924, 1950, 1956.

<sup>4</sup> After 1928, the piano factory functioned as part of Melrose Hosiery Mills' knitting department. *Ibid.*; City of High Point, Planning and Development Department, aerial photographs, 2003, 2008.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   7   Page   3   Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

plant's 1971 closure and 1977. The company also built a one-story brick 1941 warehouse at 1513 West English Road just north of the manufacturing complex and Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 2, a two-story brick 1947 knitting plant at 109 Phillips Avenue northeast of the warehouse, neither of which is included within the National Register boundary.<sup>5</sup>

In the early 1950s, Melrose Hosiery Mills began using the one-story 1926 commercial building (#2) at what is now 1547 West English Road for hosiery manufacturing. The west portion of that structure was removed between 1994 and 1998 and a west wall erected to enclose the remaining section. The area to the south, historically the site of a one-story commercial building that housed C. A. Ring and Son's drug store (demolished after an April 1961 fire), is now a paved parking lot.<sup>6</sup>

## Resource List (in inventory order)

1. Commercial and Industrial Building, 1541 West English Road, 1928, contributing building
2. Commercial Building, 1547 West English Road, 1926 building remnant with facade walls erected between 1994 and 1998, noncontributing building
3. Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1, 1541 West English Road, 1924, between 1950 and 1956, contributing building
4. Boiler House, 1541 West English Road, 1922, between 1924 and 1938, contributing building
5. Dye House, 107-109 South West Point Avenue, 1924, late 1920s, between 1950 and 1956, contributing building
6. Knitting Building, 105 South West Point Avenue, 1931, contributing building
7. South Commercial and Industrial Building, 1533 West English Road, 1928, contributing building
8. Central Commercial and Industrial Building, 1533 West English Road, 1928, contributing building
9. North Commercial and Industrial Building, 1533 West English Road, 1928, contributing building

## Inventory List

Each resource is assigned a name based on the initial and/or long-term use. Actual or approximate completion dates and the dates of any major alterations or additions follow the property name. Occupancy information and construction and alteration dates are based on deeds, historic documents, city directories, photographs, newspaper articles, Sanborn Company maps, Guilford County property record cards, interviews with local informants, and architectural style. Primary source repositories include the High Point Museum and the Guilford County Public Library's High Point branch.

---

<sup>5</sup> Sanborn Map Company, "High Point, North Carolina," Sheet 210, 1950, 1956; City of High Point, Planning and Development Department, aerial photographs, 1938, 1958, 1971, 1977.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.; "Flames Sweep Three Stores in West End," *High Point Enterprise* (hereafter abbreviated HPE), April 20, 1961, p. C1.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

The period of significance begins in 1922 with Melrose Hosiery Mills' creation and the boiler house construction, and continues to 1971, when the company ceased production. Each resource is designated as contributing or noncontributing to the property's historic significance and integrity. The evaluations are based on age and degree of alteration. Buildings constructed in or before 1971 are considered to be contributing if they retain architectural and historic integrity from the period of significance. Contributing resources must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The noncontributing building has been partially demolished and heavily altered, therefore losing its integrity.

In the following inventory list, principal resource headings are in bold and underlined. Building dates reflect the year of construction completion. Currently assigned street addresses are referenced. Although the 1922-1956 buildings and additions were functionally connected within the period of significance, the plant sections are considered individual resources for National Register purposes. The narrative begins with the 1928 addition on the 1924 factory's west side and moves clockwise. Descriptions of the three north 1928 building exteriors are followed by a joint explanation of the interiors. The elevated passage between the 1924 factory (#3) and Building #7 is described as an appendage to Building #7.

## **1. Commercial and Industrial Building, 1541 West English Road, 1928, contributing building**

Constructed as an addition to the 1924 mill, this building's four-bay variegated-red-brick running-bond façade (west elevation) displays an Art Deco stylistic influence. Brick pilasters rise from cast-stone plinths, delineating the north office and three storefront bays below a cast-stone-capped flat parapet. Cast-stone scrolled blocks top each pilaster. The slightly taller office bay is further distinguished by two tall intermediary pilasters with foliated cast-stone panels beneath the scrolled blocks. Continuous stepped cast-stone lintels and slightly projecting cast-stone sills frame five second-story office window openings and twelve openings to the south. The office windows were replaced with three-over-one double-hung vinyl sash in the late-twentieth century. The remaining window openings were infilled with blonde brick when the plant was air-conditioned. Above the storefronts, a cast-stone cornice and a brick header course surmount prismatic-glass transoms and copper cornices. The office storefront comprises a central window with a running-bond brick kneewall flanked by two single-leaf wood-frame doors with glazed centers and rectangular transoms. Both entrances provide first-floor office access. The south door opens into a small vestibule at the base of a straight run of stairs leading to the second floor. The south storefronts have low kneewalls sheathed with square black ceramic tile and replacement aluminum-frame double-leaf doors with rectangular transoms. Painted plywood panels cover the storefront window openings, now devoid of plate glass. A three-section window spanned the central storefront, while the flanking storefronts contained recessed entrances and deep window displays.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

The seven-bay north elevation is more simply executed in five-to-one common bond with a continuous cast-stone lintel above the second-story window and door openings and a stepped terra-cotta-coping capped parapet. Soldier-course lintels top five first-story door openings, four of which have been filled with running-bond red brick, and the high, wide window in the fifth bay from the west end. Two small square openings beneath the window contain vents. Two flanking tall rectangular openings have been enclosed with running-bond red brick. A single-leaf wood-frame door with a glazed center and square transom remains in the east bay. The second story fenestration, from east to west, comprises a single window, a single-leaf door, a paired window, two small high restroom windows, a single-leaf door, and a single window. All windows are replacement three-over-one double-hung vinyl sash. The wood-frame doors have replacement-glass centers and rectangular transoms.

Circa 1998, the south elevation's first story was stuccoed in conjunction with the construction of the adjacent 1926 building's matching west wall. Flat pediments surmount the central single-leaf door and two flanking windows beneath a banded cornice. A terra-cotta-coping-capped stepped parapet tops the windowless red-brick second story.

A one-story painted-concrete-block addition erected between 1950 and 1956 extends from the 1928 addition's east elevation adjacent to the 1924 factory's early 1950s south addition. A single-leaf steel door facilitates egress.

The 1928 addition's south section encompasses expansive first and second-story showrooms, while the north section contains offices on both levels. Although the interior was remodeled several times during the twentieth century, many original character-defining features remain.

The three-bay storefront's completely open first story facilitated its function as a furniture store. Uniformly spaced square paneled-steel columns, pilasters, and ceiling beams carry the building's load and, along with the pressed-tin ceiling and cornice, serve as important decorative elements. A straight run of wood steps with paneled square newel posts, slender rectangular banisters, and a molded handrail rises to a central landing and splits to provide second-story access. Painted plywood supplements portions of the stair railing and covers much of the showroom's narrow-board floor. Painted-wood hanging display panels have been installed on portions of the plaster walls and storefronts. The plaster at the room's southwest corner is spalling and a small portion of the ceiling has collapsed due to water damage. The double-leaf door and multipane steel transom at the southeast corner, originally exterior features, were enclosed by an early 1950s concrete-block addition.

A wide opening on the north elevation provides access to the mill office, which includes an open west room with a vault at its southeast corner, a series of small rear storage rooms, and a restroom. The rooms have plaster ceilings and concrete floors. Painted-wood hanging display panels have been installed on portions of the plaster walls and storefronts. The Lafayette, Indiana-based Schwab Safe

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Company manufactured the vault door. A door at the room's southwest corner opens into the small vestibule at the base of a straight run of stairs leading to the second floor.

The stair empties into an L-shaped second-story corridor. A large east office and two smaller west offices flank the north-south corridor, which has two small restrooms at its north end. All are remarkably intact, featuring dark-stained and varnished wood baseboards, window and door surrounds, and two-panel doors. Textured-translucent-glass interior windows and transoms allowed light to permeate the interior. Plaster walls and narrow board floors are in good condition. Modifications including dropped gypsum-board ceilings, carpeting, and obsolete mechanical and electrical systems are being removed.

The east-west corridor leads to a clinic where registered nurse Mattie Idol dispensed first aid, health consultations, and physician referrals. Her name is painted on the door. A small vestibule provides access to two sizable west rooms, initially an open furniture showroom, and a small office at the building's southeast corner. Pressed-tin ceilings remain the west rooms, where uniformly spaced square paneled-steel columns with pressed metal caps and wood bases support the roof structure. Former tenant Habitat for Humanity added some gypsum-board partition walls and a faux-exterior-dwelling wall in these rooms. Celotex tile sheathes the office's dropped ceiling and the upper portion of each wall.

## **2. Commercial Building, 1547 West English Road, 1926 building remnant with facade walls erected between 1994 and 1998, noncontributing building**

The east portion of a one-story, two-storefront 1926 commercial building that fronted West English Road remains south of the 1928 building. The west portion was removed after suffering damage from an automobile crash sometime between 1994 and 1998 and a stuccoed west wall erected to enclose the remaining section. Flat pediments top two single-leaf black-aluminum-frame glazed doors and four tall single-pane black-aluminum-frame windows beneath a banded cornice on the west elevation. The adjacent first-story of the 1928 building's south elevation was finished in the same manner.

The 1926 building's south and east elevations are running-bond red brick. The south elevation is blind. A single-leaf door and painted plywood fill the wide opening at the east elevation's center. The small high window with a projecting header-course sill to the south is also enclosed with painted plywood, while the matching window opening north of the door has brick infill.

Most of the interior is a large open office with gypsum-board-sheathed walls, carpeted floors, and a dropped-acoustical-tile ceiling with recessed lighting. A small restroom and a storage room are east of the office.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## **3. Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1, 1541 West English Road, 1924, between 1950 and 1956, contributing building**

The fourteen-bay-long by four-bay-wide 1924 factory is characterized by running-bond red-brick walls, cast-stone window sills, a low gable roof with a long roof monitor, and twenty-pane steel sash with six-pane hoppers. Although the west elevation is obscured by the 1928 addition (#1) and the south elevation by the 1922 boiler house (#4), 1924 dye house (#5), 1931 knitting building (#6), and an early 1950s addition, the east and north elevations are largely exposed.

On the north elevation, the door opening at the first-story's west end has been filled with running-bond red brick. Parallel to the façade, concrete steps with painted-tubular-steel railings provide access to the single-leaf steel door in the second bay from the east end, which originally contained a larger door. Aerial photographs indicate that the five-bay loading dock that shelters the central double-leaf sliding diagonal-board door was constructed between 1970 and 1977. The dock's poured-concrete foundation and low wood-frame shed roof are original, while the square wood posts, painted-steel steps at the west end and the central north bay, and painted-steel-pipe railings were added in September 2018. A stone-paver patio and gravel parking area were installed north of the dock at the same time.

The 1924 factory's four-bay east elevation encompasses seven twenty-pane steel sash and a wide sliding-metal door in the second bay from the south end. Ghost marks of a white-painted "Melrose Hosiery Mills" sign band remain between the first and second stories in the central bays.

A two-story, four-bay-wide and one-bay-deep, early 1950s brick addition spans the south elevation between the 1928 addition (#1) and 1931 wing (#6). The 1950s addition's construction involved removal of the adjacent portion of the 1924 factory's south elevation. Four twenty-pane steel sash with six-pane hoppers and a matching first-story sash are intact. The west first-story window opening has been enclosed with brick and single-leaf steel door and brick infill were installed in the adjacent window opening. Concrete steps with painted-steel-pipe railings provide access to the entrance. The east bay contains a double-leaf plywood door. The loading dock, constructed between 1971 and 1977, has a brick foundation, concrete floor, and a low shed roof supported by square wood posts with diagonal braces.

The 1924 factory's exposed structural system comprises painted brick walls, square wood and steel posts, substantial wood and steel beams, wood roof decking, and hardwood and concrete floors. The wood floor system includes thick plank decking and a hardwood top layer. Long rows of wood posts, many of which have chamfered edges to increase fire resistance, divide manufacturing areas into wide bays that accommodated sizable machinery. Short segments of heavy timbers with chamfered ends top posts on both levels, distributing the load of structural beams and floor boards or roof decking above. Diagonal heavy-timber braces provide supplementary first-story support. As each addition's

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

construction involved the removal of portions of walls between mill sections, steel posts and beams were added as needed to reinforce openings. The 1950s additions have steel I-beam-and-post structural systems and concrete floors. At most interior entrances, galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors, known as kalamein doors, slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. Sliding wood doors and roll-up metal doors secure loading dock entrances. An early 1950s freight elevator and two runs of wood steps with wood railings provide second-story access. A small number of gypsum-board sheathed partition walls have been added to enclose restrooms and galley kitchens on the 1924 factory's first floor. Fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

#### **4. Boiler House, 1541 West English Road, 1922, between 1924 and 1938, contributing building**

The one-story, two-room, brick 1922 boiler house abuts the east section of the 1924 factory's (#3) south elevation and the 1924 dye house's (#5) east elevation. The north coal storage room was erected between 1924 and 1938. Steel beams and narrow wood decking support the metal-clad shed roof, which slopes gradually to the east. Two-header-course segmental-arch lintels surmount five high nine-pane wood sash and a single-leaf plywood door on the east elevation. Two larger multipane steel sash with hoppers and a sliding metal door that provides access to the north coal room were later additions. Painted plywood covers all sash. A frame shaft sheathed with faux-red-brick-patterned rolled-asphalt siding rises from the roof. A sixteen-pane steel sash with an eight-pane hopper pierces the shaft's south elevation. A steel lintel surmounts the double-leaf vertical-board door on the south elevation that opens onto a concrete landing as the boiler room's concrete floor is below grade. In order to accommodate massive equipment, the boiler room has a high ceiling and open plan. An original single-leaf diagonal-board sliding door on the north wall facilitates coal-room egress. The coal room, which most recently served as a dark room, has painted brick walls and vinyl flooring.

#### **5. Dye House, 107-109 South West Point Avenue, 1924, late 1920s, between 1950 and 1956, contributing building**

The one-story brick 1924 dye house extends from the east portion of the factory's (#3) south elevation. The only visible portion of the south wall is the terra-cotta-coping-capped stepped parapet, which rises above the one-story, gable-roofed, five-to-one-common-bond, late 1920s addition that extends to the south. The construction of the one-story brick wing at the dye house's southeast corner between 1950 and 1956 resulted in removal of the east elevation's south portion. The remaining north bays have been altered by the installation of single-leaf steel door with textured-translucent-glass-block sidelights in a wider door opening and a window covered with painted plywood north of the door. A straight-slope canvas awning shelters both openings.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

The one-story flat-roofed early 1950s wing has five-to-one common-bond walls and terra-cotta coping on flat north and south parapets. Two sixteen-pane steel sash with eight-pane hoppers and a shorter twenty-pane sash with a six-pane hopper punctuate the north elevation. Two eight-pane steel sash at the east elevation's north end are exposed, but painted plywood covers two south openings and six openings on the south elevation.

The south elevations of the early 1950s wing and the dye house addition to the west are in the same plane. Terra-cotta-coping tops the dye house addition's stepped south parapet above a faded white-painted sign band. A roll-up corrugated-metal door with a steel lintel and a single-leaf steel door have been installed in the east and center bays. Painted plywood fills the west window opening.

The dye house addition's west elevation encompasses, from south to north, five twenty-pane steel sash with eight-pane hoppers, a sixteen-pane steel sash with an eight-pane hopper, and a double-leaf six-horizontal-panel wood door. To the north, eight twenty-pane steel sash with eight-pane hoppers punctuate the 1924 dye house's west elevation.

The 1924 dye house's exposed structural system consists of painted brick walls, square wood and steel posts, substantial wood and steel beams, wood roof decking, and hardwood and concrete floors. The wood floor system includes thick plank decking and a hardwood top layer. Long rows of wood posts, many of which have chamfered edges to increase fire resistance, divide manufacturing areas into wide bays that accommodated sizable machinery. As each addition's construction involved the removal of portions of walls between mill sections, steel posts and beams were added as needed to reinforce openings. The 1950s addition has steel I-beam-and-post structural systems and concrete floors. At some interior entrances, galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors, known as kalamein doors, slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. Sliding wood doors and roll-up metal doors secure loading dock entrances. A small number of gypsum-board sheathed partition walls have been added to enclose restrooms and galley kitchens at the 1924 dye house's north end. Fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

## **6. Knitting Building, 105 South West Point Avenue, 1931, contributing building**

A narrow alley separates the dye house (#5) from the parallel two-story, five-bay-wide by fourteen-bay-long, five-to-one-common-bond, 1931 wing that housed knitting equipment. The stepped parapet with terra-cotta coping atop the south elevation hides the low gable roof and long roof monitor. Painted-wood rafter ends support deep eaves on the east and west elevations, where brick pilasters rise unbroken to the eaves, and, with slightly projecting two-course sills, frame twenty-pane steel first-story sash with eight-pane hoppers and sixteen-pane steel second-story sash with eight-pane hoppers. The south elevation's windows differ in that the four first-story sash have four-pane hoppers. The transom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

above the single-leaf replacement door in the south elevation's west bay has been enclosed with plywood. The west elevation includes a wide single-leaf steel door with an eight-pane steel transom in the second bay from its south end, as well as a double-leaf plywood door in the second bay from the north end that opens onto a concrete loading dock. A tall single-leaf, metal, eighteen-pane door was installed in a former window opening near the east elevation's center to allow alley access. A single-leaf steel door in the east elevation's south second-story bay provides egress to a steel fire escape.

The 1931 building's exposed structural system encompasses painted brick walls, square wood and steel posts, substantial wood and steel beams, wood roof decking, and hardwood and concrete floors. The wood floor system includes thick plank decking and a hardwood top layer. Long rows of wood posts, many of which have chamfered edges to increase fire resistance, divide manufacturing areas into wide bays that accommodated sizable machinery. As each addition's construction involved the removal of portions of walls between mill sections, steel posts and beams were added as needed to reinforce openings. At most interior entrances, galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors, known as kalamein doors, slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. Sliding wood doors and roll-up metal doors secure loading dock entrances. A small number of gypsum-board sheathed partition walls have been added to enclose restrooms and galley kitchens at the 1931 addition's southeast corner. Fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

## **Commercial and Industrial Buildings (#7-9), 1533 West English Road**

The three interconnected two-story commercial and industrial buildings north of the narrow alley feature distinctive facades. Each is gradually shorter moving north. The northernmost building is also less deep, as its east elevation abutted the no-longer-extant two-story brick piano factory erected prior to 1924. The exterior descriptions begin with the south building's west elevation.

### **7. South Commercial and Industrial Building, 1533 West English Road, 1928, contributing building**

The south building's five-bay red-brick running-bond façade features classical elements. In the central and outer bays, cast-stone bands rise from a cast-stone base to frame two stories of large window openings with slightly projecting header-course sills, soldier-course lintels, and patterned-brick spandrels and kneewalls. Copper cornices and leaded-glass transoms surmount the storefront windows. In the intermediate bays, diamond-pane oculi with cast-stone surrounds top two cast-stone scrolled entrance pediments. The south opening provides access to a shallow vestibule containing canted wood-frame glazed doors that open into the adjacent storefronts. The north surround, filled with patterned brick, supplies symmetry but is no longer a functioning doorway. Above each oculi, a tall, narrow, rectangular window with a slightly projecting header-course sill and soldier-course lintel

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

illuminated the second story. Most windows are covered with painted plywood. Storefront sash status is unknown, as plywood also fills the opening interiors. Second-story sash have been removed. A stepped cast-stone-capped parapet tops the façade.

The south and east elevations are utilitarian. A stepped parapet with terra-cotta coping tops the windowless red-brick common-bond south wall. A single-leaf wood door near the east end provides access to the small mechanical room and stair to the second floor at the building's southeast corner. The single-leaf steel door to the west opens into the one-bay-wide south storefront. An elevated passage intersects the second story (see below).

The eight-bay east elevation's first story comprises a wide plywood-covered service door at the south end, three multipane steel sash with hoppers, and two single-leaf doors. A small frame utility shed extends from the service door bay. Two of the seven second-story window openings retain sixteen-pane steel sash with eight-pane hoppers. Louvered-metal vents and brick fill four openings, and the northernmost opening is completely enclosed with brick. All but the north window have slightly projecting cast-stone sills. Corrugated metal siding covers the wide service door in the second bay from the second story's north end.

An elevated frame passage spans the alley between the 1928 buildings, connecting the ca. 1924 factory's (#3) northwest corner to Building #7's second story. Built at the same time as Building #7, the passage, sheathed with flush narrow boards and faux-red-brick-patterned rolled-asphalt siding, has a low-gable roof and narrow-board floor. A small, square, central, wood-frame, tilting window pierces each of the east and west elevations. The six-horizontal-panel wood door at the west elevation's south end is covered with plywood on the exterior. The wood-frame structural system is exposed on the interior. Hardwood floors are in fair condition, but have suffered some water damage.

## **8. Central Commercial and Industrial Building, 1533 West English Road, 1928, contributing building**

The central building manifests an Art Deco stylistic influence. The variegated-brown-and-taupe patterned-brick façade is punctuated by three tall brick pilasters with cast-stone plinths that frame two storefronts and six second-story windows beneath a cast-stone-capped crenellated parapet with geometric motifs. At the second story, shorter matching intermediary pilasters, corbelled sills comprising a stretcher course topped with a header course, and cast-stone-lintels surround sixteen-pane steel sash with eight-pane hoppers. Above each window and at the top of each pilaster, vertical recesses supply additional embellishment. The storefronts encompass patterned-brick kneewalls, slightly projecting header-course sills, copper cornices beneath prismatic-glass transoms, and cast-stone upper cornices. Painted plywood covers the storefront windows and transoms. The plate-glass display windows were replaced with mid-twentieth-century multipane steel sash that remain in place



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

behind the plywood. A single-leaf door replacement door was installed in the south storefront in conjunction with the plywood enclosure. There is no door in the north storefront.

The central and south buildings' similarly executed east elevations are in the same plane. The central building's first story encompasses four multipane steel sash of various widths with hoppers, a plywood-covered window opening at the south end, two single-leaf plywood doors, a double-leaf plywood door, and a vertically sliding steel elevator door at the north end. A small frame utility shed projects beneath the south window. All six of the second-story window openings have been filled with brick. Louvered-metal vents were also installed in portions of four openings and horizontal three-pane steel windows in two openings. The window openings have slightly projecting cast-stone sills. The north elevation is blind. A corrugated-metal second-story roll-up door opened into a hyphen adjacent to the no longer extant factory wing.

## **9. North Commercial and Industrial Building, 1533 West English Road, 1928, contributing building**

The north building's textured-yellow-brick façade provides dramatic contrast with the rest of the red-and brown-and-taupe brick block. Art Deco elements include brick pilasters that frame three storefronts. The pilasters have cast-stone plinths and canted cast-stone caps bifurcated by a vertical recess with a cast-stone block at the base. Each storefront encompasses a yellow-brick kneewall, slightly projecting header-course sill, copper cornice beneath a prismatic-glass transom, and cast-stone upper cornice. A soldier course spans the pilasters above the cast-stone cornice. Painted plywood covers the storefront windows. A double-leaf door opens into the central bay; there are no doors in the other two storefronts. Corbelled surrounds with crosseted corners embellish six second-story plywood-covered window openings. Storefront and second-story sash status is unknown, as painted plywood also fills the opening interiors. Above the windows, eight short vertical courses of angled brick intersect a cast-stone beltcourse. A soldier course and cast-stone coping top the flat parapet.

The north building's offset east elevation accommodated the piano factory wing. Ghost marks of the factory's low gable roof are visible on the east wall's blind central section. A wide service door allowed egress into the wing's first story. Two twenty-pane steel sash with six-pane hoppers and slightly projecting cast-stone sills were north and south of the wing. Painted plywood fills the slightly smaller north second-story window opening, which contains a sixteen-pane steel sash with an eight-pane hopper. A corrugated-metal second-story roll-up door opened into a hyphen south of the wing. A stepped parapet with terra-cotta coping tops the blind red-brick common-bond north elevation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## *Interiors of Commercial and Industrial Buildings (#7-9)*

The north buildings all have open plans on both levels. First-story showrooms are more elaborately finished than second-story manufacturing areas. Original finishes include pressed-tin ceilings and cornices, narrow-board ceilings, plaster and painted brick walls, and concrete and narrow-board floors. Uniformly spaced steel I-beams and wood ceiling beams carry the building's load. At most interior entrances, galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors, known as kalamein doors, slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. Fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

The south building's first story is separated into a one-bay-wide south space and a two-bay-wide north space, both with pressed-tin ceilings, plaster walls, and concrete floors. The small mechanical room at the building's southeast corner includes a gypsum-board-clad stair to the second floor.

The central and north buildings' first floors are large open rooms with narrow-board ceilings, painted brick walls, and concrete floors. Gypsum-board partition walls enclose restrooms adjacent to the central building's east wall and a storage room at its southwest corner.

The interconnected second floor encompasses three open rooms used for manufacturing. Painted brick walls, square wood posts and ceiling beams, and narrow-board floors and ceilings are substantially intact. Large square skylights and multipane steel windows provided ample light. The collapsed west portion of the south building's ceiling and roof were replaced with dimensional lumber rafters and plywood decking. Portions of the central and north room ceilings have also suffered water damage. A freight elevator occupies the central building's northeast corner. A partial-height horizontal-board-clad wall encloses restrooms south of the elevator.

## **Integrity Statement**

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1 possesses the seven qualities of historic integrity—location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship—required for National Register designation. The complex displays high integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, as it remains on its historic site at West End's center. Although some of the proximate commercial and industrial buildings that flanked West English Road have been demolished, a cohesive collection of edifices erected from the late 1920s through the 1960s convey the area's character during the period of significance.

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1 also embodies early- to mid-twentieth-century industrial and commercial design, materials, and workmanship. The 1924 factory and dye house and 1928 and 1931 additions have heavy-timber and steel post-and-beam interior structural systems, load-bearing brick exterior

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   7   Page   14   Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

walls executed in five-to-one common bond, double-thickness wood and concrete floors, and kalamein doors. Large multipane steel sash with hoppers, long roof monitors, and skylights provided ample light and ventilation. The 1950s additions did not involve extensive modifications; only limited wall removal to facilitate interior connectivity. The mill's open plan and interior finishes original to each construction phase are substantially intact.

The 1928 façades, distinguished by classical and Art Deco features executed in masonry and cast-stone, retain prismatic and leaded-glass transoms, copper cornices, and brick and ceramic-tile kneewalls. Plate-glass storefront windows have been removed and openings covered with plywood, but the openings are intact. The 1928 addition's south second-story window openings were filled with brick when the plant was air-conditioned and the north second-story office windows have been replaced. North of the alley, the north and south buildings' façade windows are covered with plywood. Status of the storefront sash and the north building's second-story sash is unknown, as plywood also fills the opening interiors. The south building's second-story sash have been removed.

Three resources associated with Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1 that stood in the tax parcel's northeast quadrant—the two-story, brick, pre-1924 piano factory that abutted Building 9's east elevation and was absorbed into the hosiery factory in 1928, the two-story frame 1940s warehouse south of the piano factory, and a one-story machine shop erected by 1938—were demolished by the previous owner. Their loss does not diminish the integrity of the remaining buildings, as the most architecturally and historically significant portions of the complex survive. The vacant northeastern portion of the tax parcel has been excluded from the National Register boundary.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## Section 8. Statement of Significance

Melrose Hosiery Mill possesses local significance under Criterion A due to its industrial importance and Criterion C as a representative example of industrial and commercial architectural design in High Point during the twentieth century's second quarter. Established in 1922 by brothers Robert Thomas Amos (1880-1968) and Charles Lee Amos (1886-1961), the concern was a driving force in High Point's economy until its 1971 closure. Melrose Hosiery Mills grew from a twenty-five-person operation housed in a one-story frame warehouse to an enterprise with three plants on West English Road and Kivett Drive and approximately twelve hundred employees by the mid-twentieth century. As High Point's second-largest hosiery manufacturer for much of its history, the company was one of the city's principal employers, taxpayers, freight shippers, and power consumers. The workforce was predominantly female, affording women the opportunity to hold a wide variety of positions. The West English Road plant's rapid 1920s expansion stimulated extensive commercial, industrial, and residential development in the proximate West End area that continued through the 1950s.

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1 is a cohesive collection of largely intact 1922-1956 buildings that display the evolution of industrial and commercial design during that period. The 1924 factory and dye house and 1928 and 1931 additions are characterized by heavy-timber and steel post-and-beam interior structural systems, load-bearing brick exterior walls executed in five-to-one common bond, double-thickness wood and concrete floors, and kalamein doors, all typical in early-twentieth-century fire-resistant industrial architecture. Large multipane steel sash with hoppers, long roof monitors, and skylights provided ample light and ventilation. The 1928 and early 1950s additions incorporate structural-steel framing systems frequently used during the mid-twentieth century. The 1928 storefronts, enlivened by classical and Art Deco stylistic elements, variegated patterned brick with cast-stone accents, prismatic and leaded-glass transoms, copper cornices, and brick and ceramic-tile kneewalls, exemplify the Commercial Style. In a several-block portion of West English Road once lined by commercial buildings, Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's storefronts are among the most architecturally distinctive survivors. The 1928 additions were unique in that they housed company offices and manufacturing operations as well as first- and second-story showrooms occupied by unrelated businesses. The period of significance begins in 1922 with Melrose Hosiery Mills' creation and the boiler house construction, and continues to 1971, when the company ceased production.

## Historical Background and Industry Context

Guilford County's development escalated in the mid-nineteenth century with the construction of improved transportation routes through the region. The Fayetteville and Western Plank Road linked Salem to Wilmington in 1852, greatly facilitating travel and trade between the Piedmont and the coast. The North Carolina Railroad soon followed, connecting Charlotte to Raleigh and points east in 1855. Surveyors determined that a site near the transportation arteries' intersection in southwestern Guilford

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

County had the highest elevation along the railroad corridor and indicated it as such on their maps. The locale thus became known as “High Point.”<sup>7</sup>

Entrepreneurs seized upon the opportunity to purchase land, construct homes, and establish businesses in the crossroads vicinity. Thomas Sechrest, Soloman Kendall, and Nathan Johnson sold acreage near High Point’s center to investors including William Welch and Salem industrialist Francis Fries, who promptly launched new commercial ventures including land subdivision and sales. The community burgeoned after the railroad line opened, and, in 1857, encompassed 441 white residents, 70 slaves, and 14 free blacks. The North Carolina General Assembly incorporated the new town in 1859.<sup>8</sup>

The Civil War’s onset dramatically slowed High Point’s growth, but, with the exception of a Union raid that destroyed the frame depot and a cotton warehouse near the war’s end in 1865, the nascent municipality was largely spared from destruction. As the economy began to recover, industrialists W. H. Snow (a Vermont native and former Union officer), A. A. Barker, J. Elwood Cox, and H. R. Welborn opened tobacco factories, textile mill apparatus manufactories, lumber yards, and millwork plants, providing myriad employment prospects for laborers including newly emancipated African Americans who moved to town from rural areas. Banks, construction companies, restaurants, and retail outlets followed these primary economic engines, resulting in a population increase from 591 residents in 1870 to approximately 1,000 occupants in 1880.<sup>9</sup>

The last decades of the nineteenth century brought even more significant progress. Ernest A. Snow (Captain Snow’s son), John H. Tate, and Thomas F. Wrenn opened High Point’s first furniture factory in spring 1889 and many others soon followed. The population doubled by 1890 and climbed to 4,163 residents in 1900.<sup>10</sup> That year, High Point boasted at least thirty-three industrial enterprises, ranging from flour, lumber, and cotton mills to furniture and mattress producers, brick and tile manufacturers, building supply companies, and cigar and tobacco factories, most of which were located along railroad

---

<sup>7</sup> Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point, North Carolina* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2008), 27-28; Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 341.

<sup>8</sup> Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point*, 27; Thomas B. Smith, “Negroes of City Have Won and Retain Respect for Splendid Achievement,” *HPE*, January 20, 1935. High Point’s population was not quantified separately in official government records until 1900. Various sources give different numbers for the population upon incorporation in 1859, varying from 525 residents (Eli Denny, *Greensboro Patriot*, July 1857) to 596 inhabitants [Robert F. Hicks Jr., *The Spirit of Enterprise: The History of High Point’s Formative Period: 1851-1926* (High Point: Robert Franklin Hicks, 1989), 15].

<sup>9</sup> Again, estimated population numbers vary. High Point’s 1880 statistics range from 991 according to High Point historian Mary Lib Clark Joyce to about 1000 in Robert F. Hicks Jr., *The Spirit of Enterprise*, 53.

<sup>10</sup> “Enterprising High Point,” *The Daily Workman* (Greensboro), March 25, 1890, p. 1; Leon E. Truesdell, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Census of Population, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part A, Number of Inhabitants* (Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office, 1942), 772.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

lines. Downtown businesses prospered as the population increased in conjunction with industrial expansion.<sup>11</sup>

It was in this auspicious economic climate that brothers Robert Thomas Amos (1880-1968) and Charles Lee Amos (1886-1961), among the city's most ambitious twentieth-century entrepreneurs, embarked upon their first successful business venture. After graduating from Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York, Robert launched his career with a bookkeeping position at Lindsay Chair Company in High Point in 1902. Three years later, he partnered with furniture manufacturers Thurlow A. Kearns and M. B. Smith to establish Amos-Kearns Furniture Company. The concern leased a storefront and began selling furnishings and accessories in early April 1905. The business expanded to an adjacent building in fall 1906. That year, Robert recruited Charles to move to High Point from their parents' farm near Reidsville in Rockingham County and join the company as a salesman. The men acquired Kearns's interest in the business and chartered Amos Furniture Company in April 1907.<sup>12</sup>

Amos Furniture Company prospered during the 1910s. Following the lead of many piedmont industrialists, the Amoses diversified into textile manufacturing, incorporating Amos Hosiery Mills Company with J. W. Harriss, Wescott Roberson, M. B. Smith, and R. B. Terry in December 1916. Wescott Roberson initially served as president, Charles Amos as vice president, and Robert Amos as secretary-treasurer.<sup>13</sup>

Their timing was optimal, as North Carolina hosiery production burgeoned during the twentieth century's first decades. The state's early manufacturers included Randleman Hosiery Mill in Randolph County, incorporated in 1893, and Durham Hosiery Mills and Golden Belt Hosiery Company in Durham, both established in 1895.<sup>14</sup> Entrepreneurs launched two High Point endeavors in November 1904. John Hampton Adams and James Henry Millis led the consortium of Guilford County businessmen who chartered High Point Hosiery Mill, while New York investors organized Centaur Knitting Company. Both concerns erected two-story brick factories that were substantially complete by February 1905. High Point Hosiery Mills operated ninety-three knitting machines when manufacturing commenced in April. By 1907, 275 employees had the capacity to weave

---

<sup>11</sup> "High Point Industries," *HPE*, September 21, 1900, p. 2; J. J. Farris, *High Point North Carolina: A Brief Sketch of Its Manufacturing Enterprises, Together with Sketches of Those who Built Them* (High Point: Enterprise Printing Company, 1900), 7.

<sup>12</sup> Charles and Robert resided in a Broad Street dwelling leased by their brother Will, a railroad conductor, and his wife Della by 1910. "Will Open Saturday," *HPE*, March 29, 1905, p. 1; "Another Large Building," *HPE*, June 20, 1906, p. 7; "Factions Bury the Hatchet," *Charlotte Observer*, April 29, 1907, p. 8; "Changed Firm Name," *HPE*, June 5, 1907, p. 1; U. S. Census, Population Schedules, 1900, 1910; death certificates.

<sup>13</sup> "Certificate of Incorporation Filed Monday at Greensboro," *HPE*, December 19, 1916, p. 2; *Miller's High Point, NC, City Directory*, 1918.

<sup>14</sup> L. Barron Mills Jr. *Randolph County: A Brief History* (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 2008), 89; Jean Bradley Anderson, *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1990), 213.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

approximately 1,500 pairs of socks daily. Centaur Knitting Company was not so fortunate. Creditors filed involuntary bankruptcy proceedings in February 1906 and equipment and machinery were sold at an April auction. Durham Hosiery Mills purchased the factory in August and enlarged it to serve as the third plant in its enterprise. Adams and Millis incorporated a second hosiery operation, Piedmont Mills Company, in 1909.<sup>15</sup>

By 1914, seventy-four North Carolina knitting plants employed approximately eight thousand workers who produced almost nine million dollars-worth of stockings. Most hosiery mills were located in central North Carolina cities with strong textile manufacturing traditions such as Burlington, High Point, Asheboro, Winston-Salem, and Hickory. Furniture factories—which often manufactured spindles, bobbins, and shuttles for textile mills in addition to inexpensive furnishings marketed to mill workers—abounded in the same municipalities, as well as in Thomasville, Lexington, Salisbury, and Statesville.<sup>16</sup> High Point's hosiery manufacturers, most of which benefited from military commissions during World War I, increased in number from three in 1913 to ten in 1918.<sup>17</sup>

In January 1917, Amos Hosiery Mills bought an approximately half-acre lot at Mangum Avenue and East Russell Street's northwest corner upon which to erect a factory. Additional space was necessary by February 1920, when the concern leased a portion of the former Standard Mirror – Southern Mirror factory to the southwest off Mangum Avenue and installed knitting machinery and equipment purchased from a western North Carolina hosiery mill. The original Amos Hosiery plant housed the finishing department after the manufacturing department's move to the neighboring factory. Robert became Amos Hosiery Mills' president when he and Charles reorganized the business in 1920 upon becoming the sole stockholders.<sup>18</sup>

The Amoses sold Amos Furniture Company's retail component to Winston-Salem-based Gilmer Brothers Company, which operated department stores in many North Carolina cities, in January 1920. Gilmer Brothers had outgrown its High Point location in the building next to Amos Furniture's store,

---

<sup>15</sup> "High Point Hosiery Mill, *News and Observer* (Raleigh), November 3, 1904, p. 6; "A Beauty," *HPE*, April 5, 1905, p. 1; *Wilmington Morning Star*, February 5, 1905, p. 2; *Raleigh Enterprise*, February 22, 1906, p. 3; "Engineers Back From Porto [sic] Rico," *Greensboro Daily News*, August 4, 1906, p. 3; "Durham Hosiery Mills Buy the Knitting Mill of High Point Power Company," *HPE*, August 8, 1906, p. 8; "High Point Hosiery Mills," *The Courier* (Asheboro), July 4, 1907, p. 1; "Another Factory," *HPE*, August 21, 1909, p. 1; Davison Publishing Company, *The Blue Book: Textile Directory: United States and Canada* (New York: Davison Publishing Company, 1910), 452.

<sup>16</sup> Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1992), 44.

<sup>17</sup> *Miller's High Point, NC, City Directories*, 1913, 1918.

<sup>18</sup> Guilford County Assumed Name Book A5, p. 3; *The Review* (High Point), January 4, 1917, p. 1; "High Point's Hosiery Industry is Growing," *Greensboro Daily News*, February 22, 1920, p. 8; "Not to Engage in New Business," *HPE*, February 21, 1920, p. 5; "Certificate of Dissolution," *HPE*, December 21, 1920, p. 8; *Miller's High Point, NC, City Directories*, 1916, 1918; "New Factory for High Point," *The Review*, April 25, 1918, p. 10.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

and the acquisition allowed for a much-needed expansion. The transaction facilitated Charles's desire to focus on furniture fabrication. As president and manager of Amos Furniture Manufacturing Company, organized in March 1920, he commissioned contractor J. O. Connor to construct a warehouse and office on West English Road adjacent to a Southern Railway line. The one-story, gable-roofed, corrugated-metal-sheathed, 64-by-150-square-foot building was completed in June 1920. The surrounding area, platted as the Melrose subdivision but known as West End, then contained only a few other industrial buildings. Charles's reprieve from retail sales was short-lived, as he partnered with A. H. Holton and O. V. Kester to incorporate Cut Rate Furniture Company in July 1922. The concern's store at 613 East Green Street was the first of several North Carolina locations. Charles also advocated for West End's residential and commercial development. In November, he headed the consortium of investors that established Atlantic Insurance and Realty Company.<sup>19</sup>

Charles and Robert Amos further capitalized on the robust economy by establishing Melrose Hosiery Mills in 1922. The men outfitted a portion of Amos Furniture Manufacturing Company's warehouse with fifty second-hand knitting machines. By July 1922, an approximately twenty-five-person workforce generated around eight hundred pairs of socks daily. Melrose Hosiery Mills sold its inventory to other concerns to dye and finish until the city agreed to extend municipal sewer service to the plant to allow for the construction of a dye house and boiler house. The company erected a freestanding boiler house in fall 1922 and a two-story brick mill by 1924. The dye house followed after the Amoses split their business interests in 1924, with Robert becoming Amos Hosiery Mills' sole owner and president and Charles assuming the same roles at Melrose Hosiery Mills. It appears that Amos Furniture Manufacturing Company had been dissolved by that time.<sup>20</sup>

The booming 1920s economy provided unprecedented opportunities for High Point citizens. Commercial and industrial expansion and city infrastructure improvements created thousands of new jobs, resulting in the population more than doubling during the decade—increasing from 14,302 inhabitants in 1920 to 36,745 residents in 1930. The High Point Chamber of Commerce reported that the city's 116 manufacturing establishments employed 8,891 laborers in 1924. Fourteen hosiery mills had the capacity to produce approximately 95 billion pairs of socks and stockings.<sup>21</sup> Melrose Hosiery

---

<sup>19</sup> The initial purchase comprised lots seven through twenty in block four of C. Markley's Melrose subdivision, platted in 1918. Guilford County Plat Book 4, p. 128; "Amos Furniture Co. Sold to Gilmer," *HPE*, January 6, 1920, p. 4; "Amos Warehouse Ready Soon," *HPE*, June 9, 1920, p. 3; *Manufacturers' Record*, March 11, 1920, p. 141; March 18, 1920, p. 135; July 20, 1922, p. 78; and November 2, 1922, p. 99; "Cut Rate Furniture Company," *HPE*, December 19, 1922, p. 9.

<sup>20</sup> Guilford County Assumed Name Book M11, p.7; *Manufacturers' Record*, August 10, 1922, p. 82; James R. Young and Marjorie W. Young, *Textile Leaders of the South* (Columbia, S. C.: R. L. Bryan Company, 1963), 4-7; "High Point Has a New Hosiery Mill," *HPE*, July 31, 1922, p. 2; "High Point Builders," *HPE*, December 28, 1922, p. 1; "Melrose Develops Into Important High Point Hosiery Firm," *E.S.C. Quarterly*, Winter-Spring 1953, 17; Sanborn Map Company, "High Point, North Carolina," Sheet 210, 1924.

<sup>21</sup> High Point Chamber of Commerce, *High Point, North Carolina* (High Point: High Point Chamber of Commerce, 1924), not paginated.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Mills quickly became one of High Point's principal industries. A. N. Hill supervised 125 employees who manufactured men's and women's seamless sock and stocking on 181 knitting, 30 carding, and 15 sewing machines in 1925. In comparison, 125 Amos Hosiery Mills employees utilized 163 knitting and 8 sewing machines to produce full-fashioned and seamless hosiery. At High Point Hosiery, the most sizable of the city's fourteen hosiery mills, 500 laborers operated 475 knitting, 134 ribbing, 81 looping, and 23 sewing machines.<sup>22</sup>

Melrose, Amos, and High Point hosiery mills were among the city's largest employers, taxpayers, freight shippers, and power consumers in the late 1920s. The companies' success epitomizes statewide trends in the industry. North Carolina was second only to Pennsylvania in the number of hosiery mills operating in 1927, when 117 plants in thirty-five counties employed approximately 15,500 workers and produced hosiery valued at almost \$53 million. Alamance County contained the largest number of hosiery mills (26), followed by Guilford County (15), Catawba County (10), Burke and Durham counties (8 each), and Forsyth and Randolph counties (5 each).<sup>23</sup> In 1931, Burlington, with thirty-two hosiery mills, was North Carolina's hosiery manufacturing center, followed by High Point, with sixteen hosiery plants.<sup>24</sup>

Melrose Hosiery Mills facilitated its late 1920s growth by commissioning local architect Fred Klein and contractor John Willett to design and erect in 1928 a two-story brick addition with commercial storefronts fronting West English Road at the 1924 factory's west end as well as three two-story brick commercial and industrial buildings to the north. The addition included company offices on both north-bay levels and first- and second-story showrooms occupied by Rose Furniture Company, owned by W. R., G. C., and O. V. Kester, in the south three bays. Noland Company, a wholesale plumbing supply purveyor, and Davis-Hill clothiers leased storefronts in the north buildings. A narrow alley between the addition and north buildings allowed access to the parcel's northeast quadrant, which included a freestanding two-story brick piano factory built before 1924. The elevated passage spanning the alley connected Melrose Hosiery Mills' 1924 factory to manufacturing operations on the north buildings' second floors. Following the 1928 installation of new equipment, including forty

---

<sup>22</sup> Davison Publishing Company, *Davison's Textile Blue Book: United States and Canada* (New York: Davison Publishing Company, 1925), 742; Frank D. Grist, commissioner, *Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Department of Labor and Printing of the State of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Mitchell Printing Company, 1926), 76-77, 82-83.

<sup>23</sup> Marvin Shirley, "Of 672 Mills In County, State Has 117, Is Second to Pennsylvania With 277," *The Charlotte Observer*, November 23, 1930; Robert Menzies, "Stockings Miss North Carolina Buys From Chicago Probably Made at Home," *Raleigh News and Observer*, October 24, 1937; "Migration," *Raleigh News and Observer*, January 29, 1939; C. H. McGregor, *The Hosiery Manufacturing Industry in North Carolina and Its Marketing Problems*, Research Paper 15, Graduate School of Business Administration, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, June 1965, 6-7.

<sup>24</sup> Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, James Leloudis, Robert Korstad, Mary Murphy, Lu Ann Jones and Christopher B. Daly, *Like a Family: The Making of the Southern Cotton Mill World* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1987), 255.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

knitting machines to manufacture women's silk stockings, Melrose Hosiery Mills was the city's second-largest enterprise of its type.<sup>25</sup> Only High Point Hosiery Mill was larger.

Charles Amos had previously constructed two one-story commercial buildings, each with two storefronts, at the southwest corner of the Melrose Hosiery Mills block in 1926. Tenants included general stores, printer W. R. Zeigler's shop, and C. A. Ring and Son's drug store. West End Hardware Store, Standard Barber Shop, West End Barber Shop, West End Drug Store, and the Ritz Theater, all of which opened in August 1928, occupied buildings on West English Road's west side. National Food Stores, Sartin Dry Cleaning Company, Hamilton Florist, West End Furniture Company, and Cecil-Simpson Drug Company also served factory employees as well as residents of the nearby West End suburb, which received electrical service in March 1929.<sup>26</sup>

Melrose Hosiery Mills' product demand remained high in 1930, when A. N. Hill oversaw 350 workers, approximately 65-percent female, who produced six grades of socks as well as silk stockings on 438 knitting, 85 looping, 10 sewing, and 2 winding machines. Amos Hosiery Mills, which manufactured men's and women's seamless hosiery, was a slightly smaller operation, with 250 employees, 409 knitting, 86 looping, 8 sewing, and 2 winding machines.<sup>27</sup> However, the textile industry was facing challenges that were exacerbated by the Great Depression's onset in the early 1930s. More efficient equipment and mechanization that transformed manufacturing operations led to employee layoffs. Job loss, decreased pay, and poor working conditions made unions more appealing. These factors set the stage for demonstrations across the South. In July 1932, approximately 360 workers from High Point's sixteen hosiery mills fought wage reductions by organizing a walk-out. Their protest inspired almost 15,000 North Carolina cotton, furniture, and hosiery mill laborers to do the same within a week. Demonstrators were quickly pacified, but other strikes followed. Two years later, around 65,000 North Carolinians were among approximately 400,000 laborers who forced plant closures throughout the southern United States during the three-week General Textile Strike of September 1934. Many mill owners fired known union members and sympathizers. Union efforts were not in vain, however, as the Roosevelt administration's social and economic reform programs eventually resulted in the institution of a forty-hour work week and increased worker pay.<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>25</sup> "More Hosiery Mills for City of High Point," *Charlotte Observer*, Carolina Industries Special Edition, March 2, 1928, p. 4; *Miller's High Point, NC, City Directories*, 1928, 1930; "West End is Home of the Melrose Hosiery Mill," "Rose Furniture is a Big West End Concern," *HPE*, March 28, 1929, pp. 10-11; D. H. Hill Jr., "Little Sign of Textile Goods Buying Improvement Seen," *Atlanta Constitution*, June 3, 1928, p. 8C.

<sup>26</sup> "West End Barber Shop is Opened," "Ritz Theater is Recent Addition," "Hardware Company in West End Has a Complete Stock," "West End White Way Will Be Cut On Tonight," "Ring Drug Store Popular Center in the West End," "Standard Barber Shop at West End," *HPE*, March 28, 1929, pp. 9-10.

<sup>27</sup> *Davison's Textile Blue Book*, 1930, 687.

<sup>28</sup> Hall, et al., *Like a Family*, 202-208, 217; Margaret Crawford, *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns* (London and New York: Verso, 1995), 194-195; "Hosiery Mills to Open Today," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 28, 1932, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Most High Point hosiery mills weathered the strikes and economic downturn during the Great Depression, maintaining and in some cases increasing production. The city's hosiery manufacturers increased from sixteen in 1930 to twenty-three in 1935, providing critically needed jobs. Melrose Hosiery Mills erected a two-story, brick, \$6,000 addition in 1931 that allowed for the installation of two hundred knitting machines. In 1935, the concern reported that 475 workers ran 679 knitting, 134 looping, and 23 sewing machines. A. N. Hill managed the plant and W. E. Mitchell purchased the operation's cotton, rayon, and silk. The company maintained New York and Chicago marketing offices. At Amos Hosiery Mills, 300 employees operated 470 knitting, 100 looping, and 8 sewing machines.<sup>29</sup>

Charles L. Amos Jr. (1914-1981) began working in Melrose Hosiery Mills' shipping department in 1934 and became a purchasing agent in 1936. In December of that year, C. L. Amos, C. L. Amos Jr., and W. E. Mitchell incorporated Melrose Hosiery Mills. At that time, North Carolina's 187 hosiery mills (of the South's 239) encompassed 2,028 full-fashioned hosiery machines. By the late 1930s, more new hosiery mills were being established in North Carolina than any other type of industrial plant. In 1938, entrepreneurs erected forty-four new plants and expanded thirty-eight existing hosiery mills, resulting in a total of 249 hosiery mills (75 full-fashioned and 174 seamless) by 1939. North Carolina manufactured approximately twenty-six percent of the nation's hosiery that year, almost doubling the state's 1929 product.<sup>30</sup>

Twenty-eight Guilford County hosiery manufacturers employed 3,831 women and 2,876 men in 1938. Adams-Millis Corporation, with almost two thousand laborers, was the most sizable operation. Melrose and Triangle hosiery mills, each with between 350 and 400 workers, were High Point's next largest concerns. The 1938 construction of an air-conditioned brick plant on Kivett Drive allowed Melrose Hosiery Mills to increase full-fashioned production capacity. R. H. Hilliard supervised approximately eighty operatives at that location. Crown, Diamond Full-Fashioned, Guilford, Silver-Knit, and Slane hosiery companies employed between 250 and 300 men and women, while Amos and Harriss and Covington hosiery mills' workforces numbered between 200 and 250.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> "High Point, N. C.," *Index Journal*, December 16, 1930, p. 4; "Industrial Plants Add to Employment," *Tampa Tribune*, November 10, 1931, p. 18; *Davison's Textile Blue Book*, 1935, 543-545.

<sup>30</sup> Guilford County Incorporation Book N, p. 70; *E.S.C. Quarterly*, Winter-Spring 1953, 17; Marvin Shirley, "Of 672 Mills In County, State Has 117, Is Second to Pennsylvania With 277," *The Charlotte Observer*, November 23, 1930; Robert Menzies, "Stockings Miss North Carolina Buys From Chicago Probably Made at Home," *Raleigh News and Observer*, October 24, 1937; "Migration," *Raleigh News and Observer*, January 29, 1939; McGregor, *The Hosiery Manufacturing Industry in North Carolina*, 6-7; Melrose Hosiery Mills, Inc., "From a tiny plant to full bloom – this is the Melrose Story," circa 1962 company history, High Point Historical Museum.

<sup>31</sup> North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of North Carolina* (Durham: Christian Printing Company, 1938), 387, 393-394; "High Point," *Rocky Mount Telegram*, March 18, 1938, p. 1; "New Melrose Unit Modern Structure," *HPE*, July 31, 1938; *E.S.C. Quarterly*, Winter-Spring 1953, 17.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

The Amoses pursued numerous business ventures as the economy stabilized. In 1938, Charles was president-treasurer of Melrose Hosiery Mills; president of Atlantic Insurance and Realty Company, Cut-Rate Furniture Company, and Troxler Furniture; and a first vice president of The Hood System National Bank, established in 1926 to handle industrial accounts. His son R. Kenner Amos (1918-1996), a 1933 McCallie Military Academy graduate, joined Melrose Hosiery Mills' administrative team as a purchasing agent. Robert remained president of Amos Hosiery Mills and partnered with Herman H. Smith to create Amos and Smith Hosiery Company, which commenced manufacturing ladies seamless stockings at a Pilot Mountain plant in 1939. The company was managed from Amos Hosiery Mills' High Point office.<sup>32</sup>

Charles Sr. organized Glenn Hosiery Company, which operated as an independent subsidiary of Melrose Hosiery Mills, in early 1941. He served as president, Charles Jr. as vice president, and A. Glenn Smith as secretary-treasurer and manager. Smith, a Reidsville native, had garnered ample experience in the industry while selling hosiery for High Point manufacturers since attaining a business administration degree from Duke University in 1929. The concern, which was producing cotton and rayon white, pink, yellow, and blue children's socks at a factory on Kivett Drive near Melrose Hosiery Mills' full-fashioned plant in March 1941, was then High Point's only manufacturer with that specialty. Sixty employees operated thirty-six knitting machines in July 1941.<sup>33</sup>

North Carolinians rose to the challenges of World War II in the early 1940s. Melrose, Glenn, and Amos hosiery mill employees were among the approximately 19,192 Guilford County residents who served in the military.<sup>34</sup> Those left behind were occupied with the war effort in a variety of ways, from rationing and participating in bond and salvage drives to filling vacant positions at mills and factories that accelerated production to meet the needs of servicemen and women. Worker demographics changed as industrial jobs rose by seventy-five percent in the South over the course of World War II, with traditionally underemployed groups such as women, African Americans, and the elderly receiving invaluable education, training, and experience. Output soared after May 1943, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of War Mobilization to coordinate a diverse array of support endeavors including manufacturing, scientific research, and agricultural production.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> Hill Directory Company, *Hill's High Point (Guilford County, NC) City Directories* (Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Co., 1938); Carolyn Boyles, *Early Days of Pilot Mountain, North Carolina: A History and Genealogy* (Pilot Mountain, N.C.: Carolyn Boyles, 2012), 180.

<sup>33</sup> Mary Louise Medley, "Making Infants' Hose a New Enterprise Here," *HPE*, July 6, 1941, p. 8A; *E.S.C. Quarterly*, Winter-Spring 1953, 17.

<sup>34</sup> Spencer B. King Jr., *Selective Service in North Carolina in World War II* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1949), 321.

<sup>35</sup> Marilyn M. Harper, et. al. *World War II and the American Home Front* (Washington, D. C.: The National Historic Landmarks Program, October 2007), 3, 13-16.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Although silk importation restrictions and nylon rationing presented stocking production challenges during World War II, High Point hosiery mills adapted, utilizing more cotton, wool, and synthetic fibers items produced for retail and military markets. Melrose and Amos hosiery mills increased storage capacity with new buildings in fall 1941. Melrose Hosiery Mills began erecting a \$5,000 warehouse at the West English Road plant in September. Amos Hosiery Mills engaged High Point contractor R. K. Stewart and Sons to build a two-story brick \$30,000 addition in August, perhaps in anticipation of a \$368,400 September War Department contract for 1,500,000 pairs of wool socks. Many Melrose, Glenn, and Amos hosiery mills employees contributed a portion of their wages to defense savings bonds, the Red Cross, and other initiatives supporting the war.<sup>36</sup>

On June 23, 1942, a large section of Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's roof collapsed, injuring approximately sixteen of the forty women working in the second-floor looping department. Two sustained fractures, while the rest suffered cuts, abrasions, and shock. City fire chief and building inspector E. K. Ingram determined that faulty construction caused the incident.<sup>37</sup> The damage was quickly repaired.

Military orders fueled production at High Point hosiery mills through the mid-1940s. At Melrose Hosiery Mills, the second-largest of the city's sixteen hosiery manufacturers in 1944, output included socks for U. S. Army and Navy troops. General manager W. E. Mitchell, seamless hosiery supervisor A. N. Hill, and full-fashioned superintendent R. H. Hilliard ensured that 20 full-fashioned, 700 circular knitting, 170 looping, and 35 sewing machines were efficiently operated. The company's New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles offices marketed men's and women's cotton, rayon, and nylon socks and stockings, as well as Glenn Hosiery Mills' cotton and rayon children's socks. H. J. Jernigan managed the Glenn Hosiery plant. At Amos Hosiery Mills, 400 employees ran 520 knitting, 100 looping, and 8 sewing machines.<sup>38</sup>

Charles L. Amos Sr. remained president-treasurer of Melrose Hosiery Mills as well as president of Atlantic Insurance and Realty Company, Cut-Rate Furniture Company, Glenn Hosiery Company; and first vice president of The Hood System National Bank during the 1940s. Charles Jr. served as vice president of Glenn Hosiery Company and Melrose Hosiery Mills, and R. Kenner vice president

---

<sup>36</sup> "Future Seen as Uncertain by Operators," *HPE*, August 17, 1941, p. 13; "Full-fashioned Hose Mills Here Operating," *HPE*, August 27, 1941, p. 10; "Sock Contract Here," *HPE*, September 16, 1941, p. 12; "Melrose Starting Voluntary Payroll Allotment Plan," *HPE*, December 20, 1941, p. 5; "City Authorizes \$29,576 in Building During Week," *HPE*, September 21, 1941, p. 2A; "New Building Will Be Used as Warehouse," *HPE*, August 24, 1941, p. 1B; "Melrose, Glenn Employees Give War Fund Money," *HPE*, May 19, 1942, p. 12.

<sup>37</sup> "Construction Faults Get Blame for Collapse of Melrose Roof; Three Persons Kept in Hospital," *HPE*, June 24, 1942, p. 12.

<sup>38</sup> Employee numbers were not reported for Glenn and Melrose hosiery mills. *Davison's Textile Blue Book*, 1944, 495-496.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Melrose Hosiery Mills. Robert T. Amos headed Amos Hosiery Mills and Amos and Smith Hosiery Company and was a director and officer of the Southern Hosiery Manufacturers Association and the National Hosiery Manufacturers Association.<sup>39</sup>

Melrose and Glenn hosiery mills began issuing a mimeographed monthly newsletter—*Mel-Rose-Glen*—in August 1944. The publication chronicled plant improvements, company achievements, departmental actions, personnel news, and the status of former employees in military service. Although employee demographics are not available for this period, the newsletter and promotional publications document that the workforce included African American laborers, many of whom performed janitorial, shipping, maintenance, or site work. Employee benefits included vacations, health insurance, and access to Melrose-Glenn Credit Union, established in February 1945. The company also afforded workers myriad recreational opportunities, sponsoring athletic contests, a baseball team, classes, social clubs, picnics, and parties. In March 1946, the company hired registered nurse Mattie Idol to dispense first aid, health consultations, and physician referrals from a clinic on the 1929 office's second floor.<sup>40</sup>

Most non-essential construction ceased during World War II, and building material and labor shortages, coupled with sharp inflation, increased building costs immediately after the war. However, Melrose and Glenn hosiery mills obtained Civilian Production Administration permits that allowed for approximately \$750,000-worth of plant updates. Melrose Hosiery Mills more than doubled the size of its Kivett Drive full-fashioned knitting plant. The addition's construction commenced in summer 1946

---

<sup>39</sup> The Amoses were ardent philanthropists and civic leaders. Charles Sr. was High Point Public School Board member and a trustee of High Point College, High Point Memorial Hospital, Guilford County Tuberculosis Sanatorium. He owned Charles-Kenner Field, a private High Point airport, and Melrose Stock Farm, an eight-hundred-acre cattle farm in Rockingham County. Robert was a city councilman and served on the boards of Brevard College, Carolina Container Corporation, Country Club Realty Corporation (High Point Country Club), Greensboro-High Point Airport Authority, High Point Hotel Company, High Point Memorial Hospital, High Point YMCA, Highland Cotton Mills, North Carolina Railroad Company, and Winston-Salem-based Wachovia Bank and Trust Company. Robert T. Amos Jr. followed his father's example. He graduated from McCallie Military Academy in spring 1940, enrolled at Davidson College, and enlisted in the U. S. Army after his sophomore year for World War II's duration. He completed his studies at Davidson in 1947 and returned to High Point, where he soon became Amos Hosiery Mills' vice president and general manager, and a board member of Amos Hosiery Mills, Amos and Smith Hosiery Mills, Highland Cotton Mills, High Point YMCA, Piedmont Savings and Loan Company, Central Carolina Convalescent Hospital, Children's Home of Winston-Salem, and Wachovia Bank and Trust Company. Young, *Textile Leaders of the South*, 4-7, 726-727; "Southern Hose Manufacturers Name R. T. Amos," *HPE*, September 21, 1941, p. 1B; *Hill's High Point City Directory*, 1945; "Charles L. Amos Sr. Funeral Tomorrow," *HPE*, June 8, 1961, pp. 1 and 10A.; "Charles L. Amos," *HPE*, June 8, 1961, p. 4A; Robert Marks, "R. T. Amos Jr. Selected Local Citizen of Year," *HPE*, January 1, 1976, pp. 1 and 2A.

<sup>40</sup> The duration of the company newsletter's publication is unknown. The High Point Museum's collection includes twenty issues published from January 1945 through 1951. "Employees' Views of Melrose Credit Union Established," *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 1, No. 7, March 1945, p. 1; "Colored Employees," *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 2, No. 4, December 1945, p. 4; "Dispensary," *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 2, No. 7, March 1946, p. 1.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

and was completed in January 1947. A two-story 1947 addition to Glenn Hosiery's Kivett Drive factory provided finishing, shipping, boarding, and storage rooms, leaving only knitting and looping departments in the original building. Work began in January 1947 on Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 2, a two-story, brick, windowless edifice fronting Phillips Avenue at the north end of Melrose Hosiery Mills' West English Road complex that would encompass a first-floor warehouse and machine shop and eight hundred knitting machines in the second-floor knitting department. The building's southwest corner abutted the one-story brick 1941 Melrose Hosiery warehouse that fronted West English Road. By year's end, knitting equipment from the seamless hosiery department to the south had been moved to Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 2. This allowed for reorganization and remodeling of Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's seamless plant that included lighting updates, air conditioning installation, and interior painting. Textile Machine Works of Reading, Pennsylvania; Laconia, New Hampshire-based Scott and Williams; and Hemphill Company of Providence, Rhode Island supplied full-fashioned and seamless knitting machines. International Business Machines (I. B. M.) furnished accounting equipment.<sup>41</sup>

High Point's industrial production initially surged in the post-war years. In 1947, the city's hosiery manufacturers operated approximately 6,910 seamless and 138 full-fashioned knitting machines, double the number of any other North Carolina municipality. However, the economy slowed in spring 1947, resulting in less product demand and widespread workforce reductions. North Carolina manufacturers laid off approximately three thousand laborers at thirty-two textile and thirteen furniture plants. Seven hundred of Melrose Hosiery Mills' almost twelve hundred workers were among the unemployed. However, the concern bolstered its marketing efforts in the late 1940s, basing salesmen in Chicago, Dallas, High Point, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Los Angeles, and New York. By February 1949, Melrose and Glenn hosiery mills employed around twelve hundred workers. The concerns' production increased in the early 1950s, when many companies benefited from sizable defense contracts during the Korean War.<sup>42</sup> High Point factory owners upgraded and expanded their operations and facilities, reflecting the municipality's standing as one of North Carolina's largest industrial centers during this period. The population expanded by over a third as businesses recruited workers, growing from 39,973 at the decade's beginning to 62,063 in 1960.<sup>43</sup>

---

<sup>41</sup> "Building Expansion Now Underway," *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 3, No. 5, January 1947, p. 1; "Melrose Addition," *HPE*, November 23, 1947; "New!", *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 4, No. 5, January 1948, p. 3; "Full Fashion Knitting Department," *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 5, No. 1, October 1948, p. 6; "Interior View of Full Fashion Knitting Room," *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 5, No. 5, pp. 1 and 6; Joe Leslie, "Melrose Hosiery Mill Spends \$750,000 Improving Industry Since World War II," *HPE*, February 15, 1949.

<sup>42</sup> "City Leads in State Hosiery Manufacturing," *HPE*, March 23, 1947; "Unemployed List Grows In State," *Rocky Mount Telegram*, April 25, 1947, pp. 1 and 10; "From the Melrose Sales Organization," *Mel-Rose-Glen*, Vol. 5, No. 5, February 1949, p. 3; Leslie, "Melrose Hosiery Mill."

<sup>43</sup> "Population Statistics: Guilford County and the City of High Point," 1790-1990, document in the "population" vertical file in the North Carolina Collection at the High Point Public Library.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 27 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

In 1951, North Carolina's 255 seamless, 126 full-fashioned, and 381 knitting mills generated approximately forty percent of the nation's hosiery. Guilford County's thirty-nine hosiery mills reported an approximately 8,250-person workforce, far exceeding the other leading hosiery-producing counties: Alamance (6,150) and Catawba and Randolph (4,250 each). In 1953, High Point's twenty-nine hosiery manufacturers' approximately seven thousand workers operated 8,352 seamless and 240 full-fashioned knitting machines. Adams-Millis Corporation's four High Point plants employed around 1,600 laborers. At Melrose Hosiery Mills, which remained High Point's second-largest hosiery manufacturer, approximately one thousand employees produced socks for men, women, and children and ladies' full-fashioned stockings.<sup>44</sup>

Equipment numbers rose slightly at Melrose, Glenn, and Amos hosiery mills during the 1950s. Melrose Hosiery Mills reported operating 707 circular knitting, 205 looping, and 35 sewing machines in 1950. The company added 173 knitting machines by 1955. The Glenn Hosiery Mills complex contained 202 knitting, 58 ribbing, 36 looping, and 16 sewing machines in 1950. The company was absorbed by Melrose Hosiery Mills in August 1952, creating a single corporation. Amos Hosiery Mills ran 558 knitting, 126 looping, and 5 sewing machines, and installed 15 new knitting machines by 1955. Machinery quantities were stable through 1959.<sup>45</sup>

However, women's fashion shifts in the late 1950s dramatically impacted hosiery production. As full-fashioned hosiery declined in popularity, the associated job of sewing seams became obsolete and concerns laid off many of their full-fashioned knitters. State-wide statistics reflect this trend. Although almost half (49.4 percent) of the nation's hosiery mills were located in North Carolina in 1958, the state's full-fashioned hosiery mills decreased sixty-one percent in number (from 414 to 159 plants) by 1963. Melrose Hosiery Mills had only 428 employees in 1960.<sup>46</sup>

Charles L. Amos Jr. oversaw operational changes designed to improve efficiency after assuming Melrose Hosiery Company's presidency in 1958. The ladies seamless hosiery department moved from Kivett Drive to a newly erected and equipped knitting room on West English Road in June 1960. The Kivett Drive plant then housed only the finishing department. New machines and equipment at that plant included a conveyor system and an electronic truck lift. The modernization campaign continued through 1961. That year, Melrose Hosiery Mills was one of four High Point hosiery manufacturers with between five hundred and one thousand workers. Adams-Millis remained the city's largest such

---

<sup>44</sup> *E.S.C. Quarterly*, Winter-Spring 1953, 3-5, 14.

<sup>45</sup> *Davison's Textile Blue Book*, 1950, 599-600; Guilford County Incorporation Book 13, p. 325; *E.S.C. Quarterly*, Winter-Spring 1953, 17.

<sup>46</sup> McGregor, *The Hosiery Manufacturing Industry in North Carolina*, 7, 23; "Melrose Mills Workers Will Share \$16,000," *HPE*, December 14, 1960, p. 5B.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 28 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

concern, with more than 2,500 employees. The other twenty-four hosiery producers each had less than five hundred people on payroll.<sup>47</sup>

Charles L. Amos Sr. chaired Melrose Hosiery Mills' board of directors until his death on June 7, 1961. Charles Jr. was elected board chairman in 1962 when his brother Kenner became the company's president. In addition to its own product lines, the concern finished, packed, and shipped socks for other labels, including Clinton, S. C.-based Acclaim Hosiery Mills, which had a High Point plant. Melrose Hosiery Mills' printing department generated packaging, inserts, tickets, price tags for all products.<sup>48</sup>

Fashion trends influenced the hosiery industry again in the late 1960s as more women began wearing pants and therefore purchased short stockings, which were much less labor-intensive to produce than pantyhose, or dispensed with hosiery altogether. High Point hosiery plants declined in number by 1970, but nineteen companies continued to manufacture a diverse array of hosiery products. Adams-Millis Corporation (3,000 seamless knitting machines) and Melrose Hosiery Mills (800 circular knitting and seaming machines; 211 seamless knitting machines) remained the largest operations. The most sizable other concerns were Amos Hosiery Mills (400 employees; 650 circular knitting, 150 link and link knitting, 100 looping, and 50 seaming machines), Crown Hosiery Mills (335 employees; 800 circular knitting, 150 looping, and 15 sewing machines), and Harris and Covington (350 employees; 500 circular knitting, 6 looping, and 47 sewing machines).<sup>49</sup>

Intense competition within the domestic hosiery industry and rapidly changing technology contributed to Melrose Hosiery Mills' January 1971 decision to close on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Approximately three hundred employees were gradually laid off. The plants were leased to commercial and industrial tenants until being sold. City Transfer and Storage Company purchased Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 2 at 109 Phillips Avenue and the north 1941 warehouse at 1513 West English Road in January 1984 and continues to utilize the property. R. Kenner Amos and his wife Melvin H. Amos conveyed the south portion of the West English Road complex (Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1) to A. Scott Parker III in December 1987. Parker leased storefronts and manufacturing space to various businesses until selling the property to Cohab Space, LLC in March 2019. Fine art photographer Jim Koch, president of JK Gallery and Koch Studio Inc., began using the 1920s dye and boiler houses as his studio and darkroom in 1988. He later

---

<sup>47</sup> High Point Chamber of Commerce, *What's Made in High Point and Who Makes It* (High Point: Douglas Printing Company, 1961), 58-63; Melrose Hosiery Mills, Inc., "From a tiny plant to full bloom – this is the Melrose Story."

<sup>48</sup> Young, *Textile Leaders of the South*, 4-7, 726-727; "Charles L. Amos Sr. Funeral Tomorrow," *HPE*, June 8, 1961, pp. 1 and 10A; "Melrose Changes Officer Line-Up," *HPE*, December 5, 1961; "Acclaim Merges With Anderson," *HPE*, August 1, 1967, p. B1; Melrose Hosiery Mills, Inc., "From a tiny plant to full bloom – this is the Melrose Story."

<sup>49</sup> *Davison's Textile Blue Book*, 1970, 267-269.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 29 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

renovated much of the space to serve as an art gallery that remains in operation.<sup>50</sup> The remainder of Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1, which houses interior design showrooms, meeting rooms, and offices, hosts events and functions as a community gathering place.

Amos Hosiery Mills also scaled back manufacturing operations as new competitors emerged and the industry continued to change. The concern had a 175-person workforce when purchased in 1988 by MIG 90, an investment group led by James H. Millis Jr. of Adams-Millis Corporation, High Point's largest hosiery manufacturer. Following Sara Lee Corporation's 1988 acquisition of Adams-Millis Corporation, Amos Hosiery Mills operated two High Point plants and a Pilot Mountain facility as an independent subsidiary until 1990, when unfavorable market conditions forced closures. Only 150 employees remained in High Point at Millis Corporation's January 1991 bankruptcy announcement.<sup>51</sup>

## Industrial Architecture Context

Many of North Carolina's nineteenth-century textile producers adapted existing frame buildings to serve as their first mills. Such structures, which usually had rough-sawn wood floors and wood-shingle roofs, often resembled large residential or agricultural buildings as they were typically located in rural settings along the rivers and streams that generated their power. Edwin Michael Holt and William A. Carrigan's frame 1837 mill on Alamance Creek was one of the piedmont's earliest sizable textile mills.<sup>52</sup>

In the first purpose-built industrial buildings erected in the United States, engineers and architects strove to accommodate machinery in a manner that allowed for efficient access to power sources as well as maximum utilization of natural light and ventilation. By the mid-nineteenth century, "slow-burn" masonry construction, with load-bearing brick walls, exposed heavy-timber framing, thick plank floors, gabled roofs, large operable multipane sash and transoms, segmental-arched window and door lintels, and metal fire doors predominated.<sup>53</sup>

During the late nineteenth century, steam and electric power availability encouraged factory movement to urban areas in close proximity to railroad lines and sizable potential employee pools. Mill and

---

<sup>50</sup> "Melrose Hosiery To Close June 1," *HPE*, January 22, 1971; "Problem of Hosiery," *HPE*, January 24, 1971, p. 4A; Guilford County Deed Book 3383, p. 383; Deed Book 3636, p. 17; Deed Book 8139, p. 440.

<sup>51</sup> Wes Cashwell, "Amos Hosiery Announces Purchase by Investment Group," *HPE*, August 29, 1988, pp. 1 and 2A; Kathryn Hopper, "Millis Hosiery Files for Bankruptcy," *Greensboro News and Record*, January 2, 1991.

<sup>52</sup> Betsy Hunter Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), 16-17; Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina*, 16-17; Laura A. W. Phillips, "Alamance Mill Village Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2007.

<sup>53</sup> Sara E. Wermiel, "Heavy Timber Framing in Late-Nineteenth-Century Commercial and Industrial Buildings," *APT Bulletin: Journal of Preservation Technology*, Volume 35, No. 1, 2004, 56; Bradley, *The Works*, 234.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 30 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

factory design evolved from a process whereby owners worked with builders who erected edifices based on mutually understood norms to a field dominated by professionally-trained engineers who rendered plans for industrial buildings and supervised their execution. Although the construction of durable, economical structures was the primary objective, variegated, patterned, and corbelled brick and cast-stone accents were employed as an inexpensive means to increase aesthetic interest. Expressed pilasters, stringcourses, water tables, window sills, arched door and window lintels, and exterior stair towers enhanced visual appeal while expressing important structural functions.<sup>54</sup>

Standards imposed by machinery manufacturers and insurance companies also guided industrial architecture's evolution during the late nineteenth century. In order to minimize fire risk, stairwells, which could serve as conduits for fire movement between floors, were located in projecting stair towers. Brick interior walls and galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors, known as kalamein doors, separated the mill sections where fires might start or spread rapidly. These heavy doors would automatically close in the case of a fire, as the heat would melt a soft metal link in the door's counterweight assembly and the door would slide shut on the sloped metal track. As an additional precaution, water reservoirs and elevated water tanks supplied automatic sprinkler systems in many industrial complexes.<sup>55</sup>

During the twentieth century's first decades, architects and engineers continued to plan manufacturing complexes that were similar in appearance to earlier industrial buildings. However, new materials, technology, and forms manifested efficiency, modernity, and economic progress. Mill and factory designers specified steel and reinforced-concrete columns, posts, and beams in conjunction with brick, concrete, terra cotta block, or tile curtain walls that provided structural bracing but did not carry any weight. Bands of steel-frame multipane windows and roof monitors provided workers with abundant light and ventilation. Steel truss roof systems spanned open interiors that accommodated sizable equipment and allowed for flexibility as manufacturing needs changed.<sup>56</sup>

Although structural systems for some late-nineteenth-century industrial buildings included cast-iron or wrought-iron columns or steel posts and beams, high cost greatly limited the materials' use until the early twentieth century. The ability to withstand the weight and vibrations of heavy machinery without failing contributed to the widespread use of structural-steel construction by the 1910s, as did the ease of fabricating framing systems from standard factory-generated parts. Typical elements include I-, T-, H-, and box-shaped beams and posts; round columns; reinforcing plates; and angles, which serve as braces, tension members, struts, or lintels. Steel components could be riveted together, creating strong connections, and tended to be smaller and lighter than heavy-timber or iron framing members. This

---

<sup>54</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 15-21, 230-234.

<sup>55</sup> Glass, *Textile Industry*, 38.

<sup>56</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 144-147.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 31 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

allowed for wider and taller buildings with more square footage for equipment. The popularity of flat roofs and sizable roof monitors and skylights also fueled structural-steel framing prevalence. In order to reduce oxidation and achieve fire resistance, steel members were coated with intumescent paint; sprayed with a thin mixture of cement, sand, and water called gunite; or encased in concrete.<sup>57</sup>

Concrete construction technology also improved during the early twentieth century. Engineer Claude A. P. Turner patented a structural system comprising concrete mushroom columns and formed-concrete floors in 1908 after utilizing it in his plans for Minneapolis's 1906 Johnson-Bovey Building. He then designed the first American bridge supported by the columns, which carried Lafayette Avenue over the Soo Line in St. Paul, Minnesota. The technology was often used in mill construction, appearing in North Carolina factories such as those erected in Winston-Salem by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company beginning in 1915 and the six-story knitting mill that P. H. Hanes Knitting Company built in 1921.<sup>58</sup>

Albert Kahn was one of only a few American architects who specialized in industrial building design during the early twentieth century. In many of his commissions, traditional load-bearing walls were replaced with curtain walls containing large steel-frame windows and monitor roofs provided illumination and ventilation. His office supplied factory plans to hundreds of American industrialists including automobile manufacturers Packard, Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors, as well as for international clients. At the Packard Motor Car Company Forge Shop (1910) in Detroit, Kahn used a steel structural frame to support a traveling crane mounted to the roof trusses and glass curtain walls to allow for maximum light and air circulation. He minimized the exterior walls' bay articulation by specifying narrow steel columns of about the same size as steel window frames. Kahn's firm continued to employ bands of steel windows in conjunction with masonry or concrete screens to conceal steel structural framing in edifices such as the Industrial Works (ca. 1915) in Bay City, Michigan. The firm's design for the Dodge Half-Ton Truck Plant in Detroit, completed in 1937, was a much more sophisticated building with tall glazed curtain walls reminiscent of Walter Gropius's Bauhaus School (1926) in Dessau, Germany.<sup>59</sup> Gropius's streamlined design for the 1911 Fagus

---

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> J. E. Serrine and Company, architects and engineers of many R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company structures, specified mushroom columns for buildings erected during that period. A. S. Macolmson, "The Mushroom System of Reinforced Concrete Building Construction," *Engineering-Contracting*, September 4, 1907, p. 137; Nannie M. Tilley, *The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985), 307; *Manufacturers' Record*, August 26, 1915 and October 14, 1915; Anita Scism and Spencer Gung, "R. J. R. Downtown Buildings, 1875-1950: A Historical Perspective," unpublished report prepared for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, March 12, 2002.

<sup>59</sup> "Art: Industrial Architect," *Time*, August 8, 1938; Bradley, *The Works*, 248, 248-258.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 32 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Factory in Germany, which features steel-frame multipane curtain walls, was also internationally influential.<sup>60</sup>

Modernist architectural principles such as simplicity, efficiency, affordability, and intrinsic material expression were inherently applicable to industrial buildings. Industrial architecture continued to reflect these tenets as the twentieth century progressed. Building materials and labor were in short supply during World War II, but when construction resumed after the war's end, steel and reinforced-concrete industrial edifices with masonry (brick, tile, or concrete) curtain walls predominated. Fire-resistant corrugated metal and asbestos panels were often used as warehouse sheathing. Windows decreased in size and number in the 1960s as central air conditioning became prevalent.

## High Point's Industrial Architecture

Architectural historian Laura A. W. Phillips's comprehensive survey of High Point's industrial buildings, completed in 2014, intensively documented sixty-nine resources associated with the city's manufacturing heritage. The majority of surveyed plants were erected in the twentieth century's first decades to accommodate textile or furniture production and expanded as needed. Hosiery mills are a sizable portion of the sample. Although additional plants remain in the municipality, most have been altered or were erected within the last fifty years. Phillips identified eighteen significant and intact properties, including Melrose Hosiery Mill, as potential candidates for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Five industrial resources—Tomlinson Chair Manufacturing Company (NR 1983), O. Arthur Kirkman Manufacturing Company Building (West High Street Historic District, NR2007), Highland Cotton Mills Village Industrial District (NR 2014), Carolina Casket Company (NR 2015), and Pickett Cotton Mills (NR 2015)—have attained this designation. Surveyed resources comparable to the Melrose Hosiery Mill complex in terms of design and construction include Amos Hosiery Mills (ca. 1922, 1941, 1953, 325 East Russell Avenue), High Point Hosiery Mills (1922, 401 West English Road), Piedmont Hosiery Mills (1910, 1915, 1953, 400 West English Road), Slane Hosiery Mills – High Point Paper Box Company (ca. 1930, 319 South Centennial Street), Triangle Hosiery Mills (1929, 1938, 1961, 510 West Grimes Street), and Harriss and Covington Hosiery Mills, (1920, 1924, ca. 1953, 300 Oak Street).<sup>61</sup> All are durable and fire-resistant brick, steel, and concrete structures.

---

<sup>60</sup> Gropius, the highly influential founder of the German design school known as the Bauhaus, which operated from 1919 until 1933, taught at Harvard's Graduate School of Design beginning in 1937. Bradley, *The Works*, 250; Henry-Russell Hitchcock Jr. and Philip Johnson, *The International Style: Architecture since 1922* (New York, W. W. Norton & Company, 1932, 20; Henry-Russell Hitchcock Jr., *In the Nature of Materials: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941* (New York: Da Capo Press, Inc., 1942), 52, 92-93, Figures 99 and 328-338; Historic New England, "Gropius House," <https://www.historicnewengland.org/property/gropius-house/> (accessed January 2019).

<sup>61</sup> Laura A. W. Phillips, *The Industrial Legacy of High Point, N. C. and Highland Cotton Mills Village* (North Charleston, S. C.: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017), xii, xv, 12-13.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 33 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Melrose Hosiery Mill, like the aforementioned buildings, displays typical early- to mid-twentieth-century industrial design features. The 1924 factory and dye house and 1928 and 1931 additions are characterized by exposed structural systems comprising painted brick walls, square wood and steel posts, substantial wood and steel beams, wood roof decking, and wood and concrete floors. The wood floor system consists of thick plank decking and a hardwood top layer. Long rows of wood posts, many of which have chamfered edges to increase fire resistance, divide manufacturing areas into wide bays that accommodated sizable machinery. In the 1924 factory, short segments of heavy timbers with chamfered ends top posts on both levels, distributing the load of structural beams and floor boards or roof decking above. Diagonal heavy-timber braces provide supplementary first-story support. Steel posts and beams were added where needed to reinforce openings when an addition's construction involved partial wall removal between building sections. The 1950s additions have steel I-beam-and-post structural systems and concrete floors. Throughout the interior, galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors, known as kalamein doors, slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. Sliding wood doors and roll-up metal doors secure loading dock entrances. As the complex's buildings and additions were not initially air-conditioned, large windows and roof monitors provided light and ventilation.

## Commercial Style Architecture Context

Streamlined Commercial Style design, nationally popular during the twentieth-century's first decades, represented a complete departure from ornate Victorian-era embellishment. Brick exterior walls and steel posts and beams minimized construction and maintenance cost, allowed for flexible interior use, and reduced the propensity for extensive damage or destruction by fire. Façade ornamentation such as patterned masonry, shaped parapets, metal cornices, sign bands, brick panels, and tile, concrete, stone, or terra cotta insets was intended to attract customers. All relatively inexpensive ways to enliven a façade, such treatments epitomized the period's economical design sensibilities and construction practices. Prismatic- and leaded-glass storefront transoms were an aesthetically pleasing and effective means of diffusing light, as were large multipane double-hung wood sash and skylights that supplied abundant illumination and ventilation to upper stories. Wide, deep display areas provided ample space to advertise merchandise.

In the 1920s, Commercial Style buildings were often imbued with subtle references to internationally popular architectural styles. The Art Deco style, born at the 1925 Paris Exposition of Decorative and Industrial Arts, captured Roaring Twenties exuberance and translated well to building types ranging from storefronts and movie theaters to skyscrapers. Features such as smooth stone or stuccoed walls, stylized geometric and foliate decoration, and a vertical emphasis heightened by stepped pilasters or parapets were commonly incorporated into commercial façades.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 34 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Commercial construction burgeoned in High Point's central business district and outlying suburbs including Mechanicsville, West End, and the African American Southside and Washington Street neighborhoods as the economy boomed during the 1920s. Melrose Hosiery Mill's 1928 buildings, designed by local architect Fred Klein and erected by contractor John Willett, were a striking addition to West End's streetscape. The façades feature classical and Art Deco elements executed in variegated brick and cast stone, prismatic and leaded-glass transoms, copper cornices, and brick and ceramic-tile kneewalls. Durable interior finishes include pressed-tin ceilings and cornices, narrow-board ceilings, plaster and painted brick walls, and concrete and narrow-board floors. Fire-resistant wood and steel posts and beams allowed for expansive open-plan first and second-story showrooms and manufacturing areas and minimized equipment vibrations.

In a several-block portion of West English Road once lined by commercial buildings, Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's storefronts are among the most architecturally distinctive survivors. The 1928 additions were unique in that they housed company offices and manufacturing operations as well as first- and second-story showrooms occupied by unrelated businesses. Laura A. W. Phillips did not encounter any comparable situations while surveying High Point's industrial buildings.

Several edifices in West English Road's 1500 block display architectural embellishment similar to that of Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's commercial buildings. Construction company owner Jacob Lawrence Darr erected the two-story, three-storefront, 1926 building at 1526 West English Road that bears his name. Textured dark-red-brick veneer sheathes the façade, while secondary elevations are laid in five-to-one common bond. Commercial Style ornamentation includes basketweave brick panels surmounting the storefronts and three parged panels, each with four clusters of square ceramic tiles arranged in a diamond pattern, atop the second-story windows. Cast-stone sills and soldier-course lintels with cast-stone corner blocks frame groups of three one-over-one double-hung wood sash. A cast-stone plaque incised with "Darr" in capital letters is at the center of a basketweave brick panel beneath the cast-stone-capped shaped parapet's tallest section. A flat parapet was later created by adding several feet of lighter red brick. The storefront is enclosed with board-and-batten panels. Late 1920s tenants included West End Billiard Parlor, Leonard and Ward Dry Cleaning Company, Samuel Stark's department store, and second-story apartment residents.<sup>62</sup>

The flanking buildings have been demolished, but the two-story, two-storefront, 1925 edifice at 1538 West English Road is substantially intact. Brick pilasters frame two asymmetrical textured-dark-red-brick-veneered bays with yellow-brick Commercial Style accents: a header-course bordering two rectangular parapet panels, cross-shaped and rectangular pilaster insets, soldier-course lintels, and slightly projecting header-course sills framing three second-story window openings. The mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame storefronts comprise plate-glass display windows, brick kneewalls,

---

<sup>62</sup> Building dates from Guilford County property record cards. *Miller's High Point, NC, City Directories*, 1928, 1930.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 35 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

recessed single-leaf glazed doors with plate-glass sidelights, and a full-width flat-metal canopy. The storefront transoms have been removed and the openings parged. Belmont Café and D & W Clothing Store were late 1920s tenants. Delbert and Myrtle Wilson opened Wilson's Jewelers in the south storefront during the 1950s and the concern remained at that location through the 1980s.<sup>63</sup>

Although white paint masks the original colors of the two-story, brick, three-storefront, 1925 edifice at 1503 West English Road's decorative masonry façade, Commercial Style embellishment remains apparent. Brick pilasters frame three primary second-story bays and divide the central bay's lower section into two bays, each containing nine-pane steel casement windows with continuous soldier-course lintels and header-course sills as well as a cast-stone stringcourse beneath the windows. A slightly recessed panel containing a diamond-patterned row of square ceramic tiles surmounts the windows. Plate-glass windows flank a single-leaf wood-frame glazed door in the central storefront, while the flanking storefronts contained recessed entrances and deep window displays with canted interior walls. Painted plywood covers transoms beneath soldier-course lintels. A single-leaf door provides access to the second-story stair. Early occupants included grocer Great A & P Tea Company, Mason Variety Store, and second-floor apartment tenants.<sup>64</sup>

The other survivors in the 1500 block are more austere. Façade embellishment on the one-story single-bay building at 1540 West English Road comprises a soldier-course storefront lintel and projecting cast-stone coping on the flat parapet. The wood-frame storefront appears to have been installed during the twentieth century's third quarter. During the 1960s, Delbert and Myrtle Wilson operated a café in the building, which abuts 1538 West English Road's south elevation.<sup>65</sup> Further south, the one-story rough-face-concrete-block 1920 building at 1552 West English Road is now surrounded by vacant lots. The two-part storefront was updated in the mid-twentieth century with aluminum-frame plate-glass display windows and doors, a full-width flat metal canopy, and corrugated-metal parapet sheathing.

The predominantly one- and two-story commercial buildings on the 1600 block's west side are interspersed with vacant and parking lots. Setback and construction dates vary, but most buildings appear to have been erected after Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's storefronts and are less architecturally distinctive. Altered storefronts and replacement, removed, or encapsulated sash are typical. The two-story commercial building at 1600 West English Road, erected between 1924 and 1938, has a blonde-brick façade and red-brick secondary elevations. The south elevation is sheathed with vinyl siding above the adjacent one-story 1954 building with a painted brick façade (east elevation) and concrete-block secondary walls. The storefront windows and the transoms above them and the central entrance have been replaced, but the double-leaf wood-frame glazed door remains. Three pairs of original three-

---

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> High Point Museum, "A Beautiful Suburb: High Point's West End," exhibit panel, 2013.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 36 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

over-one sash punctuate the façade's second story. The storefront of the one-story, painted-brick, 1958 commercial building at 1616 West English Road has been enclosed with a stuccoed wall and four multipane vinyl sash. The south elevation has also been stuccoed. The parapet castellation is a recent modification. The one-story stuccoed 1962 commercial building at 1628 West English Road received the same treatment. The 1986 French Heritage, Inc. showroom at 1638 West English Road has a deep setback. The three-story brick 1920s-1930s building at 1650 West English Road, initially used for cloth sample manufacturing and furniture sales, is distinguished by inset central second- and third-story porches illuminated by a trio of round-arched openings at each level. Multipane vinyl sash fill the flanking window openings. Prismatic-glass transoms are intact above the brick-enclosed south storefront and plywood-covered north storefront. The one-story painted-brick 1946 commercial building at 1954 West English Road has two central doors flanked by enclosed storefronts. Brick fills the window and storefront openings of the two-story 1938 building at 1670 West English Road, which initially housed a dry cleaning operation. An Art Deco stylistic influence is apparent in the projecting fluted bays that punctuate the two-story red-brick 1938 Heritage Furniture Company office and showroom façade at 1690 West English Road.<sup>66</sup>

The scale and Colonial Revival style of the 1954 Wachovia Bank and Trust Company branch at 1604 West English Road, erected with African American brick maker George H. Black of Winston-Salem's oversized handmade bricks, differs from its neighboring West End commercial buildings. Walls executed in Flemish bond, a red Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, a chimney with stepped paved shoulders and a corbelled stack, and a cupola emulating that of Home Moravian Church in Salem complete the traditional composition. Similar branches were erected throughout North Carolina from the late 1940s through the 1950s. The High Point branch is almost identical to the 1952 branch at 658 Waughtown Street in Winston-Salem, designed by Asheville architecture firm Six Associates. Both feature what was then a new banking trend: a drive-through teller window.<sup>67</sup>

---

<sup>66</sup> Guilford County property record cards; City of High Point, Planning and Development Department, aerial photographs, 1938, 1958; Sanborn Map Company, "High Point, North Carolina," Sheet 212, 1924 and 1956.

<sup>67</sup> Architectural historian Langdon Oppermann identifies nine similar Colonial Revival-style branch banks in her 1999 National Register nomination for George H. Black's home and brickyard. Wachovia's 1947 branch in Raleigh's Hayes-Barton neighborhood was the first, followed by Asheville's Biltmore (1948) and North Asheville (1953) branches; Winston-Salem locations in West End, South Winston (1951), and North Winston (now Black-Phillips-Smith Government Center) and on Waughtown Street (1952); and Durham and Chapel Hill branches. Architects have not been identified for most branches. Waughtown Street branch plans: "Wachovia Bank and Trust Company," June 7, 1951, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Planning Department.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   37   Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## Bibliography

Anderson, Jean Bradley. *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990.

### *Atlanta Constitution*

Bishir, Catherine W., and Michael T. Southern. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Boyles, Carolyn. *Early Days of Pilot Mountain, North Carolina: A History and Genealogy*. Pilot Mountain, N.C.: Carolyn Boyles, 2012.

Bradley, Betsy Hunter. *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Briggs, Benjamin. *The Architecture of High Point, North Carolina*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2008.

City of High Point, Planning and Development Department. Aerial photographs, 1938-2008.

### *The Courier* (Asheboro)

Crawford, Margaret. *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns*. London and New York: Verso, 1995.

### *The Daily Workman* (Greensboro)

Davison Publishing Company. *The Blue Book: Textile Directory: United States and Canada*. New York: Davison Publishing Company, 1894-1911.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Davison's Textile Blue Book: United States and Canada*. New York: Davison Publishing Company, 1925-1970.

*E.S.C. Quarterly*. Winter-Spring 1953.

Farriss, J. J. *High Point North Carolina: A Brief Sketch of Its Manufacturing Enterprises, Together with Sketches of Those who Built Them*. High Point: Enterprise Printing Company, 1896, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1916, 1918.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 38 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Glass, Brent D. *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History*. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992.

Grist, Frank D., commissioner. *Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Department of Labor and Printing of the State of North Carolina*. Raleigh: Mitchell Printing Company, 1926.

*Greensboro Daily News*

*Greensboro News and Record*

Guilford County GIS. Property record cards at <http://gis.guilfordcountync.gov/PropertyCards> (accessed 2019-2020).

Guilford County Register of Deeds. Assumed Name, Deed, Incorporation, and Plat Books. Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro.

Hall, Jacquelyn Dowd, James Leloudis, Robert Korstad, Mary Murphy, Lu Ann Jones and Christopher B. Daly, *Like a Family: The Making of the Southern Cotton Mill World*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1987.

Hicks, Robert F., Jr. *The Spirit of Enterprise: The History of High Point's Formative Period: 1851-1926*. High Point: Robert Franklin Hicks, 1989.

High Point Chamber of Commerce. *High Point, North Carolina*. High Point: High Point Chamber of Commerce, 1924.

\_\_\_\_\_. *What's Made in High Point and Who Makes It*. High Point: Douglas Printing Company, 1961.

*High Point Enterprise* (abbreviated *HPE* after first mention in notes)

High Point Museum. "A Beautiful Suburb: High Point's West End." Exhibit panels, 2013.

Hill Directory Company. *Hill's High Point (Guilford County, NC) City Directories*. Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Co., 1933-1965.

Historic New England. "Gropius House." <https://www.historicnewengland.org/property/gropius-house/> (accessed January 2019).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   39   Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell Jr. *In the Nature of Materials: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941*. New York: Da Capo Press, Inc., 1942.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell Jr., and Philip Johnson. *The International Style: Architecture since 1922*. New York, W. W. Norton & Company, 1932.

*Index Journal* (Greenwood, South Carolina)

King, Spencer B., Jr. *Selective Service in North Carolina in World War II*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1949.

Macolmson, A. S. "The Mushroom System of Reinforced Concrete Building Construction." *Engineering-Contracting*, September 4, 1907.

*Manufacturers' Record*

McGregor, C. H. *The Hosiery Manufacturing Industry in North Carolina and Its Marketing Problems*, Research Paper 15, Graduate School of Business Administration, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, June 1965.

McPherson, Holt, ed. *High Pointers of High Point*. High Point: Hall Printing Company, 1976.

Melrose Hosiery Mills and West End photographs. High Point Historical Museum.

Melrose Hosiery Mills, Inc. "From a tiny plant to full bloom – this is the Melrose Story." Circa 1962 company history, High Point Historical Museum.

---

. *Mel-Rose-Glen*. The duration of the company newsletter's publication is unknown. The High Point Museum's collection includes twenty issues published from January 1945 through 1951.

Miller, Ernest H. *High Point, NC, City Directories*. Asheville, N.C.: Commercial Service Co., 1908-1931.

Mills, L. Barron Jr. *Randolph County: A Brief History*. Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 2008.

*News and Observer* (Raleigh; abbreviated *NO* after first mention in notes)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 40 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. *Industrial Directory and Reference Book of North Carolina*. Durham: Christian Printing Company, 1938.

Phillips, Laura A. W. "Alamance Mill Village Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Industrial Legacy of High Point, N. C. and Highland Cotton Mills Village*. North Charleston, S. C.: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.

"Population Statistics: Guilford County and the City of High Point," 1790-1990, document in the "population" vertical file in the North Carolina Collection at the High Point Public Library.

*Raleigh Enterprise*

*Review* (High Point)

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture*. New York, Penguin Putnam, Inc., 1998.

Robinson, Blackwell P. and Alexander R. Stoesen. *The History of Guilford County, U. S. A. to 1980 A. D.* Greensboro: The Guilford County Bicentennial Commission, 1980.

*Rocky Mount Telegram*

Sanborn Map Company. "High Point, North Carolina." 1917, 1924, 1950, and 1956.

Scism, Anita, and Spencer Gung. "R. J. R. Downtown Buildings, 1875-1950: A Historical Perspective." Unpublished report prepared for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, March 12, 2002.

Sizemore, F. J., ed. *The Builders and the Buildings of a City: High Point, North Carolina*. High Point: Hall Printing Company, 1947.

Smith, H. McKeldon. *Architectural Resources: An Inventory of Historic Architecture: High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County*. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1979.

*Statesville Record and Landmark*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   41   Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## *Tampa Tribune*

Tilley, Nannie M. *The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985.

## *Time*

Truesdell, Leon E. *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Census of Population, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part A, Number of Inhabitants*. Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office, 1942.

U. S. Census, Population Schedules, 1850-1940.

Vertical Files. Heritage Research Center, High Point Public Library, High Point, North Carolina.

## *Wilmington Morning Star*

*Winston-Salem Journal* (abbreviated *WSJ* after first mention in notes)

Young, James R., and Marjorie W. Young. *Textile Leaders of the South*. Columbia, S. C.: R. L. Bryan Company, 1963.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 42 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## Section 10. Geographical Data

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Latitude: 35.907998 Longitude: 81.547803

### Verbal Boundary Description

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1's 1.4-acre boundary, a portion of 1.85-acre Guilford County tax parcel #187102, is indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map. Scale approximately 1" = 100'

### Boundary Justification

The approximately 1.4-acre tract contains the complex associated with Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1. The northeast quadrant of its 1.85-acre tax parcel has been excluded as that area now encompasses a concrete-paver patio, gravel parking area, and three rectangular painted-corrugated-metal shipping containers near the north lot line. Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 2, a 1947 knitting department and warehouse at 109 Phillips Avenue, and the 1941 warehouse at 1513 West English Road, both now owned by City Transfer and Storage Company, are not included within the National Register boundary as they are on separate, multiple tax parcels owned by other entities.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photos      Page 43 Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC

## Additional Documentation: Current Photographs

All photographs by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, in January 2019. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.



1. West elevation, 1928 storefronts, looking north from 1541 West English Road (above)
2. North elevation, 1924 factory (below)





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number    Photos    Page    44    Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC



3. 1922 boiler house, southeast oblique, and 1924 factory, east elevation (above)  
4. 1931 addition, southwest oblique; late 1920s dye house addition; and early 1950s addition (below, from left to right)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number    Photos    Page    45

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC



**5. 1924 factory, second floor, looking west (above)  
6. 1931 addition, first floor, looking south (below)**





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   Photos   Page   46   Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC



**7. 1928 addition at 1924 factory's west end, first floor, looking south (above) and  
8. second floor, looking east (below)**



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number    Photos    Page    47

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC



9. 1533 West English Road, west elevation (above) and  
10. east elevation (below)





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 48

Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1  
Guilford County, NC



**11. 1533 West English Road, north building, first floor, looking west (above) and  
12. central building, second floor, looking west**





# Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1

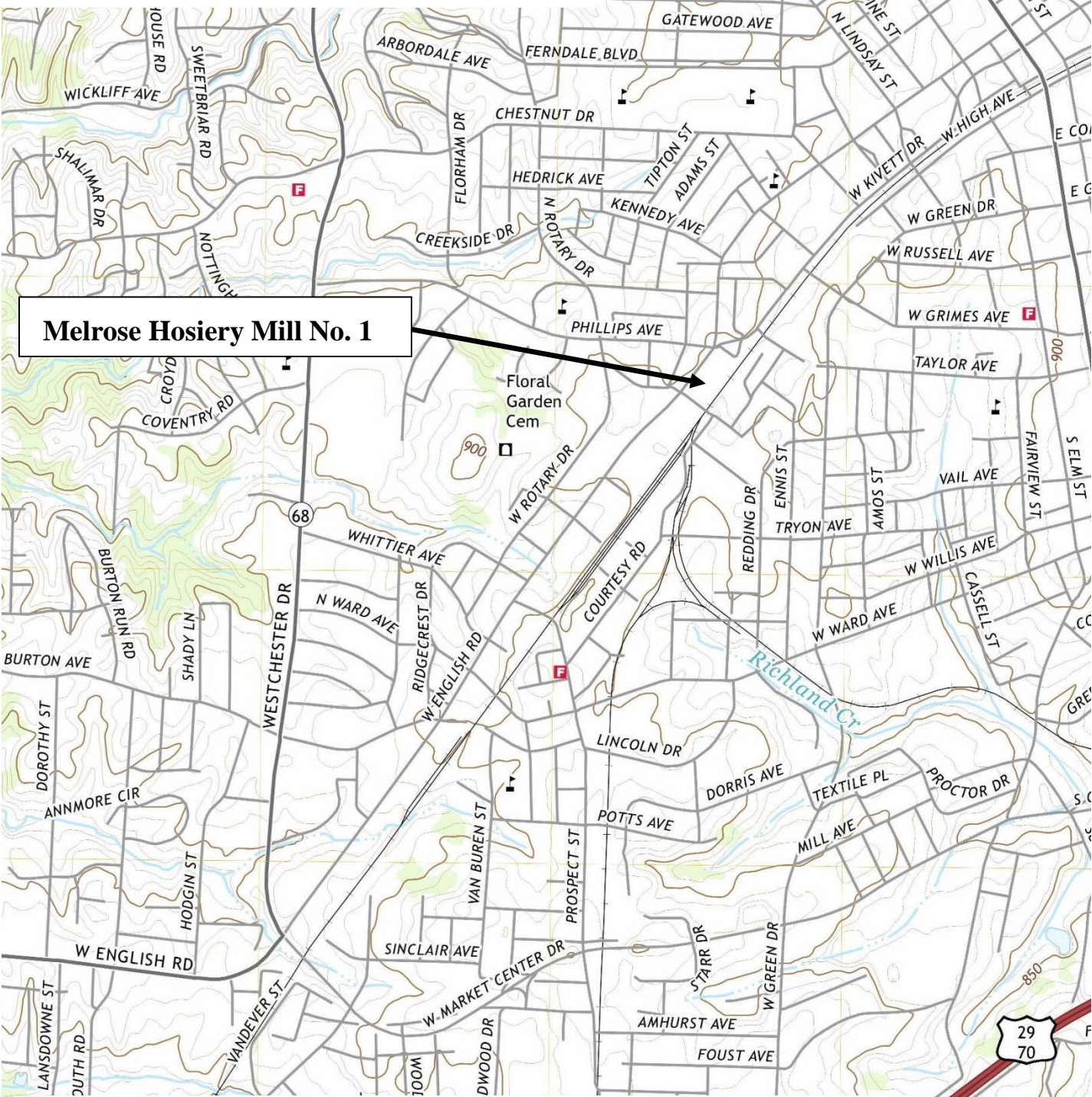
1533-1547 West English Road

105-109 South West Point Avenue

High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina

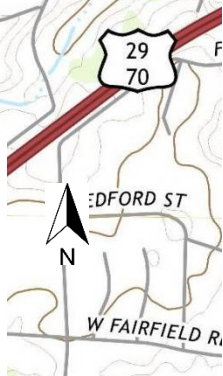
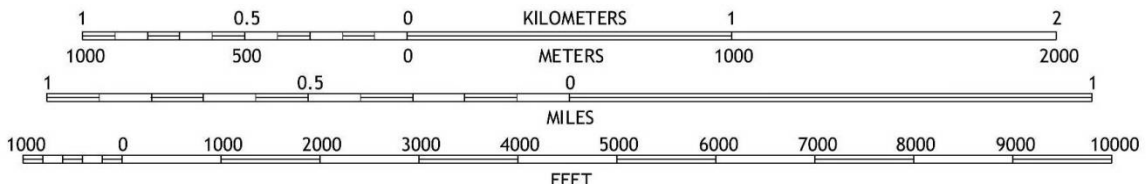
## Location Map

U. S. Geological Survey  
High Point West Quadrangle, 2019



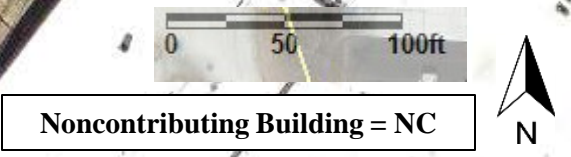
**Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1**

SCALE 1:24 000

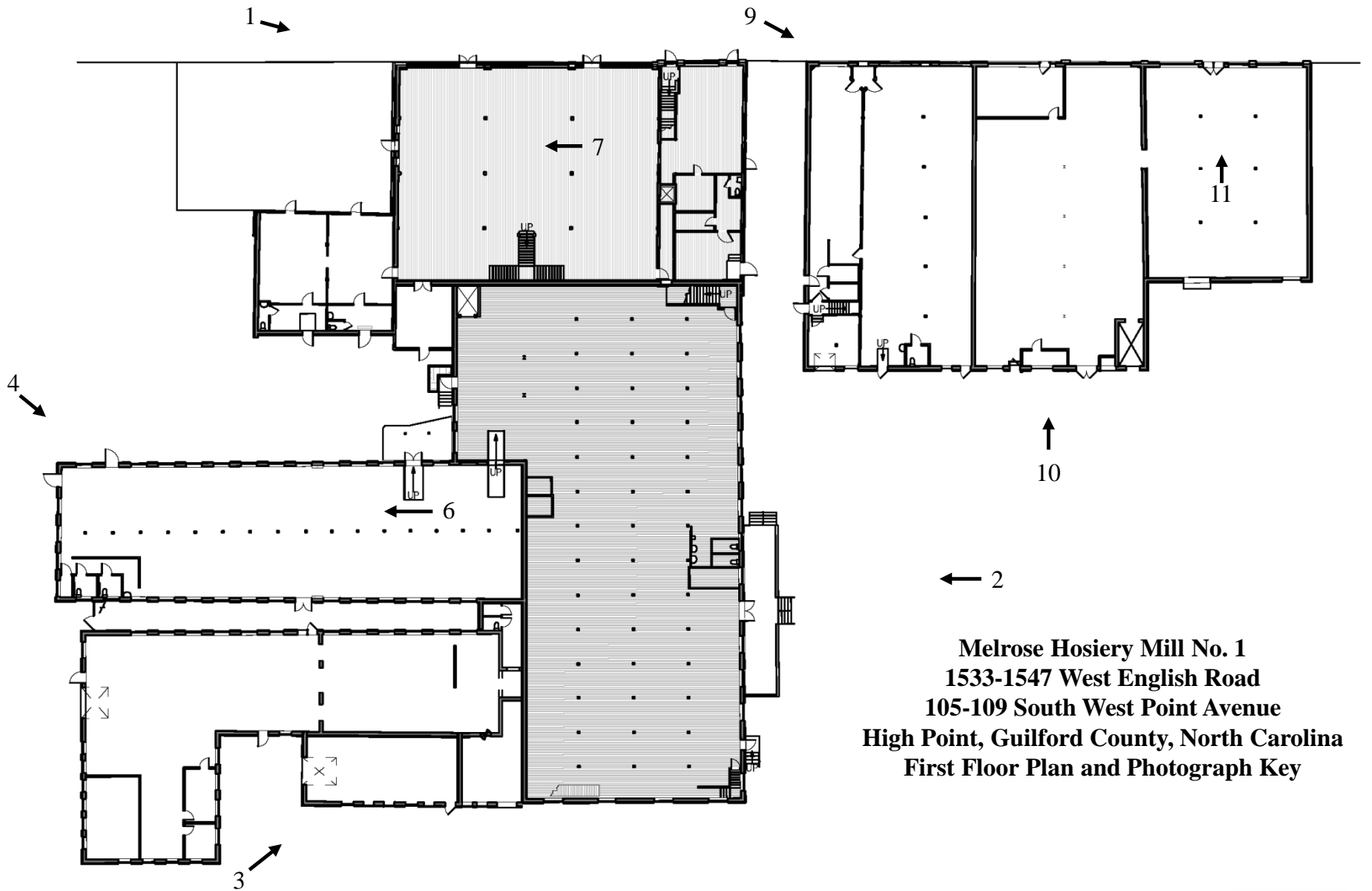




**Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1**  
**1533-1547 West English Road**  
**105-109 South West Point Avenue**  
**High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina**  
**National Register Boundary Map and Site Plan**





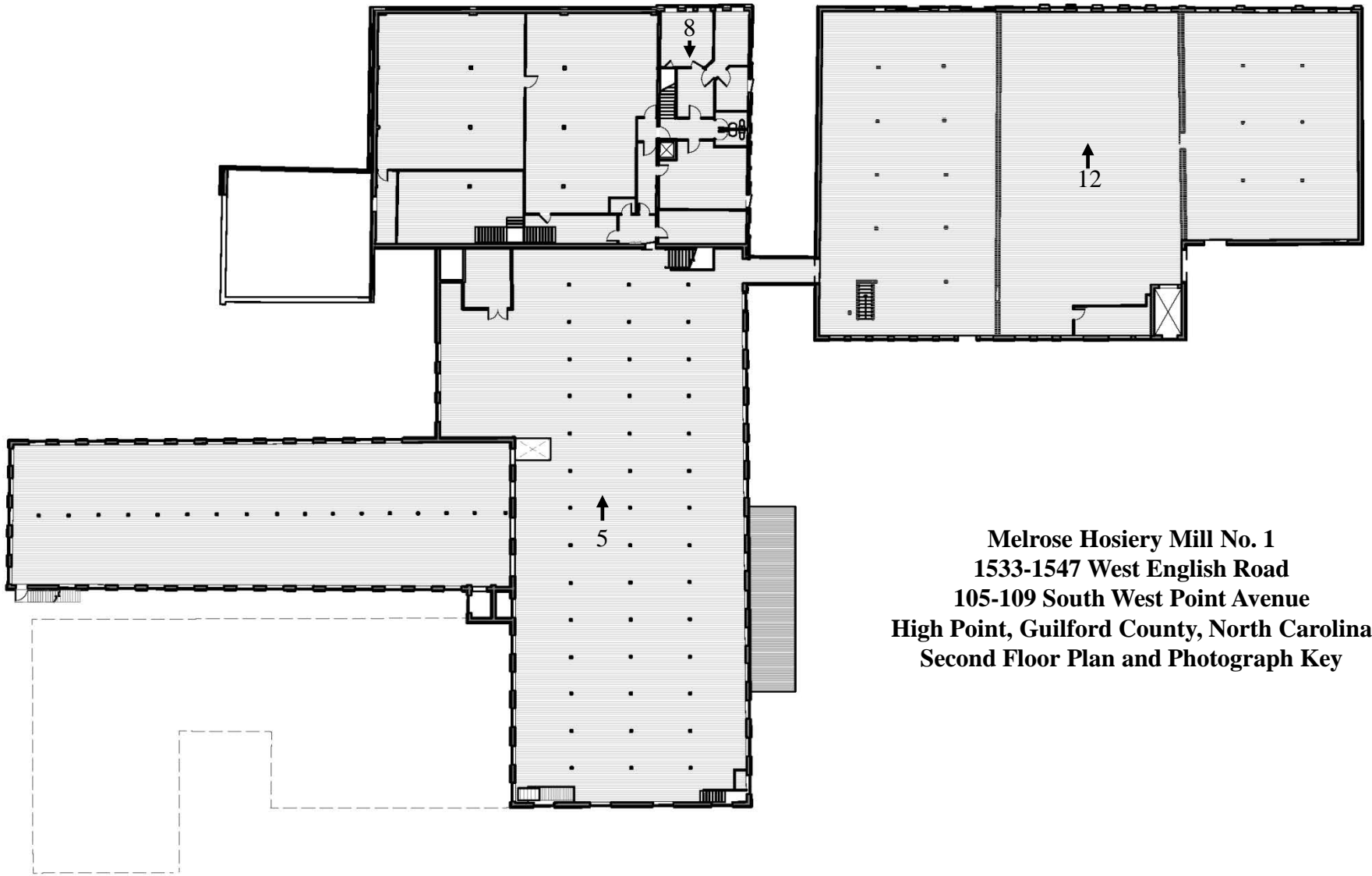


**Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1**  
**1533-1547 West English Road**  
**105-109 South West Point Avenue**  
**High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina**  
**First Floor Plan and Photograph Key**

Plan drawn by Samsel Architects in February 2019 based on data from Laser Scanning Services, Inc.  
 Photograph views annotated by Heather Fearnbach in February 2020







**Melrose Hosiery Mill No. 1**  
**1533-1547 West English Road**  
**105-109 South West Point Avenue**  
**High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina**  
**Second Floor Plan and Photograph Key**

Plan drawn by Samsel Architects in February 2019 based on data from Laser Scanning Services, Inc.  
 Photograph views annotated by Heather Fearnbach in February 2020

