

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Copland Fabrics

Burlington, Alamance County, AM0206, Listed 08/01/2024

Nomination by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Hanbury Preservation Consulting

Photographs by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, October 2021; July 2022



Exterior of Main Mill, West Elevation, View to East



Interior, Mill Two, Main Level, View to Northwest

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Copland Fabrics

Other names/site number: Falls of the Neuse Manufacturing Company, Big Falls Cotton Mill, Juanita Manufacturing, Hopedale Cotton Mill, J. N. Williamson & Sons, Consolidated Products Textile Company

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 1714 Carolina Mill Road, 1746 Carolina Mill Road, 1711 Carolina Road, 1717 Carolina Road

City or town: Burlington State: North Carolina County: Alamance

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification


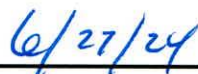
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u> Date	
<u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	_____
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____	_____
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ 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

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

Current Functions

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Heavy-timber mill construction

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

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial style ,

Industrial

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: BRICK

Walls: BRICK

Roof: SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Copland Fabrics is located on a peninsula between the Haw River and Stony Creek at the northeastern edge of the City of Burlington. The nominated property straddles the boundary between the city and the county. The mill community of Hopedale is located on the east bank of Stony Creek, northeast of the mill property. Carolina Road and Carolina Mill Road cut through the complex. Carolina Road runs along the eastern side of the northern half of the district and terminates at Carolina Mill Road, which parallels Carolina Road to its west before turning to bisect the peninsula and continue across Stony Creek. Southeast of Carolina Mill Road are the Main Mill building (Contributing Building 1869, 1877, 1887, ca. 1895, ca. 1899, ca. 1908, ca. 1913, ca. 1918, ca.1930, 1946, 1952, ca. 1953, 1961, 1973) along the north side of the peninsula, a finishing plant building (Contributing Building ca. 1915, ca. 1920, ca. 1945, ca. 1950, 1951, ca. 1953, 1965, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1983, 1993) to its southeast, and the main office (Contributing Building ca. 1924, 1949, 1952, 1970, 1995) and power building (Contributing Building, ca. 1938) to its south. While there are trees along the banks of the river and some modest landscaping at the front of the office, most of this section of the plant is paved. A chain link fence runs along the property's boundary with the road system and a small, modern guardhouse (Noncontributing Building ca. 2009) stands at the entrance. East of Carolina Road, on the west bank of Stony Creek, is a water plant building (Contributing Building ca 1950). The remains of a dam across Stony Creek, once associated with the plant, though not part of the nominated property, are roughly on axis with this building. Between Carolina Road and Carolina Mill Road are an additional production building (Plant #2) dating from the mid-twentieth century (Contributing Building 1969, ca. 1980, ca. 1990), the former medical office (Contributing Building, ca. 1952, ca.1995), and three water towers (Contributing Structures ca. 1938). The Copland Fabrics complex has a high degree of integrity of location and setting with the Haw

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

River, Stony Creek, and a mill village in close proximity. The complex has a moderately high degree of integrity of design, materials and workmanship considering the period of significance, and the common practice of expanding and adapting these types of properties in response to evolving technologies and growth. Perched along Haw River and adjacent to the Hopedale mill village, the complex retains a high degree of integrity of feeling and association.

Narrative Description

The greater Copland Fabrics campus lies on the southeastern point of a peninsula between the Haw River and Stony Creek, bisected by Carolina Mill Road. Though the origins of the complex lie in the nineteenth century, this plant was active until 2018 and the architecture reflects a mid-twentieth century period of significance. The main mill retains some aspects of the typical nineteenth century mill, with masonry construction and a combination stair/water tower, but the demand for more floor space and storage prompted expansions that ground the plant's appearance and significance firmly in the twentieth century.

The complex consists of the following resources.

East of Carolina Mill Road:

- Main Mill (Contributing Building 1869, 1877, 1887, ca. 1895, ca. 1899, ca. 1908, ca. 1913, ca. 1918, ca.1930, 1946, 1952, ca. 1953, 1961, 1973)
- Main Office (Contributing Building ca. 1924, 1949, 1952, 1970, 1995)
- Power Building (Contributing Building ca. 1938)
- Finishing Plant (Contributing Building ca. 1915, ca. 1920, ca. 1945, ca. 1950, 1951, ca. 1953, 1965, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1983, 1993)
- Guard House (Noncontributing Building ca. 2009)

West of Carolina Mill Road:

- Water Plant (Contributing Building ca 1950)
- Medical Office (Contributing Building ca. 1952, ca.1995)
- Plant #2 (Contributing Building 1969, ca. 1980, ca. 1990)
- Water Towers (Contributing Structures ca. 1938)

Evolution of the Site

A review of Sanborn Insurance maps shows the evolution of this site. In 1904 a mill race that ran east to west cut through the peninsula, powering the mill and a grist mill on the west bank of the race. A small bridge spanned the race. The race and grist mill are evident until the 1929-1948 map, where the race has been infilled and the grist mill demolished. A two-story company store existed from at least 1904 to 1952. It was replaced by a medical office. Frame outbuildings southeast of the mill were demolished by 1949 for the construction of the finishing plant. The

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

cotton storage building seen in the 1904 map was expanded in 1918 and 1924 and was eventually consolidated into the finishing plant building. Evolution and description of the extant buildings follows.

Main Mill

Contributing Building

(1869, 1877, 1887, ca. 1895, ca. 1899, ca. 1908, ca. 1913, ca. 1918, ca. 1930, 1946, 1952, ca. 1953, 1961, 1973)

Although a textile mill has existed on this site since ca. 1835 when John Trollinger and Jesse Gant established the High Falls Manufacturing Company,¹ the oldest extant building is brick mill (1869) now encapsulated in later building campaigns. After an 1874 fire, the exterior walls were used as part of an expanded building erected in 1877. In 1887 a second story was added. This expansion may have included the building's tower. While the construction date for the tower is unclear, the distinctive three-story main tower was in place by 1895, when a rendering was published depicting the main tower with a pyramidal hipped roof with flared eaves and gabled dormers (Figure 1).² By 1904 a cistern topped the tower³ and it is unclear whether the high-style roof depicted in 1895 was built or was merely artistic license by the renderer (Figure 2). The rendering shows a one-story, partial-width addition on the northwest elevation, ca. 1895.

The same rendering (Figure 1), was also used in an 1899 publication which noted the addition of a steam plant⁴ shown as a small, one-story, "L" shaped addition southeast of the tower in the 1904 Sanborn Insurance company map (Figure 2)⁵ and in an undated picture postcard with a view of the mill from the west bank of the Haw River (Figure 3).⁶ The postcard also shows the addition to the northwest now expanded to a full two stories, also shown in 1908 Sanborn map (Figure 4).⁷ Per the photo (Figure 3), the northwest end wall and an interior wall have a stepped parapet. By 1913, a small restroom addition is added to the northeast elevation as well as a lint flue and the steam plant addition is slightly enlarged (Figure 5).⁸

The 1918 Sanborn map (Figure 6) shows a substantial, two-story brick addition to the southeast that replaces or incorporates earlier one-story storage areas. It also shows a small, two-story brick addition with a lint flue on the Stony Creek side also seen in a photograph accompanying a 1919 article (Figure 7).⁹ The photograph gives evidence that the cistern remained on the top of the tower. Sometime between 1929 and 1948, the power plant wing was expanded—the space between it and the main mill was infilled and the entire volume extended south to cover the

¹ Don Bolden, *Alamance in the Past* (Burlington: P. N. Thompson Printing Company, 1979).

² "The Juanita Mills," *The News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895.

³ Sanborn Insurance Map of Burlington, 1904.

⁴ "The Juanita Cotton Mills." *The News and Observer Twentieth Century State Edition*, August 24, 1899.

⁵ Sanborn Insurance Map of Burlington, 1904.

⁶ "Hopedale Cotton Mills" picture postcard, nd.

⁷ Sanborn Insurance Map of Burlington, 1908.

⁸ Sanborn Insurance Map of Burlington, 1913.

⁹ Sanborn Insurance Map of Burlington, 1918; "Ossipee and Hopedale Mills Run by Man Who Puts Milk of human (sic) Kindness into Policies of Management," *The Charlotte Observer*, January 3, 1919, 34.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

elevation of the original mill, leaving exposed the 1913-1918 expansion (Figure 8, Figure 9).¹⁰ The main section of the mill was also extended to the north at this point. It is likely this was done as part of the 1946 improvements.

The era of Copland ownership (1941-2019) marked extensive investments in the property's physical plant. A 1946 article touts a two-year, \$600,000 building campaign that included the excavation of a basement under the mill.¹¹ An accompanying photo shows a two-story brick addition at the northwest elevation (Figure 10). An addition on the southeast side of the mill was added in 1952. A 1955 aerial photo shows an addition at the east end of the northeast elevation, likely reflecting expansions announced by the company in 1953.¹² That addition is itself expanded to the west in 1961 with construction that covers the original mill's northeast elevation. Plans prepared for the Factory Mutual Engineering Association suggest that additional expansion at the northwest corner of the building was completed by 1973 (Figure 11).¹³

The physical description of the exterior that follows generally addresses the building by elevation.

The northwest elevation includes two major sections: a mid-to-late twentieth century section at the north, and the tower and northwest elevation of the steam plant addition set back at the south.

The mid-to-late twentieth century section has two parts including a projecting wing (1973) at the far north. The walls are laid in six-course American bond. The 1973 wing contains applied letter signage spelling COPLAND FABRICS set between two bands of covered windows with shared rowlock sills. The 1946 section of the elevation contains a loading dock with two vehicular entrances, the northern of which is sheltered by a metal canopy. Above the loading bays are two covered windows with rowlock sills set inside larger masonry openings now bricked in. A 10'x10' tower at the west corner projects slightly above the parapet roof line and supports directional signage and an exterior light fixture. There is evidence of masonry openings on this tower that have been infilled. The 1946 elevation has a roofline with terra-cotta coping that is slightly taller than the 1973 wing.

The main brick tower is set further east. The tower's northwest elevation has been obscured on the first floor by a one-story glazed entrance vestibule with a flat roof, brick foundation, and concrete slab floor. The vestibule is seen as early as 1946 in a newspaper photograph. The main tower has projecting corners flanking recessed central brick panels on all its elevations. Within the panels on the tower's exposed south- and northwest elevations, there are belt courses separating the floors consisting of three rows of projecting brickwork above corbelled brackets. On the tower's west elevation, the second and third floors have paired masonry openings with

¹⁰ Sanborn Insurance Map of Burlington, 1929-1948.

¹¹ "Copland Fabrics Announces \$600,000 Expansion Plan," *The Daily Times-News*, March 7, 1946, 9.

¹² "Burlington 1955," aerial photo, viewed at <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.

¹³ J.C. Bonner (Surveyor), Copland Fabrics, Inc. Burlington NC (map) Norwood, Massachusetts: Factory Mutual Engineering Association, January 1970.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

projecting arched brick work supported by corbelled brackets. Presumably they housed round-headed windows but are now partially infilled and house small two-light windows with rowlock sills. Above the third level windows, and within the recessed panel, is a lozenge-shaped recessed panel in a rowlock frame with corbelled coursing above. Above the recessed panel is a brick modillion cornice supporting additional corbels. The pyramidal roof has broad eaves with exposed, carved wooden rafter tails. The tower's south elevations have simpler segmental arches above the windows and no lozenge panel. Windows on its two upper two floors are covered with plywood. Its first-floor paired windows have been infilled, leaving space for small awning windows. Only the third level is exposed above the roof on the north and east tower elevations. The north elevation has two plywood-covered masonry openings with segmental arches. The east elevation has paired masonry openings—the north one has been partially infilled but houses a door; the south one is partially bricked over with an added flue.

South of the tower, the northwest elevation consists of a two-story wall with terra-cotta coping and one-story projecting volume with a corbelled cornice. This two-story section was originally a single story built by 1914 and expanded to two stories between 1929 and 1948 (ca.1930). One bay of the projecting addition was added by 1918 and is labeled as a pump. The pump was expanded to the north after 1952 with a lavatory. The second story has two rectangular masonry openings with metal lintels that have been largely infilled but contain two-light windows at the top of the original opening. On the first floor, north of the wing is a single-leaf metal door and to the south is an infilled masonry opening. The two-bay projecting wing has a vertical seam in its brickwork but both bays have a unifying corbelled cornice, and both have an infilled masonry opening, the south one with a solid lintel above. The elevation is largely six-course American bond save for the most recent bay laid in running bond.

The southwest elevation extends over 500 feet and expresses multiple building campaigns. The 1973 addition at the far west is laid in six-course American bond and has ribbon windows set high in the wall plane on the first and second stories. It abuts the 1946 loading dock addition, also laid in six-course American bond, which has five bays on its southwest elevation, excluding its corner tower. Originally in this section of the southwest elevation, each bay had rectangular windows on both floors, aligned with each other. The northernmost bay now has double-leaf metal doors at grade in place of the earlier window and the remainder of the window openings have been bricked in leaving space for a horizontal window with rowlock sills and metal lintels near their tops. Slightly exposed rafter tails are visible at the eaves.

Continuing east is a two-story section that extends to the main tower. This section dates to as early as 1914, however the first floor may date to as early as 1895 as it is unclear if it was incorporated into the current building or demolished. A clear vertical seam distinguishes this section from the 1946 campaign. In this section's upper level there are six obvious masonry openings with rowlock arches that have been largely bricked in, saving space for rectangular horizontal windows with rowlock sills. A possible seventh opening on the second floor is obscured by paint but appears to also have a rowlock arch and is bricked in entirely flush with the wall plane. On the lower level are three masonry openings that have jack arches, now with an

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

added intervening rowlock course and metal lintel above a recessed bricked-in opening. There is also a bricked-in opening with a four-course rowlock arch at the western end of the first floor.

Continuing east along the southwest elevation is the expanded power plant addition. It is laid largely in six-course American bond. The upper level has a series of regularly spaced rectangular masonry openings that have been bricked in, leaving space at the top for small windows, all of which have been painted over. The lower level is less regular. There is evidence of masonry openings that have been enclosed. Currently it has three doors: a single-leaf metal door and two double-leaf metal doors, the eastern one at grade. Flanking the westernmost double-leaf door are windows that have been painted over. Two painted industrial windows are west of the double-leaf door at grade. East of the doors, three painted-over windows service the first floor, and a series of grated masonry openings service the basement. At the east end of this section is an enclosed walkway connecting to the finishing plant building that extends over the vehicular drive.

Beyond the power plant section of the southwest elevation is the 1913-1918 mill addition, set back from the power plant addition with a square brick tower at their juncture. This section of the elevation is regular in appearance. Arched masonry openings with five-course rowlock arches and concrete sills in the basement, first, and second levels are arranged in a consistent pattern. The basement and first-floor windows are bricked in with a red brick that contrasts with the brown brick of the walls, and the insets are slightly recessed. On the second floor, the openings are only partially infilled, leaving space for two-light windows under the arches. At the far east, the third floor has a door set into the last infilled openings leading to an exterior metal fire escape that descends in three runs to grade. At the far west on the first floor, the masonry opening adjacent to the tower has been bricked, with a metal door inserted with a metal landing and exterior steps that descend to the south to grade. There is a small, running bond, pressed brick addition at the far eastern end of the building. Its southwest elevation with a single metal door extends from an earlier campaign that houses an arched double-leaf door on the first floor and an enclosed masonry opening above.

The southeast elevation is staggered in two main parts. To the west is the elevation of the power plant addition. On its first level is a loading dock with two vehicular bays. Above them are two masonry openings—the southern is a rectangular opening, partially infilled with a two-light window near the top; the northern a large square opening that appears to be relatively recent. One other opening on this level has been bricked in.

The eastern section of the southeast elevation has two projecting towers and an addition abutting the northern tower. The southern tower is a later addition, laid in a flat red brick; the northern of the two towers is laid in the same brown brick found in the exterior walls. Arched openings on all three levels flank the southern tower. Those to the east are enclosed, but those between the two towers are open, with arched double doors in the basement and lower level and a window above. A metal awning extends above the main level doors. A second metal awning protects an entrance at the main level of the second tower. The addition abutting the second tower is red brick, laid in running bond with a single flush metal door at grade.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

The northeast elevation of the building, facing Stony Creek, is not entirely visible given the topography of the site. At the north is a two-story section of the building constructed in the early 1970s. Built partially on piers, it consists of four large bays, laid in six-course American bond housing ribbon windows with a shared rowlock sill in each bay on the first and second floors. Beyond this section to the south is the 1960s expansion of the original mill, built on piers and standing slightly taller than the northern section. It appears to have had ribbon windows only on the upper level, later infilled though the projecting rowlock sill remains. Proceeding farther south along the elevation, a one-story compressor addition is appended to a long section of the elevation. This section has regularly spaced rectangular masonry openings on the first and second level, covered in plywood on the upper level and bricked in with small two-light windows on the first.

The roof of the mill is largely flat and appears to be rubber membrane with a layer of pebble ballast. It includes a series of raised ventilation monitors known colloquially as “cat houses.” One gabled section of roof remains over the oldest section of the mill

The interior of the main building also reflects the myriad building campaigns. The main entrance through a glassed vestibule leads to the base of the main stair tower, where stairs with beadboard rails ascend around the exterior walls. The first floor generally has wooden floors throughout, with round metal columns supporting transverse wooden beams. The later 1970s addition to the west has internal masonry walls. Additional internal supports in later sections are squared metal posts supporting steel I-beams. All ductwork and plumbing are exposed. There are few interior walls, all of which are brick. Some may have been exterior walls at one point and have substantial masonry openings cut into them. The basement is narrower than the upper floor and has no internal supports. Its floors are wooden. Exposed steel I-beams support the floor above. All ductwork and plumbing lines are exposed. Walls are exposed brick. The upper level likewise has wooden floors, masonry walls and exposed utilities.

Main Office
(ca. 1924, 1949, 1952, 1970, 1995)

Contributing Building

The one-story, three by three bay, hipped-roof brick building (ca. 1924) at the core of the larger office building is laid in six-course American bond. Exposed window openings on its north elevation are bricked in, but concrete sills and concrete jack arches with projecting keystones remain. The original facade was on the west elevation, which had a central gabled parapet above a gabled portico supported by columns (Figure 11).¹⁴ Original windows seen in photographs appear to have been two-over-two wooden sash. In 1949 a hyphen was constructed to connect the original office to a two-story building, rectangular in footprint, also constructed in 1949, at its

¹⁴ “Will Poor Sleep and Sleep deprivation Now Lead to a Lifestyle-Related Dementia Later?”, image, <https://goinggentleintothatgoodnight.com/2015/01/22/will-poor-sleep-and-sleep-deprivation-now-lead-to-a-lifestyle-related-dementia-later/>.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

northwest. Also at this time, a fireproof vault was added to the south of the original building.¹⁵ According to a 1970 Factory Mutual Engineering Association Map, the rear carport and the rear wing-leading to it both date to 1952. A southern expansion of the original office that engages the fireproof vault, dates to 1970, per the same map. In 1995 a two-story wing was added to the west of the evolved complex.¹⁶

Though built in two campaigns, the 1949 and 1995 sections of the building have matching exterior features. Their walls are laid in English bond with concrete beltcourses between floors and soldier course cornices. Window openings have concrete sills and jack arches with concrete keystones. The building corners have brick quoins. Over each second story window is a rectangular concrete panel. The entrance on the west elevation of the original section of the building is through a glazed vestibule with the letters "CF" in the cornice above the door. Within the vestibule is a two-panel, nine-light door flanked by four-light side lights with panels below, all topped by a fan light. The 1995 wing has a single-leaf entrance with a rectangular transom above, sheltered by a fixed metal canopy, centered on its northwest elevation.

The 1952 and 1970 expansions are laid in running bond. Window openings on the north and east have been infilled with smoked glass. A four-light, four-panel door on the southeast elevation of the 1952 rear wing leads to the carport.

The amalgamated roof includes flat rubber roofs on the 1949 and 1995 two-story sections. The hipped roof of the original one-story office remains clad in composite shingles, and the remainder roofs are shallow gables which appear to be rubber. Windows throughout are fixed, single-pane, smoked glass.

The 1949 portion of the building has an entrance lobby with a stair. A double-loaded corridor from the lobby to the southwest intersects with a double-loaded corridor in the 1995 addition. A shorter corridor from the lobby to the southeast leads to the older sections of the building that include offices, a conference room, and the vault, which kept the company's cash payroll. Interior executive suites are well-appointed with wooden paneled walls. Most interior spaces including hallways have wooden floors, wooden chair rails and dado paneling, and suspended acoustical tile ceilings. The ca. 1924 section and 1950s wing has vertical wood paneled walls.

Power Building (ca. 1938)

Contributing Building

The power building is a one-story brick building laid in six-course American bond. A 1938 plat labels the building as "transformers." It is labeled as "boiler room" on the 1952 Sanborn and the Factory Mutual map. The building is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep with a flat roof that has terracotta coping. The north elevation has two masonry openings with concrete sills, which are now

¹⁵ Sanborn Insurance Company Maps; "Copland Fabrics, Inc., Sends its Products Throughout the Nation," *The Daily Times-News*, May 9, 1949, 91.

¹⁶ Bonner, J. C. (Surveyor). "Copland Fabrics, Inc. Burlington NC (map)." Norwood, Massachusetts: Factory Mutual Engineering Association, January 1970, rev 1988.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

enclosed and house metal vents. The western bay on this elevation has a masonry opening with a three-course rowlock arch housing a double-leaf door. An open, metal shed roofed addition on the east elevation shelters two metal industrial windows.

Finishing Plant

Contributing Building

(ca. 1915, ca. 1920, ca. 1945, ca. 1950, 1951, ca. 1953, 1965, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1983, 1993)

At the tip of the peninsula is an evolved finishing plant. It is connected to the main mill by an upper-story enclosed bridge. The building's appearance reflects its intermittent growth. It contains what had been a cotton storage building (ca. 1915), later used for rayon storage, at its northwest corner. By 1924 the building was expanded slightly to the west, with two additional rooms, and an exterior concrete platform, still extant, had been added along the north elevation. The 1929-1948 Sanborn shows the building as rayon storage and the first finishing plant building has been constructed to its east. The 1953 Sanborn map shows an expansion to the west of the finishing plant with a boiler room, and a dye room noted as built in 1951. The Factory Mutual Company map suggests that the bow truss warehouse area south of the original warehouse was built ca. 1953 and a connection between the original cotton storage and the original finishing plant was built between 1953 and 1975. South of the finishing plant, the connected Warehouse #2 was built in 1965. In 1972 Finishing Plant B was added at the far east end of the building. In 1973 Warehouse 1-A was added south of the older warehouse sections. In 1976 Warehouse #3 and a shipping addition were added on the south side of the building. And in 1983 a triangular addition was constructed on the north between the original warehouse and the first finishing plant. A large, tall addition to the far east of the building, built in 1993, allowed for storage of large rolls of cloth.

The west elevation has six vehicular loading docks along its south end, housed in the 1973 warehouse 1-A and the shipping addition at its south. Both sections have a shed roof descending to the south. North of the loading docks is a bow-trussed section of the building. On its west elevation are five nine-over-nine wooden sash windows. One of these windows and a nine-light, two-panel door are sheltered by a metal canopy that extends to the north along a concrete loading dock that continues along what appears to be the oldest section of the building, which has three six-over-six windows on the west elevation. The entire elevation with its various heights and roof profiles is clad in metal siding, providing a modicum of uniformity.

Along the building's north elevation, more aspects of the oldest section of the building are evident. Two interior brick parapet walls extend forward of the vinyl siding along this section. Rafter tails are visible as are a series of six wooden, diagonally clad, double-leaf doors that open along a narrow masonry platform. At the eastern terminus of this section is a generally triangular section built of brick with a vehicular door facing west and a long exterior wall that stretches to the northeast, laid in running bond with every sixth course Flemish bond. At its terminus is a brick vestibule to what was the earliest purpose-built portion of the finishing plant of 1945. This section's flat roof has terra-cotta coping. The walls are laid in running bond. The north wall is divided into bays by brick pilasters supporting a concrete cornice. While the western two bays are largely bricked in, the central bay has a large bank of industrial windows between the cornice

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

and a continuous concrete sill. The eastern bays appear to have had these banks of windows, the cornice and sill remain, and the intervening wall is bricked saved for ribbons of clerestory windows. At the far east of the complex are the metal clad exterior of the 1972 and 1993 finishing plant and storage rooms, the former with a series of loading dock entrances and the latter largely without fenestration and built on tall piers. The east and south elevation of this building hug the shoreline and are obscured by vegetation.

The interior spaces of this building reflect the various building campaigns with a mix of materials and construction techniques. Floors are mostly concrete save for in the early cotton storage warehouse which has its original wooden floors. The bowstring truss roof is evident in the west central portion of the building. Metal frame construction and masonry construction are both evident throughout. And the interior is typified by a series of large open rooms that housed bulk storage and large machinery.

**Guard House
(ca. 2009)**

Noncontributing Building

The guard house is a small, frame, prefabricated, gable-roofed shed, clad in T-11 siding and set on masonry blocks.

**Water Plant
(ca 1950)**

Contributing Building

The water plant has a poured concrete lower level, likely containing settlement tanks, that extends northwest into the slope of the parcel. The upper level is brick to the east and to the west is a frame, gabled rear wing addition. West of and adjacent to the building is a cylindrical concrete structure, likely a storage reservoir. To the south and adjacent is a cylindrical metal tank set within a square, poured concrete foundation. The façade (southeast elevation) has a central entrance flanked by industrial metal windows. There, a single-leaf replacement door is accessed by concrete steps that ascend to the northeast to a platform with metal railings. The southwest, northeast, and northwest elevations are framed by projecting corner pilasters made of concrete at the lower level and brick at the upper level. The upper-level pilasters extend above the concrete coping with concrete caps. On the southwest, southeast, and northeast elevations, the upper level has a recessed panel topped by broad corbelling to an upper brick panel. On the façade, the recessed brick panel houses three windows obscured by metal awnings. Above the windows in the upper panel are the words "water plant" in affixed capital letters. The concrete coping above supports concrete letters spelling "Copland" which rise above the roofline. The southwest elevation has two sets of paired windows set high in the lower level. In the upper level, industrial windows flank a double-leaf door once serviced by an exterior stair. The northeast elevation is not entirely visible due to undergrowth. It has one multipaned, metal industrial window on the lower level, and two above.

**Medical Office
(ca. 1952, ca.1995)**

Contributing Building

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

This office is built in the same architectural style as the main office. It is a one-story building with a flat parapet roof, laid in English bond with a soldier course cornice and corner quoins. Replacement fixed, single-pane, smoked glass windows have brick jack arches with concrete keystones and concrete sills. An addition in the 1990s doubled the size of the original 20' x 60' section, likely at the same time the main office expanded. The primary entrance on the west elevation is by a single-leaf glazed door with a sidelight and transom and a fixed metal canopy above.

Plant #2
(1969, ca. 1980, ca. 1990)

Contributing Building

Built into a sloping lot, Plant #2 has one-and two-story sections. A paved drive along its west side services multiple loading areas. The exterior walls are laid in six-course American bond brick veneer. The building has a flat roof. Most windows have been bricked in, though one section of the west elevation near the north retains bands of narrow windows with concrete sills set under the eaves. The far western end of the building is on axis with a bridge across the Haw River and features a large expanse of brick with the word COPLAND affixed in white letters. The central part of the building, a weaving room, is the oldest part of the building, constructed in 1969. The building was expanded to the west ca. 1980. The west addition housed cloth inspection, additional looms, and storage, and in the basement, loom parts and repairs. The building was expanded again to the east ca. 1990 to create a yarn storage area. The primary pedestrian entrance on the south elevation leads to a vestibule with an office to its north, all carved out of a large open weaving room space with concrete floors and metal columns supporting a wooden ceiling structure. The wooden floors in the 1969 section were replaced with poured concrete to accommodate demands of modern high-speed air jet looms. The eastern yarn storage area is similarly open but retains its wooden floors and has a metal roof structure. The western section has wooden floors on the main level with metal beams supporting a wooden ceiling structure and second floor. The basement has poured concrete floors and metal beams supporting the structure above. Save for the masonry walls dividing the building campaigns the interior spaces are large open areas punctuated by steel support posts. Interior doors are few and largely industrial single-leaf metal doors. In 1996 the roof was replaced with what appears to be a new rubber membrane.

Water Towers
(ca. 1938)¹⁷

Contributing Structures

Three water towers are located east of Carolina Mill Road and west of Carolina Road. Two are large metal cylinders. The third is a tank set on four legs. The tank has a curved bottom, a conical top with a finial and is circumscribed by a metal catwalk. The word "Copland" is painted on the tank.

¹⁷ W. T. Hall (civil engineer), *Consolidated Textile, Inc Hopedale Mill Property plat*, 1938.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Statement of integrity

The Copland Fabrics complex, with a period of significance from 1941-1973, has not been moved, thus has a high degree of integrity of location. It remains between the Haw River and Stony Creek with a mill village to its north, thus retains a high degree of integrity of setting. Every major building in the complex has evolved over time to meet the changing needs of the textile concerns it housed. This evolution is typical of mills. Alterations since 1973 include an addition at the rear of the finishing plant, sympathetic additions to the main and medical offices, and an enlargement of plant #2. Additions to the offices and plant number 2 continue with materials and design motifs from earlier design campaigns within the period of significance. Thus, the complex as a whole has a relatively high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The complex of buildings, including mill/production buildings, offices, and utility buildings, perched along Haw River and the adjacent Hopedale community still reads as a mill complex, giving it a high degree of integrity of feeling and association.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1941-1973

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

For almost two centuries, a mill operated on this site. The extant buildings reflect industrial architecture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the changes in production of textiles. Though buildings from its inception are no longer extant, the site was the location of the first cotton mill in Alamance County. Alamance County was a locus of fabric production starting with water-powered mills along the Haw River in the nineteenth century. In the early twentieth century, the industry benefitted from the closure of northern mills and relocation of workers, and North Carolina became a national leader in the industry. Copland Fabrics and its CEO, J. R. Copland, shifted production here to rayon in 1941. Innovations in techniques and machinery developed and implemented at this facility allowed Copland Fabrics to produce good quality rayon economically. Additional expansion to fabric finishing gave the conglomerated Copland companies vertical integration as well as fee-based services to other mills. Globalization with the combination of low wages and lax environmental regulation overseas moved many production industries to foreign countries, and the manufacturing in the region base declined. Copland Fabrics outlasted many of its North Carolina and American competitors, remaining in operation until 2018. The mill buildings show the evolution of fabric production from the late nineteenth to the late twentieth century in a county noted for its leadership in textiles. The complex has a period of significance from 1941, the date of the purchase of the complex by the Coplands, to 1973, the date of the last plant expansion that is over 50 years of age. Copland Fabrics is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Industry.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Textile Production in North Carolina

Textile manufacturing in the United States and in the piedmont region of North Carolina began in earnest after the colonial period. Massachusetts became an early leader in textile production in

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

the 18th century, while the southern states relied chiefly on domestic scale production, sometimes expanded with the effort of enslaved laborers. The growth of the industry in the North Carolina piedmont region was powered by water. The geology and topography of central North Carolina gave rise to rivers whose power could be harnessed for industrial production. Along the south fork of the Catawba, the Deep River and the Haw, mills began to proliferate. Technology and machinery, often imported from New England, supported the burgeoning industry as did the absence of an entrenched economy of large plantations. In the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the North Carolina General Assembly published a report encouraging the growth of the textile industry, seeing in it a path toward greater economic independence for an agricultural base of small farms that imported value-added products from northern and foreign markets at a higher rate than the export of their raw materials.¹⁸

In the 1830s and 1840s, growth in textile production expanded significantly. By 1840 there were an estimated 25 textile mills in North Carolina. The agricultural depression of the 1840s and the multivalent impacts of the Civil War continued to support a shift toward textile manufacturing particularly as some concerns prospered, providing wartime matériel.¹⁹ The increase in mills and their production from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century reflected the ambitions of the "New South," which saw manufacturing and industry as a key component of rebuilding the economy. In North Carolina those ambitions were reflected in the Cotton Mill campaign that was bolstered by banking interests in Charlotte and promoted by local newspapers and publications such as the *Manufacturer's Record*, and that contributed to the establishment of the School of Textiles at what is now North Carolina State University. Between 1885 and 1915 the number of all textile mills in the state increased from 60 to 318.²⁰

Early twentieth-century mills moved toward standard design features, many dictated by fire insurance or machinery requirements. In his monograph on North Carolina's textile history, Brent Glass notes:

The new mills were always brick, usually two-story structures with flat roofs, large windows, and heavy interior timbers. Brick firewalls separated the main mill from other sections . . . Other safety features included an elevated water tank . . . Only in the stair tower, where the water tank was placed above the rest of the mill, could passersby find any evidence of architectural expression.²¹

Though many mills were formulaic in their original design, many were retained and adapted to address new technologies. "As the cotton factories adapted to new technological innovations,

¹⁸ Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1992), 8.

¹⁹ Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1992), 13.

²⁰ Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1992), 34.

²¹ Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1992), 38.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

changed methods of production, and expanded with commercial success, the old buildings were constantly being enlarged, altered, or rebuilt."²² This is true at Copland Fabrics.

World War I spurred increased demand for textile production. In the 1920s the South finally surpassed New England in most textile performance matrices and statistics. In North Carolina textiles flourished, generally producing lower-grade yarns and fabrics that had a lower profit margin than fine goods but used inexpensive machinery and cheaper labor, relying on volume for profitability.²³ Textile operations continued to expand in the mid-twentieth century despite the depression, two world wars and increasing labor unrest. From 1939 to 1951 the number of textile mills in North Carolina grew from 695 to 1,047. This period was also one of increased investments in machinery and physical plants, often spurred by the shift to synthetic fabrics such as rayon.²⁴

In the late twentieth century, most growth in the textile industry in America came from consolidation by mergers and acquisitions. The textile heyday in North Carolina began to wane as foreign manufacturers flooded the US with imports. In the 1970s and 1980s U. S. textile imports nearly tripled. Cheap labor and lax environmental laws allowed foreign countries to create textile and clothing more cheaply than American mills. Between 1975 and 1985, 800 American textile mills closed. Legislation to protect the American textile industry was introduced in the late 1990s but did not pass. Trade bills passed in the 1990s and 2000s made it increasingly difficult for American textile manufacturers to compete with offshore concerns.

Early History of the Mill at Copland Fabrics

The early history of industrial development on the Copland Fabrics site is not entirely clear. Frequent changes in ownership compound the opacity. As early as 1836, a reference to a cotton factory at the high falls of the Haw River, operated by Messrs. Danforth and McCuistin, is noted in the *Weekly Raleigh Register*.²⁵ Two years later, the same operation is noted as owned by McCuistin, Trollinger and company.²⁶ By 1854, an advertisement for yarn from the High Falls mill notes new ownership by W. J. & J. A. Murrey (sic).²⁷ In the fall of 1863 the mill was touted as one of the five cotton factories in Alamance County, and one of the three making both cloth and yarn.²⁸ These early mill ventures on the site do not appear to have survived.

²² Carl Lounsbury, *Alamance County Architectural Heritage* (Burlington: Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, 1980).

²³ Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1992), 60.

²⁴ Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1992), 82.

²⁵ "New Cotton Factory," *Weekly Raleigh Register*, November 22, 1836, 3.

²⁶ "Cotton Factories in Orange," *The North-Carolina Star*, February 14, 1838, 3.

²⁷ "High Falls Cotton Yarns," *The Milton Chronicle*, May 16, 1854, 3.

²⁸ "Correspondence of the Standard," *Semi-Weekly Standard*, September 1, 1863, 1.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

In early 1869 it was reported that the Murrays were building a large brick factory on the site.²⁹ Five years later, in January 1874, this brick building, uninsured, suffered a fire. While initial reports were that the mill and an adjacent flour mill were a total loss, later reporting suggested that the mill's brick walls survived the blaze.³⁰ Through that year came reports of an intention to rebuild.³¹ Rumors of rebuilding continued into 1876. In that year the area was to be developed by The Falls of the Neuse Manufacturing Company operated by George Swepson who had intentions to enlarge the operation.³² By 1877 construction appears to have finally begun.³³

In 1887 the site was bought by J. V. Pomeroy, a relocated New Yorker with interests in mining and machining.³⁴ A second story, measuring 280 x 48 feet, was added in 1887 to the first-floor walls. Pomeroy's firm was incorporated as Big Falls Cotton Mill in 1887 and operated a saw and grist mill on site as well as the cotton mill.³⁵ Despite rosy predictions of expansion and growth, by 1893 the Big Falls Mill was in receivership and offered for sale. At that time was advertised to have 250 acres, a two-story brick building measuring 50' x 200', a gristmill, a sawmill, a storehouse, and 37 dwellings in an adjacent mill village.³⁶ The mill changed hands more than once before being purchased in 1894 by a group of men, mostly from Raleigh, who operated under the name Juanita Mills.³⁷ The complex is described in an 1895 article as including a dam, a store and office in addition to the mills. A rendering accompanying the article shows the three-story tower and a one-story extension of the mill building to the north.³⁸ The same rendering accompanies an article in 1899 citing the addition of a steam plant, likely a small addition southwest of the tower.³⁹

Newspaper accounts related that the operation was mismanaged and again sold in late 1904 to a group including James N. Williamson, that renamed the enterprise the Hopedale Mills.⁴⁰ Hopedale made warps⁴¹ for Williamson's mill at Ossipee. Media reports described Hopedale as

one of the most valuable cotton mill propositions in the State, comprising a large acreage of valuable land; one of the best water powers on Haw River; large and commodious brick buildings; forty or more well built and well preserved tenement houses. Grist mills, store houses, residences and other conveniences all delightfully located in the heart of one of the storm centers of successful cotton manufacturing.⁴²

²⁹ "Other Factories," *The Daily Standard*, February 13, 1869, 2.

³⁰ "State News," *The Daily Journal*, January 29, 1874, 1.

³¹ "State News," *The Daily Journal*, September 3, 1874, 1.

³² "From The Alamance Gleaner," *The Daily Journal*, May 11, 1876, 4.

³³ "Improvements," *The Alamance Gleaner*, July 17, 1877, 3.

³⁴ "Big Falls Cotton Mills," *The Alamance Gleaner*, August 11, 1887, 3.

³⁵ "North Carolina Industrial and Construction Notes," *The Alamance Gleaner*, September 1, 1887, 2.

³⁶ "Cotton Mills for Sale," *The News and Observer*, August 27, 1893, 2.

³⁷ "The Juanita Mills," *The News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895.

³⁸ "The Juanita Mills," *The News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895.

³⁹ "The Juanita Cotton Mills," *The News and Observer Twentieth Century State Edition*, August 24, 1899.

⁴⁰ "The Hopedale Mills," *The Daily News and Observer*, March 11, 1905.

⁴¹ Warps are a textile component, that combined with wefts create fabric

⁴² "The Hopedale Mills," *The Daily News and Observer*, March 11, 1905.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

A 1904 Sanborn Insurance Company map shows the site with a race between Stony Creek and the Haw River, which is now infilled. The main mill building stood south of the race with a wooden wheel in the race. Southwest of the main building were an oil house, a cotton house, stables, feed storage, a waste building and an unidentified building. A gristmill and two subsidiary buildings are on the opposite bank, and a bridge crosses the race to connect them.⁴³ The 1908 Sanborn map shows little change save for that the frame water wheel is enclosed in a larger wheelhouse that spans the race.⁴⁴

In 1910 the mill was purchased by an experienced textile executive, James Williamson, who changed the business' name to J. N. Williamson & Sons, Co., and operated it for less than a decade.⁴⁵ The 1913 Sanborn map shows a small frame addition on the main mill building. In 1914 Williamson sold the mills at Hopedale, along with Ossipee Mill and Pilot Mill in Raleigh, to Consolidated Products Textile Company of New York,⁴⁶ a firm that invested heavily in southern textile manufacturing and opened a regional office in Charlotte.⁴⁷ By 1918 a second cotton storehouse of brick and frame had been added. Reports in the 1930s suggest that the mill operations had been closed, and by 1938 it was again for sale. It was at this point that the housing in the mill village was subdivided from the manufacturing plant.

The Copland Era

The mill came into increased prominence in the 1940s under the influence of J. R. (James Reuben) Copland, Sr. (1875-1955). Copland had a long and storied career in the textile industry. At 13 he began his career at the Swift Manufacturing Company in Columbus, Alabama and rose to become the overseer of the weaving department. He moved to Griffin, Georgia in 1907 to take a similar position with Griffin Manufacturing. From there he went to Riverside and Dan River Mills in Danville, Virginia; Judson Mills in Greenville, South Carolina; and AltaVista Mills in Virginia, where he was the superintendent. In 1928 he came to Alamance County, where he held the positions of superintendent with Burlington Mills, general superintendent of E. M. Holt Plaid Mills, and general manager of Swepson Mills before his retirement in 1940 at the age of 66. Retirement did not suit him, and by 1941 he had organized Copland Fabrics, which purchased the mill property at Hopedale.

By all reports, J. R. Copland was a creative and determined man. He began full-time employment as a teenager and continued his schooling at night. He made a careful study of textile machinery and technology, and devised improvements for weaving looms and slasher creels. Three of these innovations he patented in the 1920s.

⁴³ Sanborn Insurance Company Map of Burlington, 1904.

⁴⁴ Sanborn Insurance Company Map of Burlington, 1908.

⁴⁵ "Hopedale Mills Sold," *The Charlotte Evening Chronicle*, October 28, 1910.

⁴⁶ "Six Mills Sold in Single Deal," *The Charlotte News*, January 28, 1920.

⁴⁷ "Textile Interests Plan Offices Here," *The Charlotte News*, February 21, 1920.

Copland Fabrics

Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina

County and State

Copland and his companies operated during periods of great changes in the textile industry, including the shift from cotton to synthetic fabrics, notably rayon. Rayon is a semi-synthetic fiber derived from plant cellulose with origins in nineteenth century France. In the early twentieth century it was often referred to as artificial silk, having similar visual and tactile qualities. Rayon textile manufacturing grew rapidly in the South from the late 1920s to the 1940s, and J. R. Copland was on the leading edge of this transition. He started the first three rayon throwing machines, thought to be among the first in the South, at Burlington Mills as superintendent.⁴⁸ He also supervised the conversion from cotton to rayon at the Mayfair plant, Granite Holt Mills at Fayetteville, and Pinehurst Silk Mills; and the conversion from silk to rayon at North Carolina Silk Mills.⁴⁹

In 1941, the newly incorporated Copland Fabrics purchased the Hopedale mill property for the production of rayon.⁵⁰ In making the transition from cotton to rayon, Copland installed state-of-the-art Crompton and Knowles looms. Mr. Copland pioneered "a technique for manufacturing high-quality rayon marquisettes at a competitive cost. An improvement on the loom, leno motion attachment was developed and perfected by Mr. Copland and installed in his plant to mark the first low-cost production of high-quality rayon marquisettes in the south."⁵¹ This technology addressed issues of imperfections and loose construction of fabric using traditional weaving equipment due to its limited capacity to twist yarn ends while simultaneously maintaining even thread tension. The adaptation allowed for increased speed of machinery operation and greater efficiency in the assignment of machinery operators.⁵² Copland is also credited with developing "better rayon yarns, larger and better handling packages, and in the development of methods for its weaving."⁵³ His innovations produced high-quality rayon fabrics at a low production cost, making it profitable to produce.

Copland Fabrics invested heavily in the plant, expanding the original building to the northwest and excavating a basement. Soon thereafter it constructed a water treatment plant that was integral to their expansion plans, as copious amounts of water are needed for fabric finishing.

In 1945 owners and officers of Copland Fabrics established the Copland Converting and Finishing Company to convert, finish, and sell fabrics. Converting and finishing took what is known as "greige" fabric directly from the loom, and applied chemical and mechanical processes such as bleaching, singeing and others to prepare the fabric for a purchaser prepared to dye it or to cut and sew it. In addition to finishing their own fabric, creating vertical integration with the affiliated companies, the finishing operation also provided the service to other textile companies.

In 1949 the allied companies were described thus:

⁴⁸ "Copland Fabrics, Inc., Sends it Products Throughout the Nation," *The Daily Times-News*, May 9, 1949, 91.

⁴⁹ "Copland Fabrics, Inc., Sends it Products Throughout the Nation," *The Daily Times-News*, May 9, 1949, 91.

⁵⁰ *Alamance County Deed Book 136*, 189; *Alamance County Plat Book 1*, 119-120.

⁵¹ "Copland Fabrics, Inc., Sends it Products Throughout the Nation," *The Daily Times-News*, May 9, 1949, 91.

⁵² "Copland Fabrics, Inc., Sends it Products Throughout the Nation," *The Daily Times-News*, May 9, 1949, 91.

⁵³ "Copland Fabrics, Inc., Sends it Products Throughout the Nation," *The Daily Times-News*, May 9, 1949, 91.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Although the Copeland plants are comparatively young having been started just eight years ago, they have rapidly become one of Alamance County's most important industries. And in the production of rayon goods, the Copeland plant at the date of its birth was already around a decade or more ahead of most of its sister plants throughout the south. It was, from the first, giving national and world markets excellent goods at reasonable prices . . . At a time when most other plans were still finding it difficult for us to make a marketable rayon good second to sell it at a competitive price and third to realize any significant returns above the cost of production.⁵⁴

In 1950 Copland-Fowler Industries was established to manufacture material for ladies' lingerie. Its new plant was built in the Hopedale area, but not on the peninsula with the original mill site. The three companies (Copland Fabrics, Copland Converting and Finishing, Copland-Fowler Industries) each had a separate charter and separate boards but the same management. In 1953 the companies opened a sales office subsidiary in New York and announced a 10,000 sq. ft. addition to the finishing plant and 11,000 sq. ft. of additional warehouse space for raw materials.

At the death of J. R Copland in 1955, his son James Copland, Jr. took over management of the companies. By 1957 the combined companies had reached a sales level of \$10 million, ten times the revenue from Copland Fabrics' first year of operation in 1941. The three firms employed a total of 500 people, with a payroll of \$3M. James Jr. operated the companies until his death in 1986, when Jim Copland III took control. The companies continued to expand lines and diversify beyond sheers to upholstery fabric, fabric for clothing and lampshades, and pockets. The fourth generation ran the company under the direction of Jason Copland from 2004 to 2018. By 2018, increasing costs and international trade policies combined to create a dismal profit outlook and the company closed. In 2019 the real estate and machinery were sold to the current owner, who has sold the machinery and is exploring options for the adaptive use of the buildings.

⁵⁴ "Copland Fabrics, Inc., Sends its Products Throughout the Nation," *The Daily Times-News*, May 9, 1949, 91.

Copland Fabrics
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Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

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Copland Mills photo ca. 1950 collection of Textile Heritage Museum, Inc.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

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"Will Poor Sleep and Sleep Deprivation Now Lead to a Lifestyle-Related Dementia Later?"
image, nd.. <https://goinggentleintothatgoodnight.com/2015/01/22/will-poor-sleep-and-sleep-deprivation-now-lead-to-a-lifestyle-related-dementia-later/>

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): AM0206

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.26

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Latitude: 36.124678° Longitude: -79.408567°
2. Latitude: 36.126014° Longitude: -79.407559°
3. Latitude: 36.124685° Longitude: -79.405269°
4. Latitude: 36.122531° Longitude: -79.402881°
5. Latitude: 36.121003° Longitude: -79.401480°
6. Latitude: 36.119739° Longitude: -79.401838°

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated on the accompanying map entitled "Copland Fabrics National Register Boundary." It includes the following Burlington, North Carolina parcels: 141250, 141252, 141253, 141254, 141255, 149770, 149771, 149772, 149774, 149775, 149776, 149779, 149780, and 149836 as well as portions of intervening roads.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with Copland Fabrics and selected subsidiary and associated textile concerns located on the peninsula between Stony Creek and the Haw River in Alamance County.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury

organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting

street & number: PO Box 6049

city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628

e-mail: maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com

telephone: 919 828 1905

date: revised March 22, 2024

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Photo Log

For all photos-
Copland Fabrics

Burlington, Alamance, North Carolina
Photographer: Mary Ruffin Hanbury

Exterior of Main Mill, West Elevation,
View to East
October 11, 2021
1 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, Northeast Corner,
View to West
July 27, 2022
8 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, West Elevation,
View to Northeast
March 24, 2022
2 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, Northwest
Corner, View to East
October 11, 2021
9 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, West Elevation,
Tower, View to East
March 24, 2022
3 of 40.

Interior of Main Mill, Basement, View
to North
March 24, 2022
10 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, East Tower
Elevation, View to West
March 24, 2022
4 of 40.

Interior of Main Mill, First Floor Stair
Tower View to East
March 24, 2022
11 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, South Tower
Elevation, View to North
October 11, 2021
5 of 40.

Interior of Main Mill, First Floor, View
to West
March 24, 2022
12 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, South Elevation,
View to Northeast
July 27, 2022
6 of 40.

Interior of Main Mill, Second Floor
View to West
March 24, 2022
13 of 40.

Exterior of Main Mill, South Elevation,
View to Northeast
July 27, 2022
7 of 40.

Interior of Main Mill, Second Floor,
View to West
March 24, 2022
14 of 40

Copland Fabrics

Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina

County and State

Interior of Main Mill, First Floor View
to Northeast

October 11, 2021

15 of 40.

Exterior Powerhouse, North Elevation,
View to Southwest

July 27, 2022

24 of 40.

Interior of Main Mill, First Floor,
Southern Section, View to West

October 11, 2021

16 of 40.

Exterior, Roof of Finishing Plant from
Main Mill Roof, View to Southeast

March 24, 2022

25 of 40.

Exterior, Main Office from Roof of
Main Mill, View to Southwest

March 24, 2022

17 of 40.

Exterior Finishing Plant, West Elevation,
View to East

July 27, 2022

26 of 40.

Exterior, Main Mill, View to West from
Roof

March 24, 2022

18 of 40.

Exterior Finishing Plant, West Elevation,
View to North

July 27, 2022

27 of 40.

Exterior, Water Towers, View to North

October 11, 2021

19 of 40.

Exterior Finishing Plant, North
Elevation, View to East

July 27, 2022

28 of 40.

Exterior, Guard House Façade, View to
West

October 11, 2021

20 of 40.

Exterior Finishing Plant, North
Elevation, View to Southwest

July 27, 2022

29 of 40.

Exterior, Main Office, Southeast Corner,
View to Northwest

July 27, 2022

21 of 40.

Exterior Finishing Plant, West Elevation,
Northern Section, View to East

July 27, 2022

30 of 40.

Exterior, Main Office, Original Portion,
North Elevation, View to South

July 27, 2022

22 of 40.

Exterior Finishing Plant, North
Elevation, View to Southeast

July 27, 2022

31 of 40.

Interior, Main Office, First Floor,
Executive Suite View to South

October 11, 2021

23 of 40.

Exterior Finishing Plant, North
Elevation, View to Southeast

July 27, 2022

32 of 40.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Exterior Finishing Plant, North
Elevation, View to Southeast
July 27, 2022
33 of 40.

Exterior, Mill Two, Southwest
Elevation, View to West
October 11, 2021
37 of 40.

Interior, Finishing Plant, View to
Northeast
July 27, 2022
34 of 40.

Exterior, Mill Two, Southwest
Elevation, View to East
October 11, 2021
38 of 40.

Exterior, Medical Office, Southeast
Corner, View to Northwest
October 11, 2021
35 of 40.

Interior, Mill Two, Main Level, View to
East
July 27, 2022
39 of 40.

Exterior, Water Plant, Southwest Corner,
View to Northeast
October 11, 2021
36 of 40.

Interior, Mill Two, Main Level, View to
Northwest
July 27, 2022
40 of 40.

List of figures

Figure 1: Rendering from "The Juanita Mills." *The News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895.

Figure 2: Sanborn Insurance Company Map, Burlington, Detail 1904.

Figure 3: "Hopedale Cotton Mills" picture postcard, nd.

Figure 4: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1908.

Figure 5: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1913.

Figure 6: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1918.

Figure 7: Photograph accompanying "Ossipee and Hopedale Mills Run by Man Who Puts Milk of human (sic) Kindness into Policies of Management," *The Charlotte Observer*, January 3, 1919, 34.

Figure 8: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1929.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Figure 9: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1929-1948.

Figure 10: Photo accompanying "Copland Fabrics Announces \$600,000 Expansion Plan," The Daily Times-News, March 7, 1946, 9.

Figure 11: J.C. Bonner (Surveyor), Copland Fabrics, Inc. Burlington NC (map) Norwood, Massachusetts: Factory Mutual Engineering Association, January 1970, Detail.

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Figure 13: Copland Mills photo ca. 1950 collection of Textile Heritage Museum, Inc.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property _____

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State _____



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Copland Fabrics
Name of Property _____

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State _____

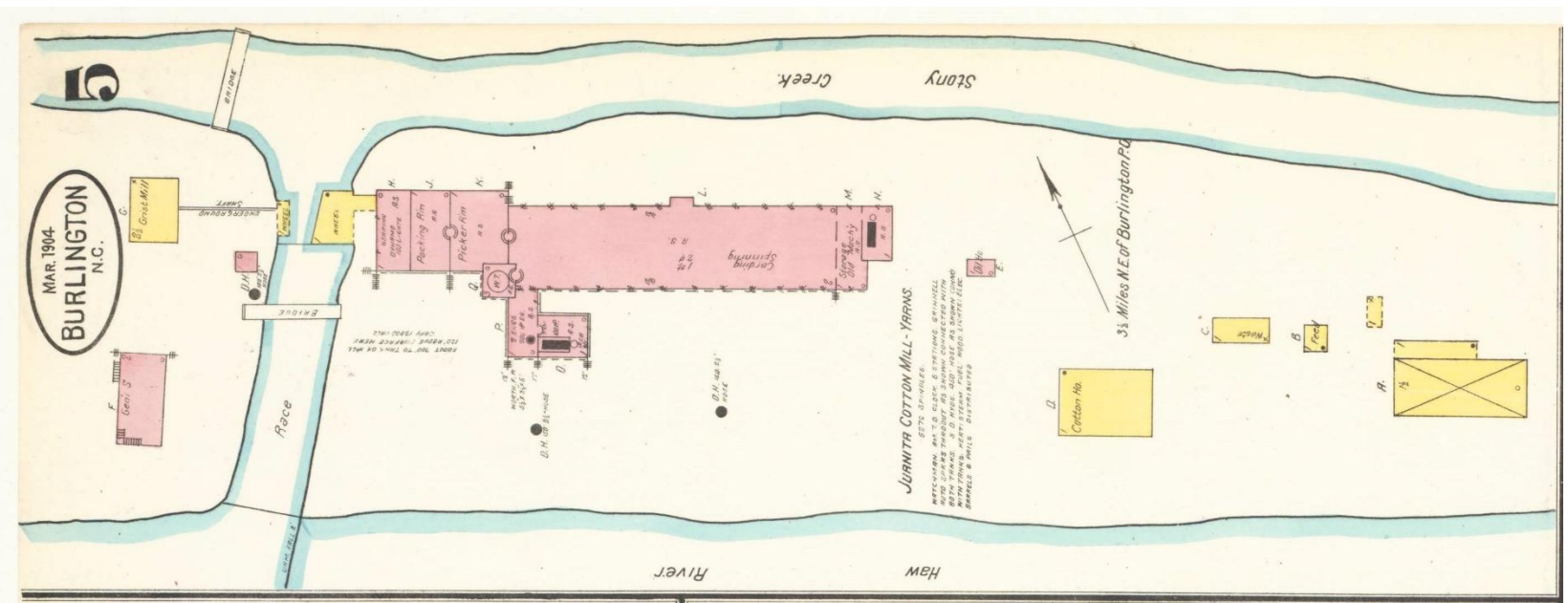


Figure 2: Sanborn Insurance Company Map, Burlington, Detail 1904

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property _____

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State _____

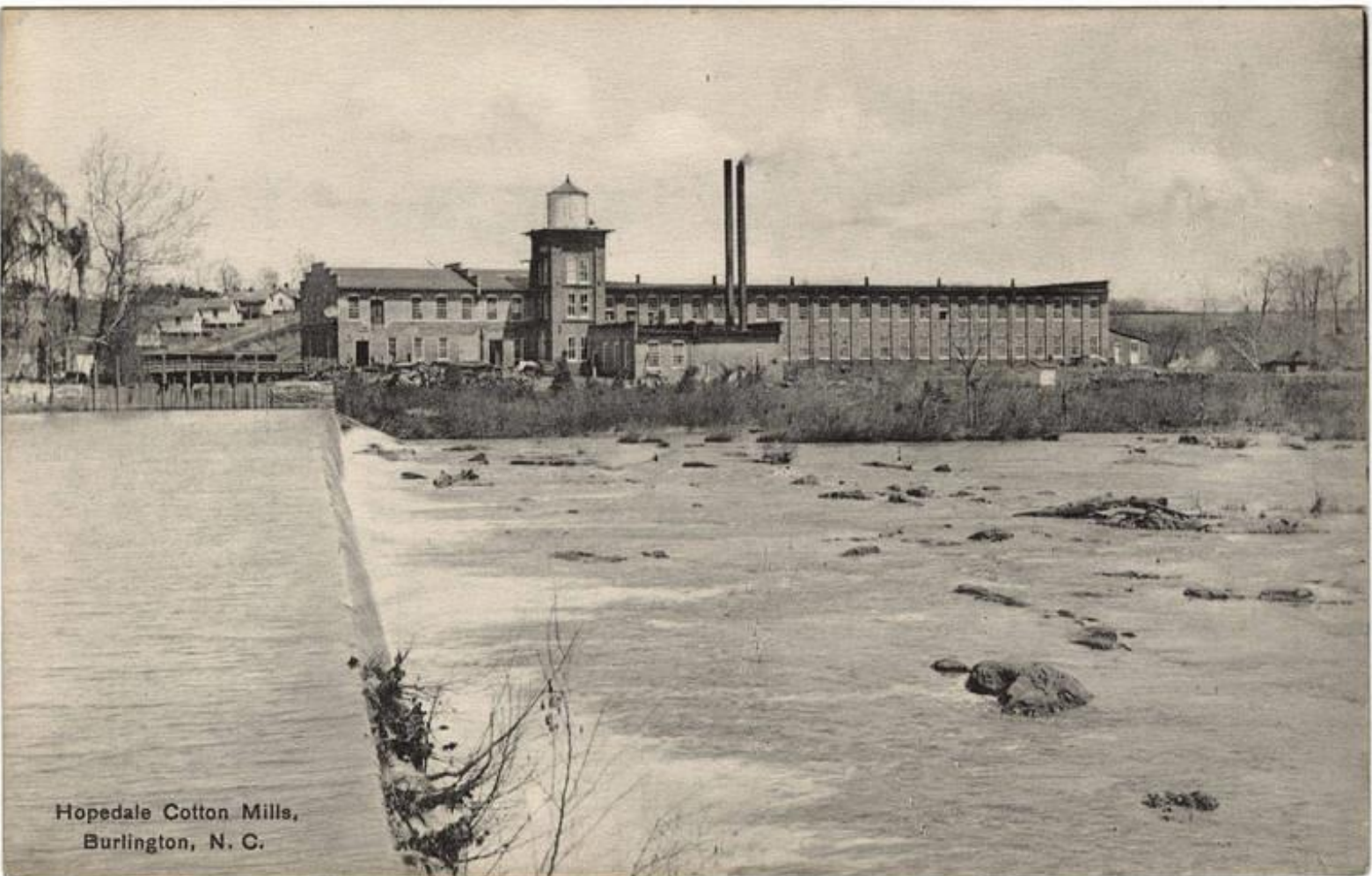


Figure 3: “Hopedale Cotton Mills” picture postcard, nd.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

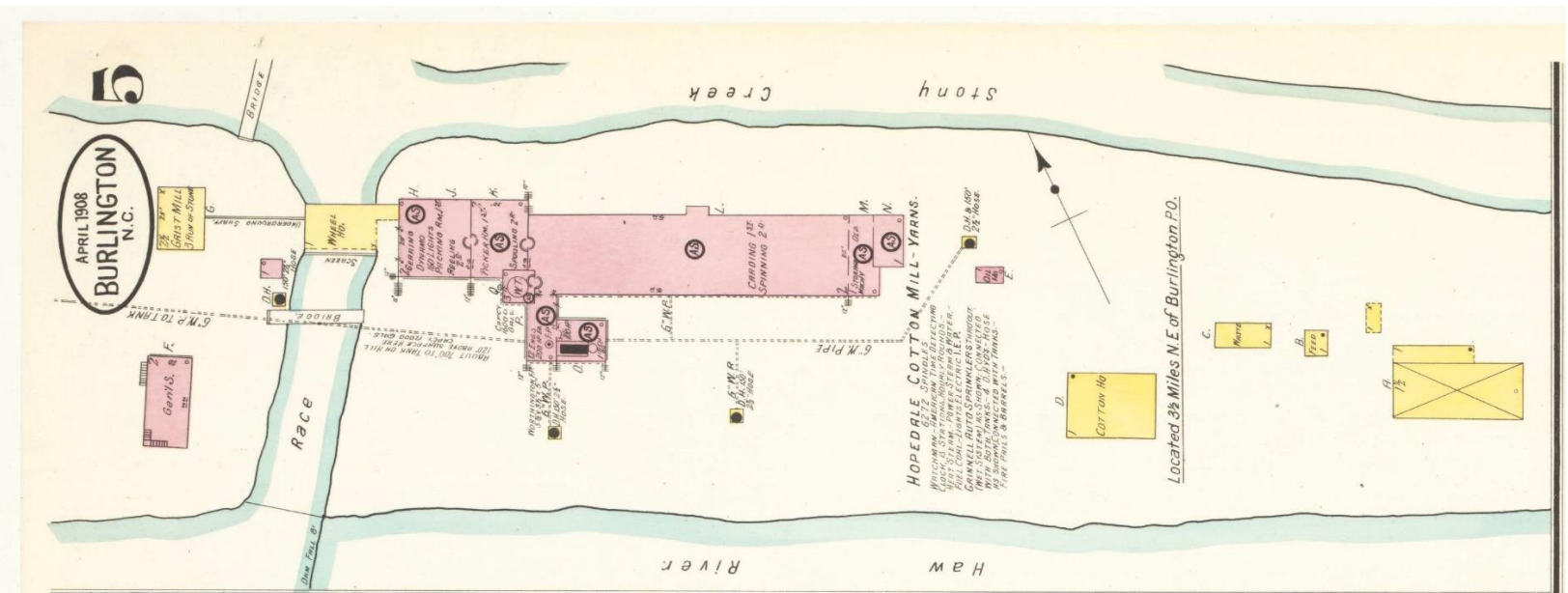


Figure 4: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1908.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

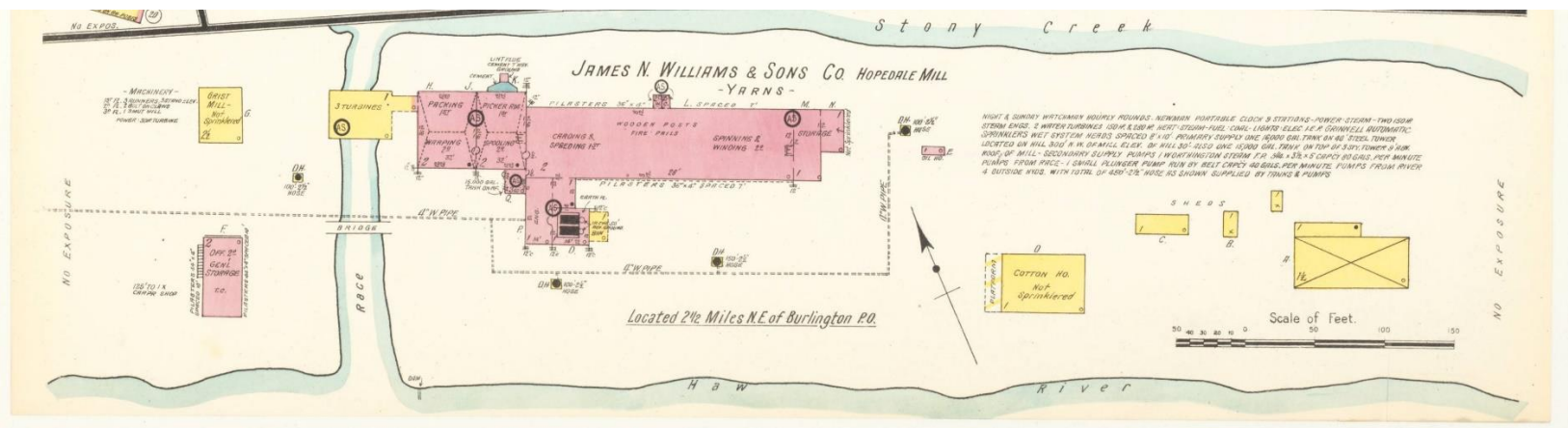


Figure 5: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1913.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

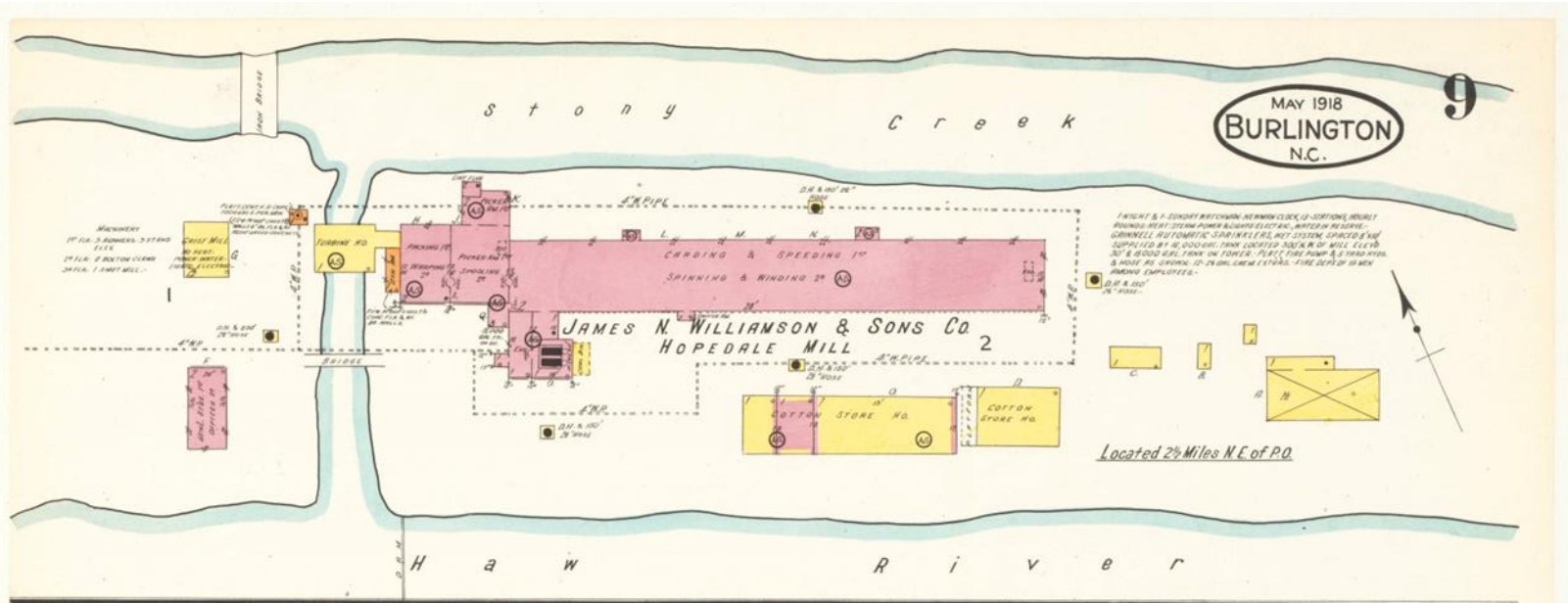


Figure 6: Sanborn Insurance Company Map, Burlington, Detail 1918.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property _____

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State _____

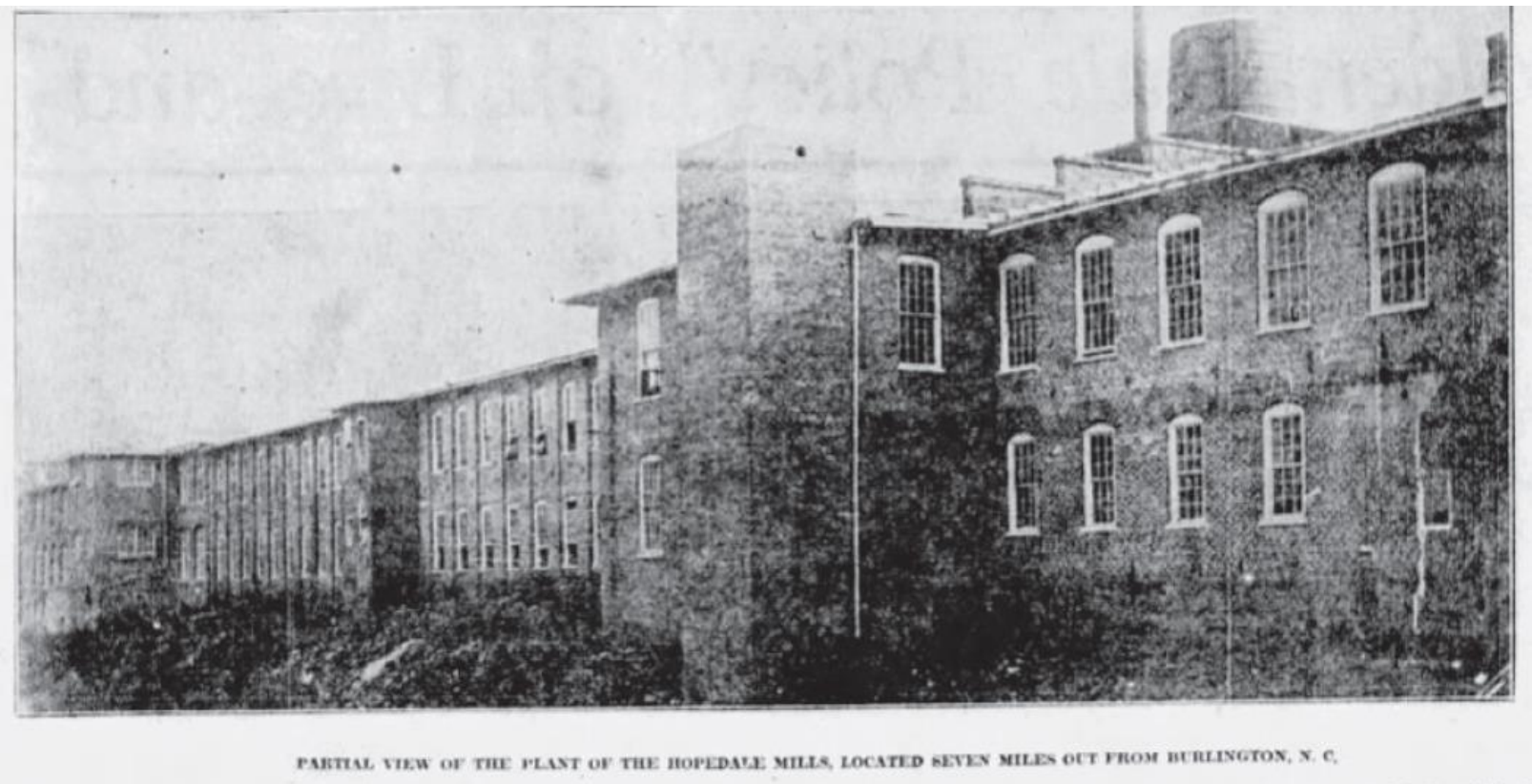


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Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

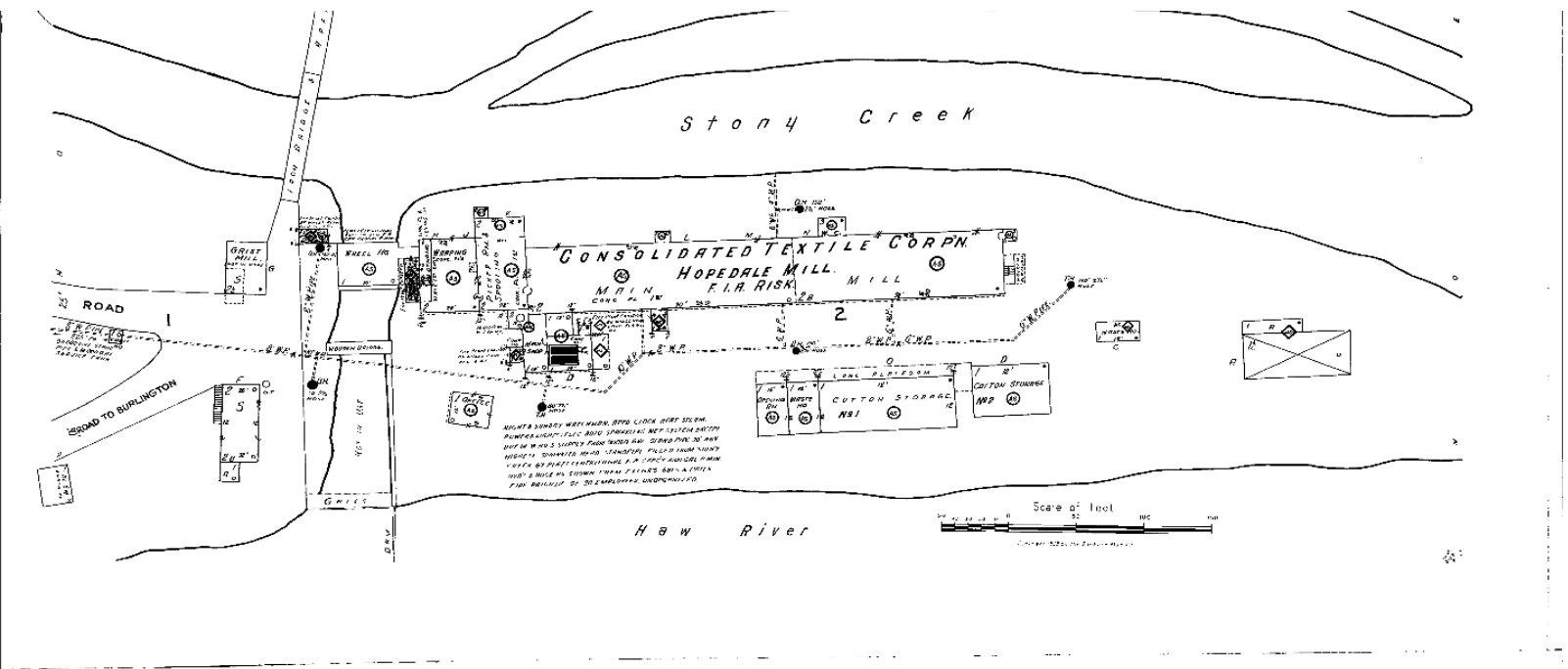


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Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

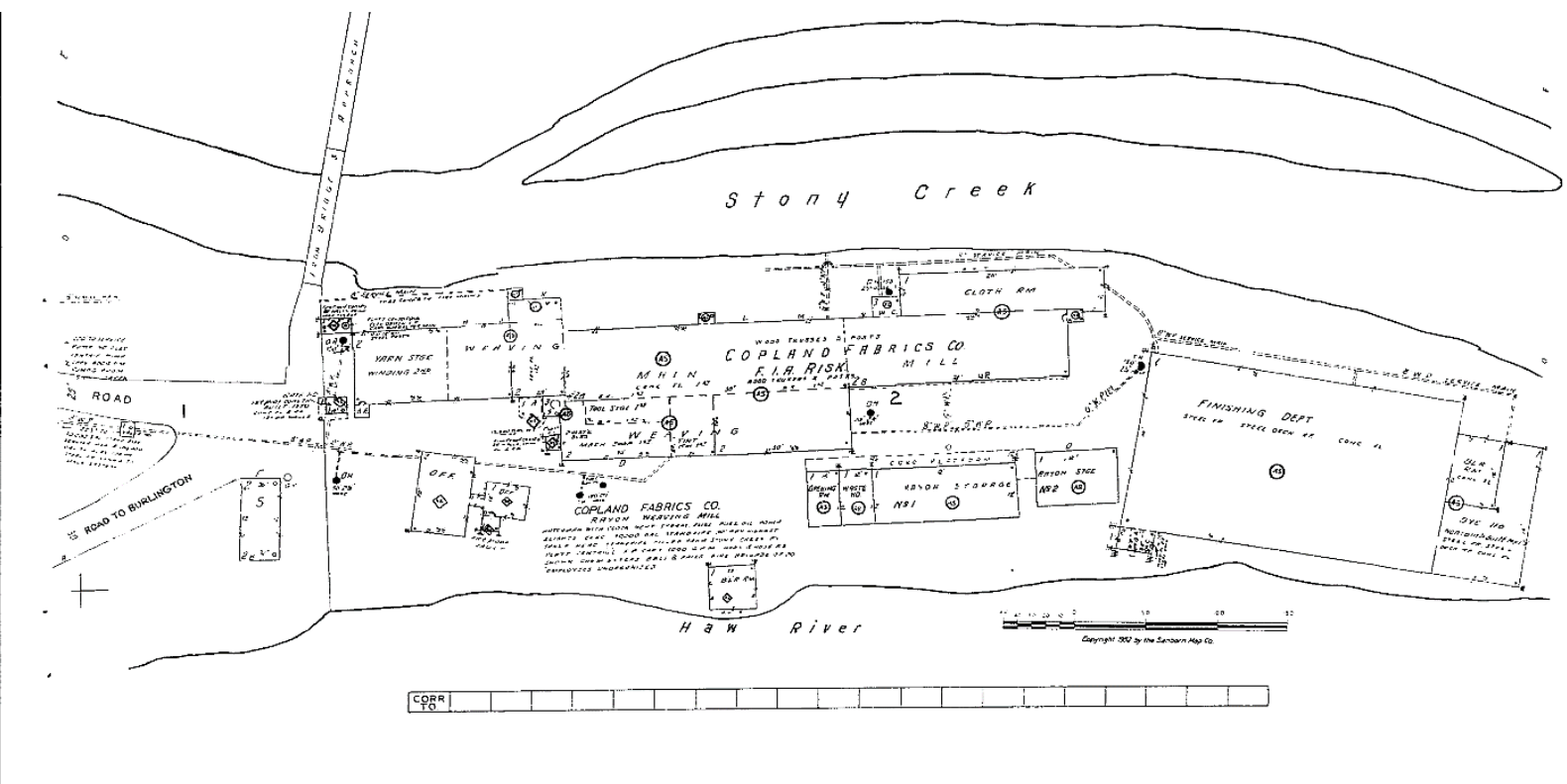


Figure 9: Sanborn Insurance Company Map. Burlington, Detail 1929-1948.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property _____

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State _____

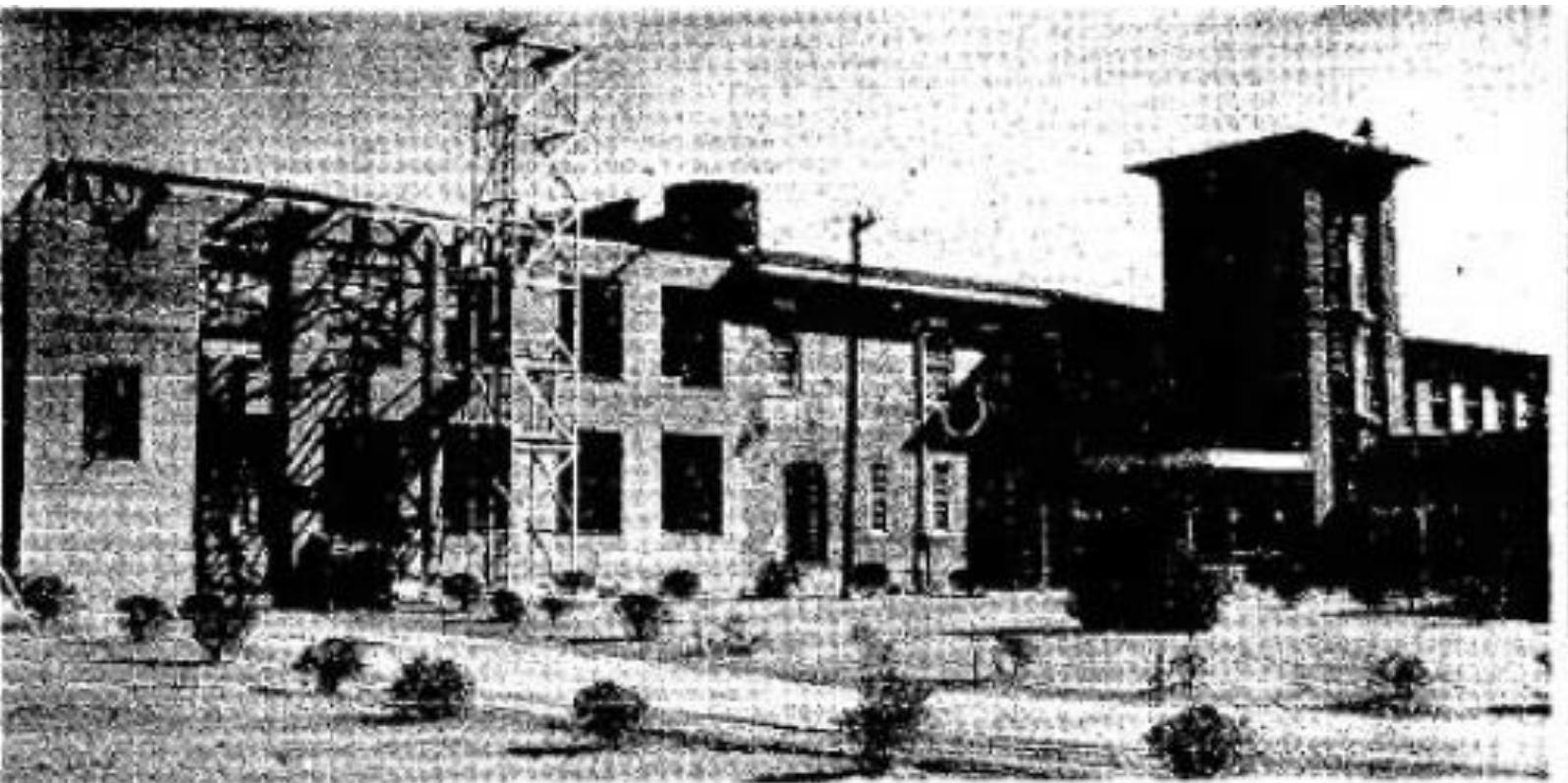


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Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

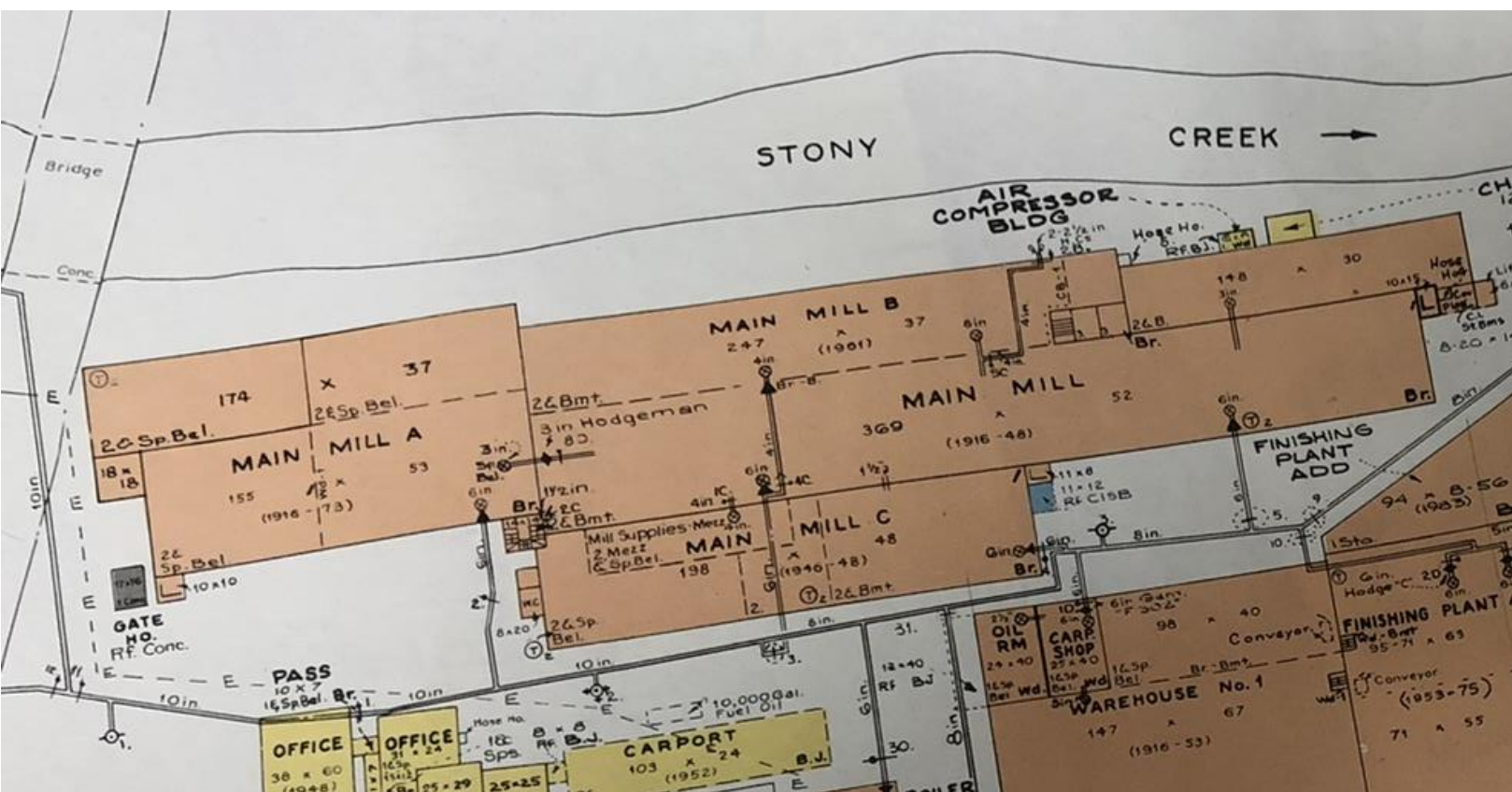


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Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

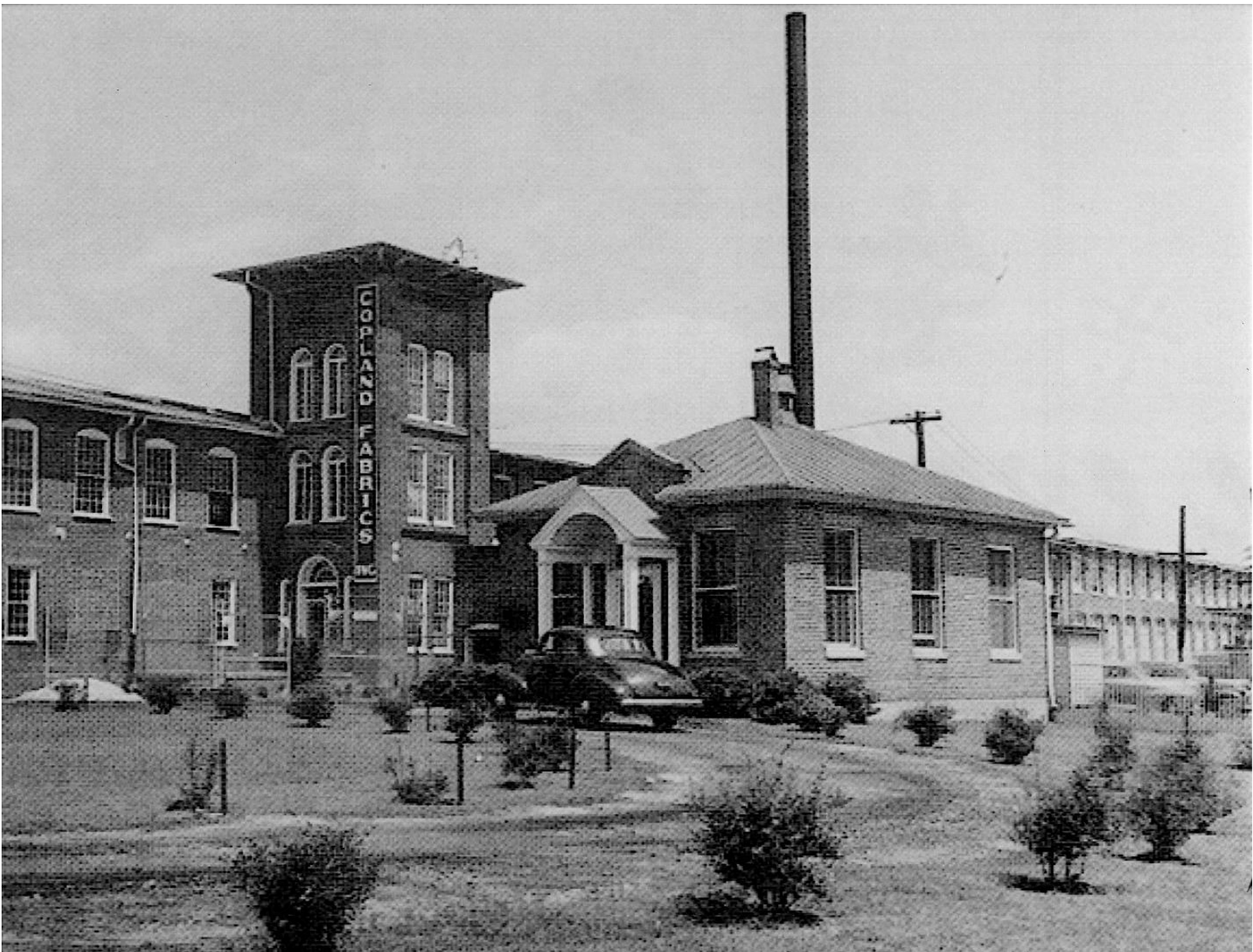


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Copland Fabrics
Name of Property _____

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State _____



Figure 13: Copland Mills photo ca. 1950 collection of Textile Heritage Museum, Inc.

Copland Fabrics
Name of Property

Alamance, North Carolina
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:


- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

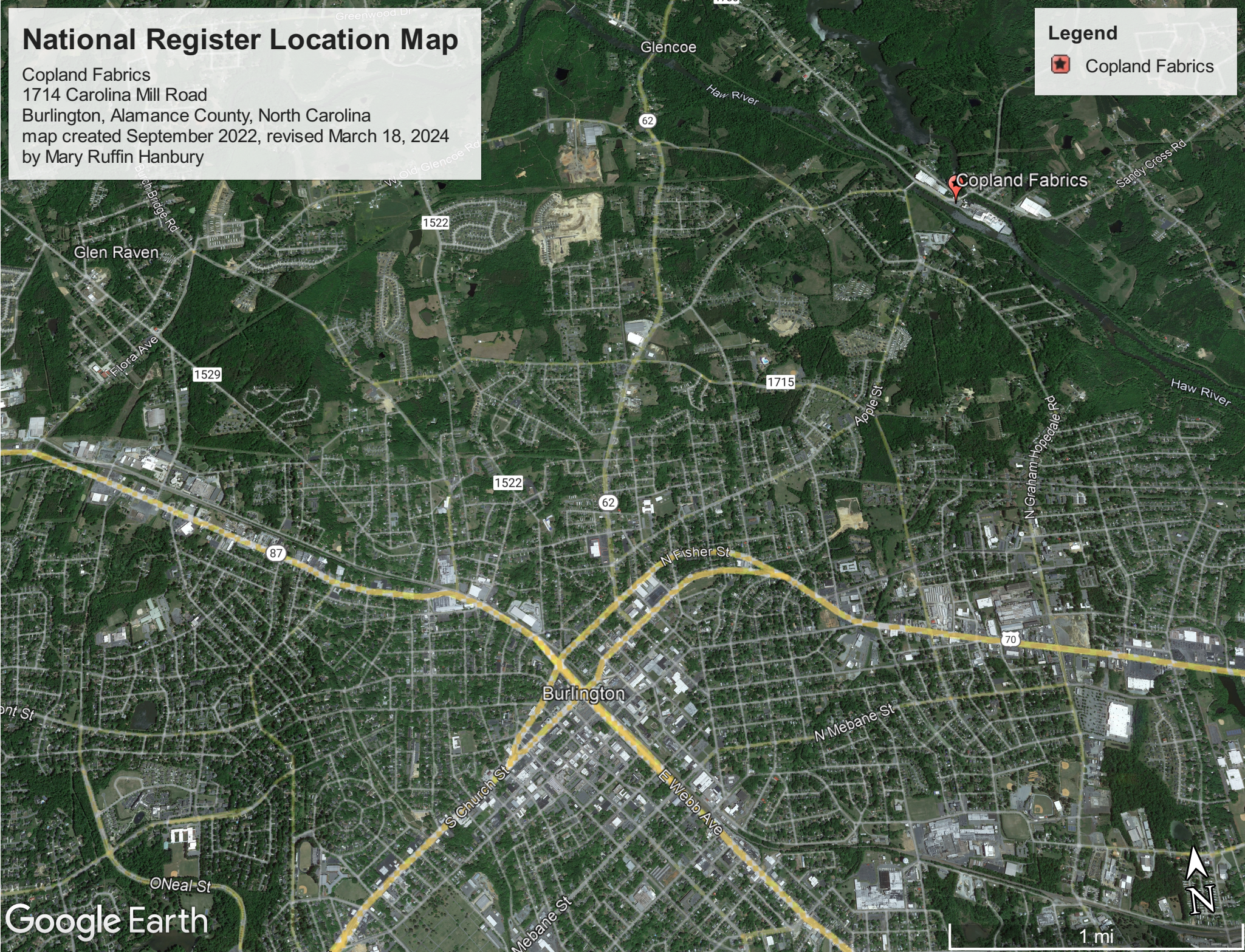
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

National Register Location Map

Copland Fabrics
1714 Carolina Mill Road
Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina
map created September 2022, revised March 18, 2024
by Mary Ruffin Hanbury

Legend

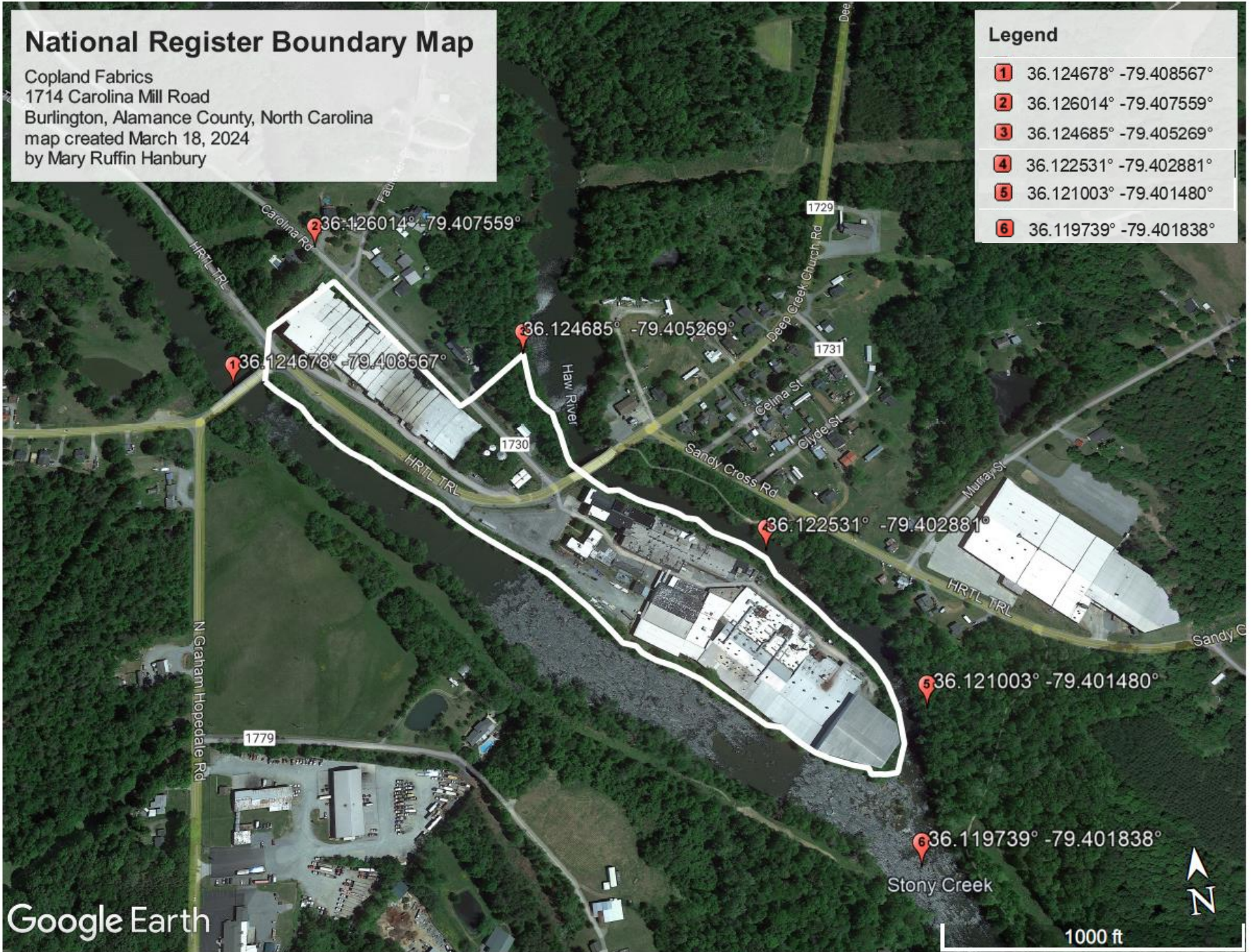
-  Copland Fabrics



National Register Boundary Map

Copland Fabrics
1714 Carolina Mill Road
Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina
map created March 18, 2024
by Mary Ruffin Hanbury

Legend	
1	36.124678° -79.408567°
2	36.126014° -79.407559°
3	36.124685° -79.405269°
4	36.122531° -79.402881°
5	36.121003° -79.401480°
6	36.119739° -79.401838°



Google Earth

1000 ft

National Register Site Plan

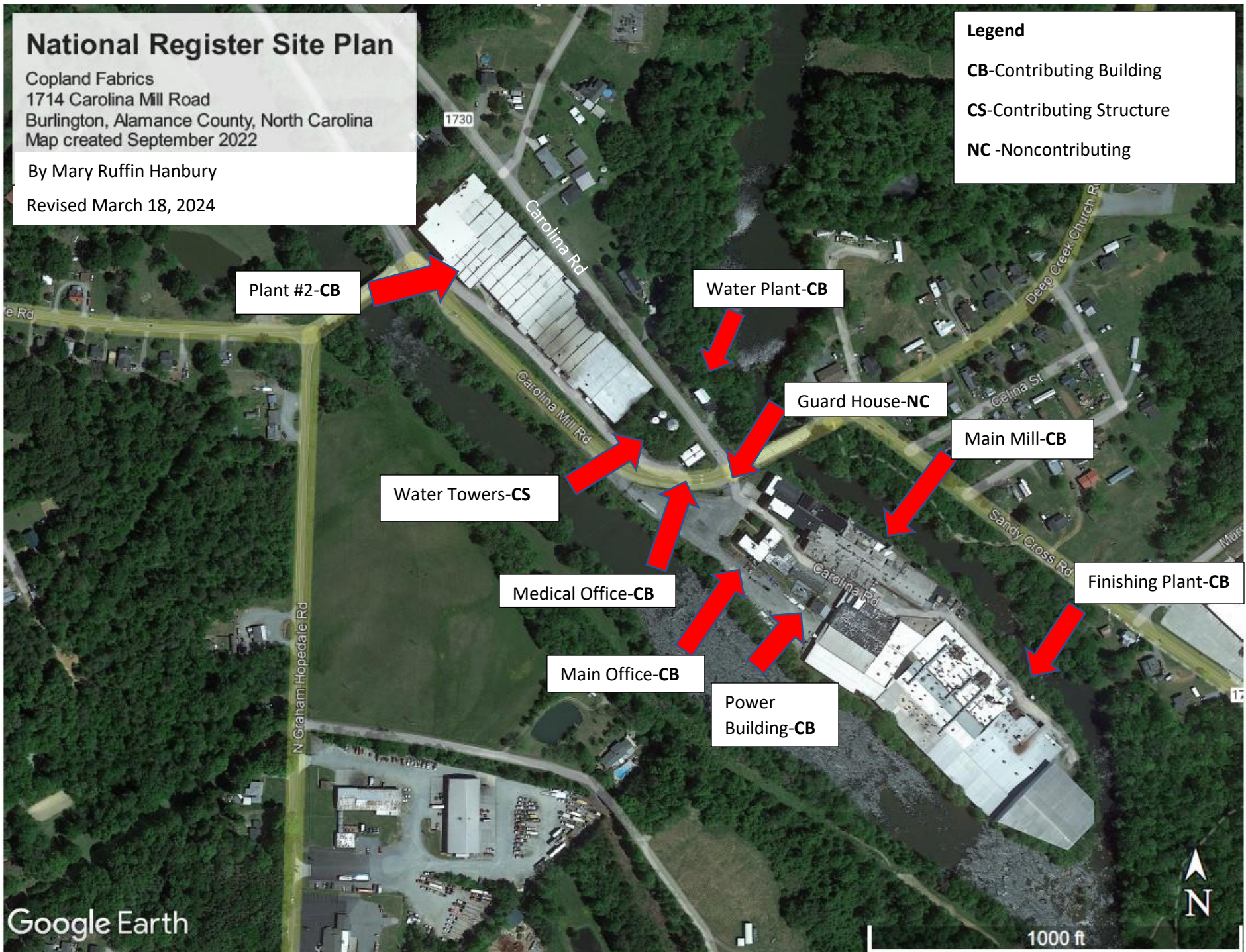
Copland Fabrics
1714 Carolina Mill Road
Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina
Map created September 2022

By Mary Ruffin Hanbury

Revised March 18, 2024

Legend

- CB**-Contributing Building
- CS**-Contributing Structure
- NC** -Noncontributing



Google Earth

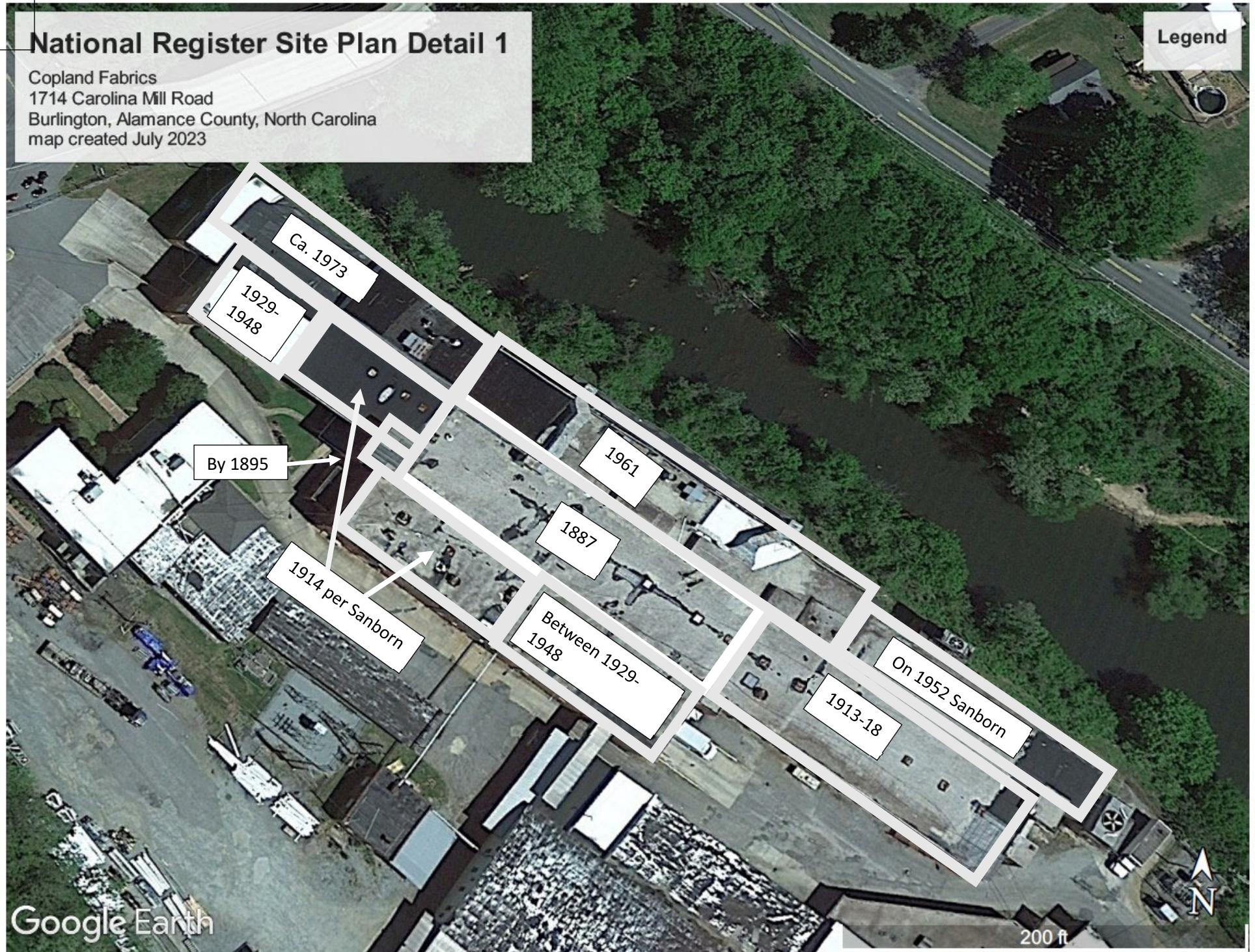
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National Register Site Plan Detail 1

Copland Fabrics
1714 Carolina Mill Road
Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina
map created July 2023

Legend



Google Earth

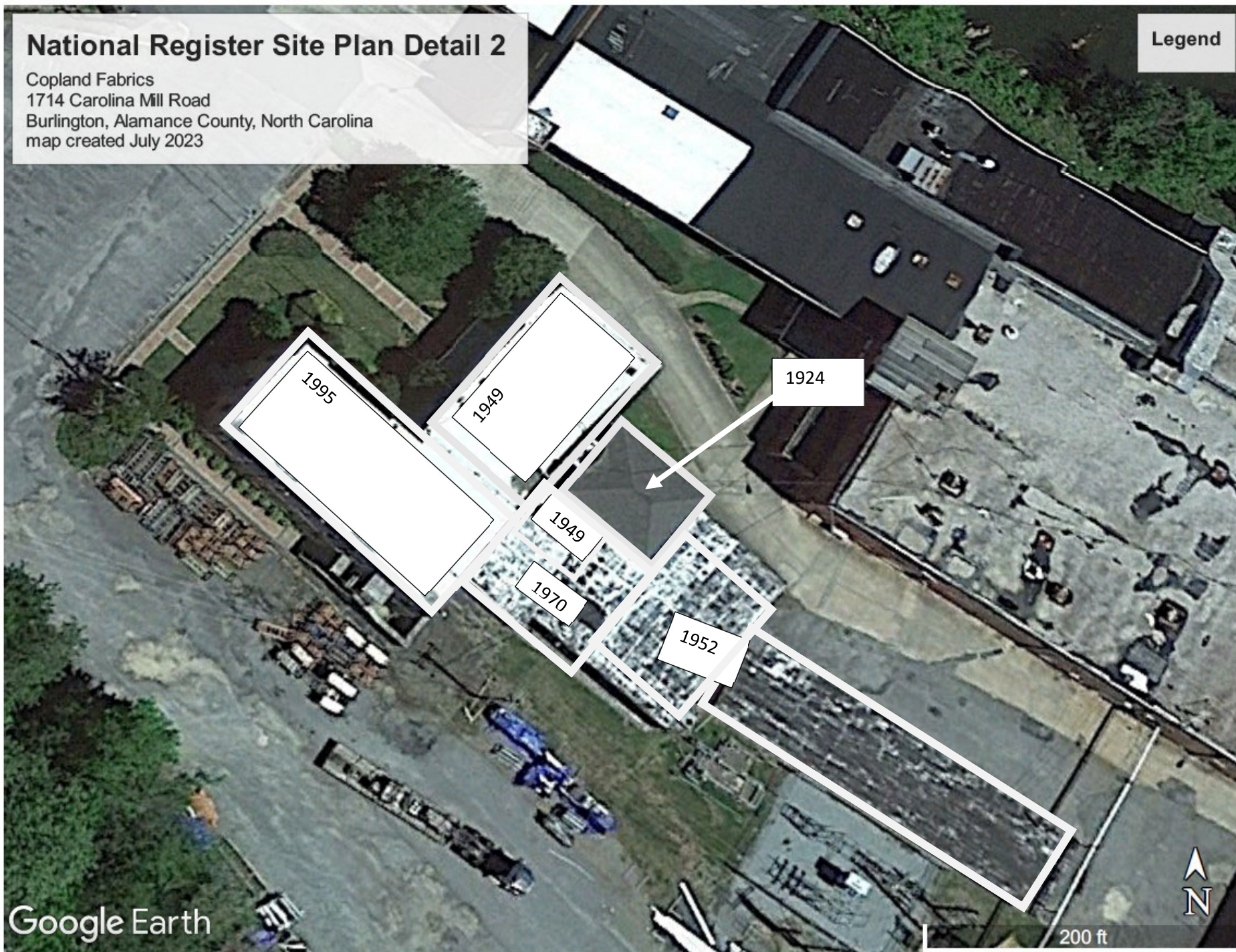
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National Register Site Plan Detail 2

Copland Fabrics
1714 Carolina Mill Road
Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina
map created July 2023

Legend



Google Earth

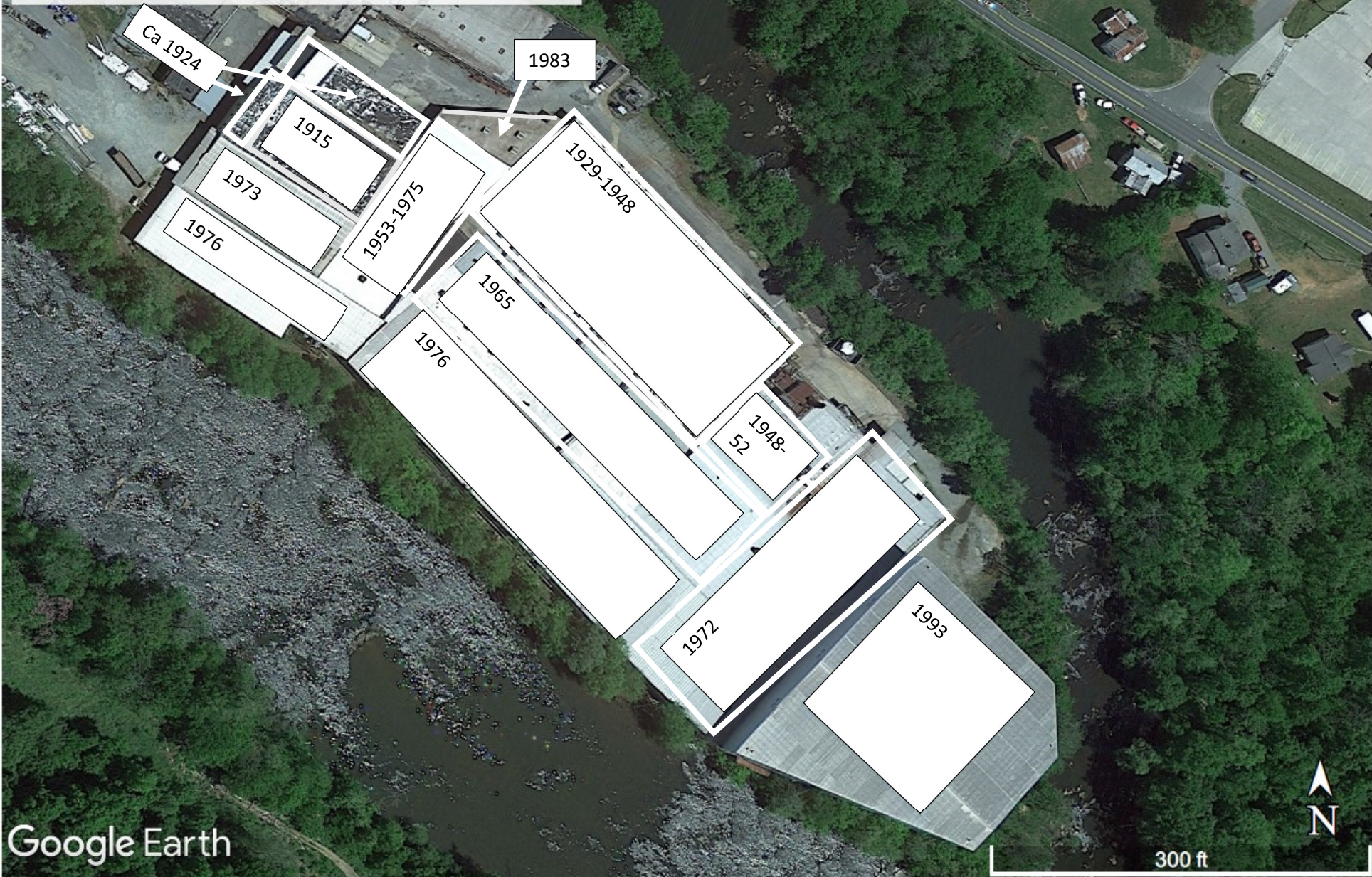


200 ft

National Register Site Plan Detail 3

Copland Fabrics
1714 Carolina Mill Road
Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina
map created July 2023

Legend



Google Earth

300 ft



National Register Site Plan Detail 4

Copland Fabrics
1714 Carolina Mill Road
Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina
map created July 2023

Legend



Google Earth

300 ft