

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Clinchfield Manufacturing Company Mill No. 2**

Marion, McDowell County MC0136 Listed 04/23/2024  
Nomination by Clay Griffith, Acme Preservation Services  
Photographs by Clay Griffith, January 2022



Mill No 2, east side elevation, view to southwest.



Boiler House, oblique view to northwest.



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: Clinchfield Manufacturing Company Mill No. 2

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 56 Branch Street

City or town: Marion State: NC County: McDowell

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A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

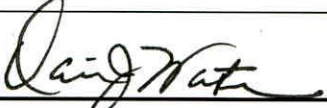
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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: <b>State Historic Preservation Officer</b>	4/15/24 _____ Date
_____ North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title : <span style="float: right;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</span>	

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing  
INDUSTRY/warehouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/warehouse  
VACANT/Not in use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: concrete  
brick  
Walls: brick  
concrete block  
metal  
Roof: membrane  
metal

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

A group of investors and textile industrialists organized the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company in 1914 and erected a three-story brick cotton mill near the Clinchfield Railroad junction approximately one mile east of downtown Marion in McDowell County, North Carolina. After Marion Knitting opened a hosiery mill in 1908, the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company was one of three textile mills built in Marion over the next decade, and the mills helped establish the town as an industrial center in the western Piedmont region of the state. The company hired noted industrial architect Joseph E. Sirrinc to design two textile manufacturing plants—the first completed in 1915 (no longer standing) and the second, Mill No. 2, built 1917-1918. Mill No. 2 occupies a residual 19-acre tract that includes the mill building, boiler house and chimney, a cotton warehouse, security gatehouse, water tower, and multiple small hose houses and hydrants that were part of the plant's fire suppression system. The original mill evolved over the years with the addition of air conditioning and bricked-in window openings, although Sirrinc's three-story mill building with heavy timber framing,

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repetitive arched window bays, monitor roof, and one-story weaving room wing remains intact. The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company Mill No. 2 remains an important piece of Marion's industrial heritage, the site of notable labor struggles in 1929, and the most intact surviving cotton mill that contributed to the development of the local textile industry in the twentieth century.

### **Narrative Description**

The Clinchfield Mill in Marion, North Carolina, occupies a 19-acre site east of downtown near the Clinchfield junction, named for the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio (CC&O) Railroad, which was completed through Marion in 1908. The mill site stands on the north side of US 70 (East Court Street) and is roughly bounded by Branch Street, Church Street, and Virginia Road. The site contains an impressive three-story brick textile mill designed by Joseph E. Surrine for the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company in 1917-1918, a boiler house and brick chimney, steel water tower, gatehouse, and a cotton warehouse. The ruins of Clinchfield Mill No. 1, designed by Surrine and erected in 1915, stand at the north end of the site. Lightning struck the building during a storm on August 14, 2019, and the subsequent fire largely destroyed the structure, which had been enlarged substantially in the 1950s. The dry bed of a mill pond lies to the south of the mill ruins.

The relatively flat property associated with the Clinchfield mills is currently accessed from Branch Street, near its intersection with US 70, and from Virginia Road along the north. Sloping hillsides to the east and west contain the former mill houses. A chain-link fence surrounds the 19-acre site. In the 1960s, entrance gates for personnel were established on the west side of the property at Branch Street and on the north side of the property at Virginia Road. A small security gatehouse was erected at the Virginia Road entrance. A railroad siding entered the property from the south (between Branch and Church streets) and extended along the east side of Mill No. 2 before curving to the northwest and terminating at a wooden trestle (no longer standing) alongside the boiler house. Another spur of railroad siding terminated alongside the cotton warehouse. The mill's fire suppression system included Grinnell automatic sprinklers throughout the two units with small hydrant stations and hose houses around the perimeter of each. The one-story brick hose houses, which have double-leaf wooden doors and concrete slab roofs, contained triple hydrants and 150-foot-long hoses. Five of these stations remain standing on the site—three on the east side of Mill No. 2 and two on the west side.

### **Clinchfield Mill No. 2, 1917-1918, ca. 1960s**

### **Contributing building**

Clinchfield Mill No. 2, built in 1917-1918 to complement the company's Mill No. 1, is a three-story brick industrial building that is rectangular in plan. Oriented north-south, the building is 12 bays wide across the narrow north and south end elevations and 46 bays long on the east and west side elevations. The 10-bay section at the south end of the mill is only one-story, while the northern 36 bays are three-stories. The mill is capped by a low-pitched gable

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roof that supports a raised monitor roof along the ridgeline. The one-story portion of the building has an overhanging eave supported by solid timber brackets with a single board fascia and molded cornice. The three-story portion is devoid of a cornice but marked by square, cast-concrete accents in the place of rafter or purlin ends. Based on historic photographs, the roof appears to have been reworked between 1954 and 1970, removing the overhanging eaves and timber brackets from the three-story section and the monitor from the one-story wing. The fenestration is typically full-height segmental-arch window openings on all levels except for the openings beneath the eaves, which have flat lintels formed by the roof header. Five courses of header brick form the window arches, while the sills are cast concrete. Original windows were paired nine-over-nine double-hung wood sash topped by paired six-light transoms under the arches. The window openings began to be filled with brick in the mid-twentieth century as the interior increasingly became conditioned space.

The mill was altered and modernized in the mid-twentieth century. By the mid-1960s, the first-story weaving room, extending the full length of the building, was windowless. A four-story air conditioning tower was added on the west elevation between the two existing fire stair towers. Alterations to the south elevation include loading bays and a single-leaf personnel door at the southeast corner, which has become the principal entrance to the building. Two loading bays, which are accessible from a concrete apron and new openings with metal overhead roll-up doors, were added in the two bays adjacent to the personnel entrance at the far east end of the elevation. An additional concrete loading platform is attached near the center of the elevation with a ramp descending to a loading bay opened at the basement level on the southwest corner of the south elevation. The platform and ramp are sheltered by a metal, shed-roof canopy supported on square wooden posts.

The north and east elevations of the mill are largely unchanged except for the enclosure of window openings. The rhythm and scale of the arched openings remains intact across three stories and a partially exposed basement level. At the north end of the east elevation, a concrete loading platform is sheltered by an attached, shed-roof metal canopy supported by bracketed wooden corner posts. A loading door fills one of the window openings. An area projecting from the four end bays of the east elevation is the starch house, which consists of a partially enclosed, unroofed, one-story space. A raised concrete platform is surrounded by brick walls with a terra cotta tile coping and openings at the north and south ends, as well as an opening at the north end of the east side. A concrete ramp accesses the area from the north side, and double-leaf glazed-and-paneled wooden doors with an arched transom fill the northernmost bay of the mill's east elevation. On the north elevation, the row of first-story windows are boarded over instead of bricked in and several window bays contain metal vents.

The west elevation of Mill No. 2 provides the most variation of the building's four sides. The fully exposed basement level on the west elevation has several personnel entrances including a set of double-leaf aluminum-frame glazed doors sheltered by an attached cloth canopy and a set of double-leaf metal doors sheltered by an attached metal awning. Two 4-story brick stair towers were originally the only projections on the west elevation of the mill. The towers have arched window openings (now bricked in)—taller on the sides and smaller at the landings—and

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flat concrete slab roofs. In the 1960s, additional towers for air conditioning equipment were added between the two stair towers, including a large volume with louvered vents on the sides. Additional one- and two-story brick extensions on this elevation have metal roll-up doors. A two-story addition on the southern end of the west elevation consists of a concrete block base supporting a steel-frame structure enclosing air handling equipment and ductwork. The northernmost bay of the first story on the west elevation has been remodeled into a narrow opening attached to an overhead metal track that projects from the building and then makes a 90-degree turn to the north in the direction of the boiler house. Added in the 1960s, the overhead track hangs from steel supports and extends approximately 250 feet from the building before it unexpectedly terminates; the northern end having been removed at some point.

The interior of the mill contains several floors of largely open space. The first story has a concrete floor and rows of round wooden columns supporting the heavy timber frame structure. A partitioned interior office is located near the south entrance with paneled walls and a large plate-glass window on its east side. Other offices and restrooms are located on the west side of the building between the stair towers. The second and third stories are similarly finished with interior rows of metal columns supporting the heavy timber beams but wooden floors.

### **Boiler House, ca. 1917**

### **Contributing building**

The two-story brick boiler house stands immediately north of Mill No. 2 and southwest of the cotton warehouse near the center of the complex and adjoins a 150-foot-tall brick chimney. Built at this location a short distance away from the mill, the boiler house was erected close to Mill No. 1's power plant to streamline the delivery and storage of coal for the boilers. Rectangular in plan, the boiler house is five bays wide on the long side elevations and two bays wide on the end elevations. A separate turbine house (identified as an "independent electric plant" on Sanborn maps beginning in 1918) attaches to the north elevation of the boiler house.<sup>1</sup> The turbine house, which is similar in scale and materials to the boiler house, is four bays wide with two bays extending beyond the northwest end wall of the boiler house. The buildings have a low-pitched gable roof with low, stepped end parapets and glazed terra cotta tile copings. The segmental-arch window and door openings are framed by five courses of header brick on the first story and four courses of header brick on the second story. The sills are cast concrete. The first-story entrance bays of the boiler house are accessible through metal overhead roll-up doors. Surviving original window sash in boiler house indicates an assortment of six-over-nine and eight-over-twelve double-hung wood-sash windows. The attached turbine house has paired nine-over-nine double-hung sash with arched six-light awning-style transoms and single twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash with eight-light transoms. The freestanding brick chimney

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<sup>1</sup> Sanborn Map Company, Marion, McDowell County, North Carolina, April 1918, Sheet 5.



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to the southeast tapers as it rises to a corbelled cap. It is attached to the boiler house by a horizontal vent connector encased in brick.

The boiler house was built in conjunction with Mill No. 2 as an independent power plant for the new unit. According to Sanborn maps, Mill No. 1 was erected with a dedicated power plant attached to the building. The engine room and connecting ropeway contained the drive belts necessary to operate the mill equipment. The boiler house and electric turbines generated electricity needed to run Mill No. 2. A railroad trestle on the south side of the boiler house allowed for the delivery of coal to the two power plants, which stood side by side but independent of each other. The fire that destroyed Mill No. 1 in 2019 charred a small area of the boiler house's west elevation, but otherwise the structure escaped additional fire damage.

**Cotton Warehouse, ca. 1916, ca. 1950, ca. 2000**

**Noncontributing building**

The cotton warehouse is a four-part building of frame and masonry construction with three original brick firewalls defining its four sections. Resting on a brick foundation with concrete slab floors, three sections of the warehouse were originally covered with weatherboards, while the ca. 1950 one-story section at the east end has brick and concrete block walls. Original weatherboards on the bay at the west end remain in place beneath vinyl siding that was added in the late twentieth century. The two center sections of the building were rehabilitated around 2000 with rigid frame steel columns and beams clad with metal sheathing. A raised concrete platform extends along the full length of the south elevation, which was originally accessed by a railroad siding located adjacent to the building. Double-leaf metal doors enter a concrete block wing attached to the one-story section at the east end of the building. The two, remodeled center bays are accessible through loading bays with metal roll-up doors and single-leaf metal doors. An attached, prefabricated metal canopy shelters the loading bay to the east.

The frame section at the west end of the building is subdivided into smaller two-story areas with brick firewalls, heavy timber construction, and original stairs, stalls, and floor openings. A projecting brick enclosure with a concrete slab roof and heavy steel door appears to have originally been used to store hazardous materials. A wooden sliding door is located directly adjacent, and double-leaf replacement entry doors are located to the west. The west end of the warehouse has modern four-over-four replacement windows illuminating the second story and exposed wooden purlin ends. At the rear, a second-story entry contains a single-leaf paneled wooden door accessed by an attached exterior metal stair.

The interiors of the warehouse spaces are plainly finished with exposed concrete floors, brick walls, and exposed blanket insulation covering the metal walls. At the west end of the building, the walls are mostly exposed brick or studs and weatherboards on the first story. The second-story areas are finished with wood floors, exposed wooden posts and beams, and flushboard wall sheathing. In two areas, original storage stalls remain in place. Partial-height frame walls with flushboard siding and angled header plates divide the bays, which are located on either side of a center aisle.

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### **Water Tower, ca. 1915**

### **Contributing structure**

A 50,000-gallon elevated water tank built on the north side of Mill No. 1 supplied water to the site's fire protection system. The tank, which is constructed of fabricated steel panels with a conical steel cap and riveted connections, rises approximately 90 feet above grade. Supported on a skeletal tower, the tank was located 35 feet above the highest line of sprinklers.<sup>2</sup> A vertical pipe leads from the inverted dome base of the tank to ground level. The supporting tower consists of lattice channel legs, two levels of latticed horizontal braces, and cross-braced tensile rods. It rests on a concrete slab foundation.

### **Gatehouse, ca. 1960**

### **Contributing building**

Located on the northern edge of the property adjoining Virginia Road, the diminutive brick-veneer gate house is roughly square in plan with a concrete slab shed roof. The building has a single-leaf multi-light door and single-pane window on the north elevation, a three-part window on the east elevation, and a small window opening in the upper wall of the south elevation. An attached metal awning shelters the window on the east side. The interior has painted brick walls and a sink in the southwest corner. Concrete steps descend from street level to a fenced area around the gatehouse for controlled access to the mill site. A wide gate of chain-link fencing is located to the south, and a revolving metal personnel entrance is located on the east side. The revolving gate, called a "Robot Operator" and manufactured by Robot Industries of Dearborn, Michigan, limits access through the opening. A second, similar revolving gate is located on the west side of the mill site at the entrance on Branch Street.

### *Integrity Statement*

The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company Mill No. 2 retains a good degree of integrity as a fully realized example of an early-twentieth century brick cotton mill designed by noted mill architect Joseph Serrine in Marion, which became a center of industry in the western Piedmont region of North Carolina. The three-story mill building generally retains a high degree of architectural integrity, while associated structures on the property have moderate to somewhat lower individual integrity through alterations and deterioration but contribute to the complex as a whole. The original mill, designed by Serrine and completed in 1918, has been altered with the addition of a tower on the west elevation to contain air conditioning equipment and the removal of original windows. The mill, however, retains significant elements of its original design, including the scale and massing, heavy timber construction, and rhythmic pattern of segmental-arch window openings, which are now bricked in but clearly defined. The integrity of the mill's design, materials, and workmanship is affected by later changes, but these changes

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<sup>2</sup> "Burlington Industries, Inc., Clinchfield Mfg. Co., Marion, N.C.," Factory Insurance Association architectural drawing, March 1, 1966.

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reflect the evolution of textile production through the mid-twentieth century with the introduction of improved fire suppression and sprinkler systems, air conditioning, and interior lighting. The material alterations and additions to Clinchfield Mill No. 2, which occurred within the property's period of significance, typically illustrate these developments in textile production during the twentieth century and do not obscure the original form and architectural features of the building.

The boiler house suffers from deterioration, but its important volumes and architectural elements remain largely intact. Despite its deterioration, the design and materials of the boiler house retain a moderate level of integrity. The cotton warehouse has been more substantially altered with the replacement of the exterior shell in the two middle sections by a modern, rigid-frame steel structure. The replacement exterior walls and roof enclose a similar volume of interior space, while the interior divisions, materials, and specific storage features remain generally intact. Vinyl siding covers the original weatherboards on the west end of the brick and frame warehouse. As a result, the cotton warehouse retains only a low degree of individual integrity.

The site collectively retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The setting and feeling of Clinchfield Mill No. 2 have evolved over time as the mill buildings and operation have evolved. The changes are common to textile mills and industrial sites and do not diminish the overall integrity of the property.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1915-1974  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

J. E. Serrine, architect  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company Mill No. 2 is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of industry as an important local manufacturer and as a good example of an early twentieth century textile mill in Marion and McDowell County. The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company, one of the earliest textile manufacturers in Marion, helped establish cotton mills as an important local industry and grew to be the largest employer and textile producer in the county. Following the development of railroad connections in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, especially the north-south Clinchfield route, Marion's four cotton mills made the town a center for industry in the western Piedmont. Designed by noted industrial architect Joseph E. Serrine, the Clinchfield Mill complex, which consisted of two fully functioning independent mills, was a well-planned and equipped manufacturing facility considered to be thoroughly modern and up to date at the time of its construction. The local labor force gained national notoriety in the summer and fall of 1929, when striking textile workers at the Clinchfield and Marion Manufacturing cotton mills sought reduced working hours, increased pay, and recognition of their union. An incident outside the Marion Manufacturing Company mill resulted in the death of six striking workers at the hands of the sheriff's deputies, which was the deadliest modern labor dispute in the state's history. Of the four textile mills built in Marion before 1920, only the Clinchfield Mill No. 2 remains intact. The mill survives as a rare example of cotton mill architecture from the formative period of Marion's rise as the region's leading textile center. The period of significance begins in 1915 with the initial development of the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company site and construction of the water tower and ends in 1974 with the continued operation of the mill into the late twentieth century.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

*Historical Background and Industrial Context*

The town of Marion, North Carolina, became the county seat of the newly formed McDowell County in 1843. Roughly bisected by the Catawba River, McDowell County encompasses areas of both the western Piedmont and eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The pioneering McDowell and Carson families helped settle the territory in the late eighteenth century, and a modest frontier town was laid out on land given by John L. Carson. The small community began to develop following the completion of the Western North Carolina Railroad (WNCRR) to Marion in 1870, eventually reaching Asheville across the mountains in 1880. After the completion of the Charleston, Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad from the south in

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1890 and the Clinchfield Railroad from the north in 1908, the town served as a gateway to the mountain region of western North Carolina.<sup>3</sup>

The railroad connections to Marion supported hotels and industries, including tanneries, furniture manufacturing, and textile mills. The textile boom that swept through the Carolinas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries supplanted the northeast as the country's leading textile manufacturing region. Proximity to raw materials, abundant waterpower, and lower taxes all contributed to the transfer of northern capital into southern mills, but perhaps the most significant factor was the availability of cheap labor. Between 1900 and 1930 thousands of mountain families left their hardscrabble farms for mill towns across Piedmont and western North Carolina. For many, promises of a livelihood and a better life, however, were quickly dashed by low wages, loss of autonomy, and crowded living conditions.<sup>4</sup>

An 1894 fire destroyed much of Marion's business district, which was rebuilt in the early twentieth century with attractive brick commercial buildings. Industry surrounded the downtown center, and early-twentieth-century cotton mills and mill villages developed along the railroad lines to the east, northeast, and southwest. Marion Knitting opened a hosiery mill in 1908, which was followed by the founding of the Marion Manufacturing Company in 1909. Organized by Carroll Baldwin of Baltimore, Maryland, Marion Manufacturing built a cotton mill and village east of downtown near the junction of the Southern Railway (former WNCRR) and Clinchfield Railroad. The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company, established in 1914, developed a cotton mill and village on the north side of the east-west route of the Southern Railway near the Clinchfield junction. Eugene Cross Sr. established a third cotton mill in Marion in 1916 on the southwest side of town.<sup>5</sup>

The group of investors that organized the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company in 1914 consisted of many of the same individuals involved with Marion Manufacturing, and, for the first few years, the investors of the two companies regarded their operations as "a single, consolidated enterprise."<sup>6</sup> Carroll Baldwin of Baltimore headed the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company from the outset with other individuals including a nephew, Reginal W. Baldwin; D. D. Little and Hugh Little of Spartanburg, South Carolina; J. L. Morgan, Wallace Winborne, J. Will Pless, John Yancey, and Byron Conley of Marion; and W. A. and M. B. Hart of Tarboro, North

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<sup>3</sup> Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, 1999), 163; James Lawton Haney, *McDowell County, North Carolina 1843-1943* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2002), 7-8; Mildred B. Fossett, *History of McDowell County* (Marion, NC: McDowell County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission Heritage Committee, 1976), 102-104.

<sup>4</sup> Ronald D. Eller, *Miners, Millhands and Mountaineers* (Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 2015), 124-126.

<sup>5</sup> Bishir, et al, *Western North Carolina*, 165-166; Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, Vol. IV (Raleigh, NC: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1965), 1957; Joanne S. Johnston, ed., *McDowell County Heritage, North Carolina* (Waynesville, NC: McDowell County Heritage Book Committee, 1992), 21.

<sup>6</sup> Travis Sutton Byrd, *Unraveled: Labor Strife and Carolina Folk During the Marion Textile Strikes of 1929* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2015), 142-144.

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Carolina. The group hired noted mill designer Joseph E. Serrine of Greenville, South Carolina, to design the original three-story brick plant, Clinchfield Mill No. 1, which began operation in the summer of 1915.<sup>7</sup> Rapidly expanding production spurred mill management almost immediately to begin planning a second unit, Mill No. 2, which was constructed 1917-1918. The two units operated independently, each with their own management, to produce four constructions of print cloths. Cotton carding, spinning, and weaving occurred at each mill, and together the two Clinchfield plants comprised the largest manufacturing concern in the county.<sup>8</sup>

Born in Georgia, Joseph E. Serrine (1872-1947) was one of several southerners to emerge as a leading mill designer in the early twentieth century. After graduating from Furman University, he began his career with the nationally renowned firm of Lockwood, Greene and Company, which made him resident engineer for the construction of the F. W. Poe Manufacturing Company in Greenville, South Carolina. Serrine opened the company's Greenville office in 1898 and served as their southern representative in charge of all textile mill work in the South. Serrine formed his own office in 1902 and practiced throughout the south and along the eastern seaboard, specializing in textile mills, mill village planning and housing, tobacco factories and storage facilities, and aluminum manufacturing plants. Serrine's designs incorporated the latest material and technological advances in mill design, including reinforced concrete and steel construction, cast concrete floors, and interior concrete columns with mushroom-like caps. As a result of his firm's influence, Serrine served on the boards of 19 textile companies in North and South Carolina, including the Marion Manufacturing Company.<sup>9</sup>

McDowell County's crisscrossing railroad lines facilitated significant industrial development in the early twentieth century. The county population nearly doubled between 1900 and 1930, and the vast majority of the county's 20,000 residents lived outside the limits of Marion, which claimed a population of less than 2,500. In addition to the four cotton mills—Marion Manufacturing, Clinchfield Mills Nos. 1 and 2, and Cross—nearly 20 industrial plants were located in and around Marion, including lumber companies, hosiery mills, a knitting mill, a leather company, Daisy Glove Mill, two roller mills, and three furniture companies. By 1930, only a third of the county's population remained employed in agriculture.<sup>10</sup>

After Carroll Baldwin's death in 1918, a fissure emerged between the Marion Manufacturing Company and Clinchfield Manufacturing that led to their legal separation in 1921. Sarah L. Baldwin, Carroll Baldwin's spinster sister known as "Miss Sally," inherited the bulk of her brother's estate including his shares in the Marion Manufacturing Company, but not

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<sup>7</sup> "Organization Clinchfield Mill Completed," *Marion Progress*, April 16, 1914, 1; "New Mill Now In Operation," *Marion Progress*, September 9, 1915, 1.

<sup>8</sup> "Two New Cotton Mills," *Marion Progress*, August 31, 1916, 1; Cotton Mills Hold Annual Meeting – Officers Re-elected," *Marion Progress*, February 14, 1918, 5.

<sup>9</sup> John E. Wells, "Serrine, Joseph Emory (1872-1947)," *North Carolina Architects & Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*, 2009, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000303>; accessed April 20, 2022; "Joseph E. Serrine Dies," *The Greenville News*, August 8, 1947, 1.

<sup>10</sup> "McDowell County," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 11, 1932, 5B.

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his shares in Clinchfield Manufacturing. Over the next several years, Sarah Baldwin introduced a number of motions and resolutions that did not sit well with many of the company's other directors and intimated her desire to wrest control of the company away from the locals. Her motion to remove the majority of the company's funds from the First National Bank of Marion and deposit them with the Hanover National Bank drew the ire of mill directors Morgan, Pless, and Hugh Little, who also served as bank officers. These "interlocking directorates" were typical to "the way the New South operated," and the local mill directors took offense at this move to transfer the funds into an out-of-state institution controlled by members of the Baldwin family.<sup>11</sup> Sarah Baldwin ultimately won a court decision that dissolved Marion Manufacturing's existing board of directors. In the subsequent election of a new board, Baldwin and her cronies assumed control of the mill for a group of largely absentee owners, while local investors like D. D. Little and J. L. Morgan remained but were effectively sidelined. In the aftermath, however, the local textile men retained control of the Clinchfield mills. D. D. Little served as president until 1923, when he was succeeded by Mabry Hart. Morgan was vice-president, Hugh Little was assistant treasurer, and Pless was corporate attorney.<sup>12</sup>

With both units of the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company in operation during the 1920s and more than 200 houses for mill employees, the Clinchfield mills were the largest employer in McDowell County with approximately 1,500 operatives. Marion Manufacturing employed 650 workers. Reginal W. Baldwin became president of Marion Manufacturing in 1921, and divided his time between Baltimore and Marion, where he built an attractive house on a hill overlooking the mill and village but surrounded by enough shrubbery to disguise the view. Tom Tippet, who wrote about the conditions of Southern laborers, described Baldwin "as a man of parts, of which intelligence is not the most outstanding. He is a rather poor lawyer and a worse textile manufacturer."<sup>13</sup> As conditions worsened throughout the Marion Manufacturing and Clinchfield mills in the late 1920s, Baldwin seemed surprised that his workers were unhappy with long work hours, low pay, and unsanitary working and living conditions.<sup>14</sup>

The period of labor struggles that affected McDowell County and other parts of North Carolina in 1929 grew out of efforts by the National Textile Workers' Union (NTWU) to organize southern operatives after a significant victory for organized labor at Wood Mill in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1912. The NTWU sent labor leaders across the South to persuade workers to organize and capitalize on a growing tide of labor unrest. Fred Beal unsuccessfully attempted to establish a union among textile workers at Highland Park in Charlotte before organizing workers at Loray Mill in Gastonia, as well as the textile mills in Marion and in Elizabethton, Tennessee.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Byrd, *Unraveled*, 35-36.

<sup>12</sup> Byrd, *Unraveled*, 38-40.

<sup>13</sup> Tom Tippet, *When Southern Labor Stirs* (New York: Jonathan Cape & Harrison Smith, 1931), 116.

<sup>14</sup> "R. W. Baldwin, Mill Official, Tells Story of Events Leading to Tragedy," *Asheville Citizen*, October 3, 1929, 3.

<sup>15</sup> Robert L. Williams, "The Marion Massacre," *The State*, 61:4 (September 1993), 19-21.

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Following defeats in Gastonia and Elizabethton, the NTWU focused its energy on unionizing in Marion.<sup>16</sup> In July 1929, a majority of workers walked off the job at Marion Manufacturing Company, while others at Clinchfield Manufacturing joined the picket line.<sup>17</sup> Governor O. Max Gardner ordered two companies of the National Guard from Asheville and Morganton to Marion, along with a personal representative, Judge N. A. Townsend, to intercede. When newspaper reporters toured the Clinchfield and Marion mill villages, the strikers did not speak disrespectfully of the mill managers or supervisors, but roundly condemned the local sheriff for being openly anti-union.<sup>18</sup>

Alfred Hoffman, an organizer with the American Federation of Labor (AFL), coordinated efforts among employees at the two mills and managed negotiations with mill owners to reduce work hours and reinstate dismissed union workers. Tensions rose throughout Marion as the strike dragged on and negotiations stalled. A food storehouse for strikers was supported by McDowell County farmers and out-of-state donations. After several weeks of idleness, Clinchfield president Mabry Hart reopened Mill No. 2 with 380 loyal non-union workers on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Antagonism between strikers and Sheriff Oscar Adkins and his deputies increased.<sup>19</sup> As Douglas Eller later reported for the *Asheville Citizen*, "Seething with a tenseness more sinister than at any time since the strike got underway at the mills of the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company, Marion...rumbled with the thunder of exploding dynamite as the mill villages, wide-awake, waited the dawn and renewed efforts to reach a settlement."<sup>20</sup>

On Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, a riot broke out in the Clinchfield mill village and the National Guard troops stationed in Marion were dispatched to restore order. The fracas started when the Gibson family, non-union workers hired to work at Clinchfield Mill No. 2, brought a truckload of furniture to a mill-owned house in the village. After the truck was unloaded, approximately 150 strikers entered the house and tossed every piece of furniture out in the yard. The strikers then moved the family's belongings down to the highway (US 70), and the sheriff was called. Once deputies arrived and began moving the furniture back to the house, they were met by a mob of more than 400 strikers. The agitated standoff between the strikers and local law enforcement involved taunting and attacks with sticks, rocks, and bricks. Striker Will Russell struck constable Broad Robbins across the side of the head with a stick and drew blood. The National Guard

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<sup>16</sup> Byrd, *Unraveled*, 169-173; Jacquelyn D. Hall, et al, *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), 212-214; Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 480-481.

<sup>17</sup> Williams, "The Marion Massacre," 19-21.

<sup>18</sup> Douglas Eller, "Move to Open Marion Mills Brings Climax," *Asheville Citizen*, August 18, 1929, 1.

<sup>19</sup> Douglas Eller, "380 Non-Union Employees Return to Work at Clinchfield Mill," *Asheville Citizen*, August 21, 1929, 1; Douglas Eller, "Strike Conference at Marion Ends in Deadlock," *Asheville Citizen*, August 23, 1929, 1.

<sup>20</sup> Douglas Eller, "Marion Seething with Excitement as Strike Draws to Climax," *Asheville Citizen*, August 30, 1929, 1.



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units were called to disperse the mobs and maintain order overnight.<sup>21</sup> Following the riot, more than 150 arrest warrants were issued for strikers, including Alfred Hoffman. At some point during the confrontation, a small band of strikers jumped the fence and placed dynamite in the opening room of Mill No. 2. Located in the basement, the strategically planned detonation aimed to shut down operation of the mill and caused approximately \$1,500 in damage to the building and machinery.<sup>22</sup>

Following the skirmish between strikers and law enforcement at Clinchfield, negotiations continued between labor leaders and mill management with minimal progress. Neither Clinchfield president Mabry Hart nor Marion Manufacturing president R. W. Baldwin were willing to concede much to strikers, but the eventual settlement resulted in the reduction of work hours from 60 to 55 per week. Mill owners granted no pay increase and refused to recognize the union or reinstate formerly dismissed workers. Management agreed, however, to recognize workers' grievance committees and not discriminate against union workers. Strike leaders gave considerable credit for the settlement to L. L. Jenkins, an Asheville banker and Buncombe County treasurer, who agreed to use his influence to assure that the terms of the settlement were carried out.<sup>23</sup>

Just a few weeks after reaching a settlement to the strike, a second walkout began at the Marion Manufacturing Company in early October. Night shift employees felt that the mill owners had failed to uphold the terms of the settlement and walked off the job. When the day shift arrived for work, Sheriff Adkins and a band of hastily appointed deputies greeted workers with a tear gas attack that led to a full-scale conflict between workers, management sympathizers, law enforcement, and bystanders. Deputies fired shots into the crowd, killing four and wounding at least 25 others, two of whom died later. The event, which became known as "the Marion Massacre," was the deadliest labor conflict in state history.<sup>24</sup>

The saga of Marion's textile strikes earned broad recognition in national media and from multiple sources. Renowned author Sinclair Lewis spent part of the summer of 1929 in Marion reporting on conditions in the mill villages and published a series of articles in *The Literary Digest* documenting the town's labor situation. The articles were later compiled in a slim volume entitled *Cheap and Contented Labor: The Picture of a Southern Mill Town in 1929*, published by the United Textile Workers of America that same year. Lewis recounted the events of the strike and reported on the trial that resulted in no convictions for Sheriff Adkins and his deputies. More importantly, perhaps, Lewis vividly depicted the squalid and oppressive conditions that workers faced. He shone a light on the disparity between the mill owners and

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<sup>21</sup> Douglas Eller, "Machine Guns and Bayonets Guard Marion Mill After Clash," *Asheville Citizen*, August 31, 1929, 1.

<sup>22</sup> "Marion Strike Continues Quiet," *Marion Progress*, September 5, 1929, 1; Byrd, *Unraveled*, 142-144.

<sup>23</sup> "Marion Strike Is Called Off," *Marion Progress*, September 12, 1929, 1.

<sup>24</sup> "Fatal Outbreak at Marion Mill," *Marion Progress*, October 3, 1929, 1; Tippet, *When Southern Labor Stirs*, 137-141; Williams, "The Marion Massacre," 20-21; Megan Stevens, "A Missing Mountain Memory: The Marion Manufacturing Mill Strike of 1929," Master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2020, 28-35.

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Marion townspeople and the cotton mill operatives. Lewis described the town and its mountain vistas, book shop, two movie theatres, and stores for gentleman's furnishings. He lamented, however, that the mill workers, less than two miles from Marion, did not often come to town because they did not own cars and did not have the money and time to spend. "[T]he workers, especially in Marion," Lewis wrote, "have become discouraged. They are hungry, tired, bewildered. They are tired of being shot down."<sup>25</sup>

Tom Tippet, author and economics instructor at Brookwood Labor College, recounted the Marion strikes, along with other incidents across the region, in his book *When Southern Labor Stirs* (1931). He described the Marion strike "in great detail...because it may be taken as a typical case to show the origin, conduct and final settlement of a southern industrial struggle and also to indicate what becomes of workers after a strike is over."<sup>26</sup> Like Lewis, Tippet described in stark detail the hardships mill workers faced in Marion and recalled the strike events and subsequent trials that occurred during the summer and fall. Tippet, with the benefit of additional time to reflect on the events of 1929, saw the ways the union organizers came up short in their efforts to affect long-term change in Marion. He claimed that his synopsis should not "by any means signify that the southern textile workers are unorganizable; they are as restive and as eager for unions as they were before..." but the union will need "to have brains, money, patience and understanding" to finally succeed in organizing the South.<sup>27</sup>

Following the upheaval of 1929, McDowell County quietly put aside its labor strife and continued to evolve as a predominantly industrial county. The Depression, as much as anything, ended local efforts to unionize textile workers. The Clinchfield mill village had grown to include 235 frame houses for workers, three churches (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian), a commissary store, and an elementary school owned by the mill. At Clinchfield, as elsewhere across the state, most of the early twentieth century mills underwent major architectural changes in the decades following World War II. Windows were bricked in to accommodate modern air conditioning, and large, often windowless additions were constructed for warehouses and new equipment. The windows of Mill No. 2 were bricked in over a period from the early 1950s to the late 1960s. Windowless towers to accommodate the air handling equipment were built exclusively on the west side of Mill No. 2, filling the space in and around two stair towers that projected from the west elevation. The footprint of the mill was not enlarged with warehouse additions, but several loading bay entrances accessed by concrete ramps were added to the south elevation within existing window openings.

Burlington Industries acquired the Clinchfield Mill in 1955 and promptly sold off the mill housing. The year that Burlington purchased the mill, the company achieved a unique safety record, with Clinchfield employees accumulating more than 4,942,000 man-hours without lost time for an accident. Following the acquisition, the Clinchfield plants continued to produce

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<sup>25</sup> Sinclair Lewis, *Cheap and Contented Labor: The Picture of a Southern Mill Town in 1929* (New York: United Textile Workers of America and Women's Trade Union League, 1929), 3.

<sup>26</sup> Tippet, *When Southern Labor Stirs*, vii-viii.

<sup>27</sup> Tippet, *When Southern Labor Stirs*, 171-172.

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eight styles of cotton-polyester and cotton-rayon grieger, or unfinished, fabric. More than 900 employees operated the facility's 93,500 spindles and 1,535 looms.<sup>28</sup> By the early 1960s, the county claimed 22 major industries primarily located in Marion and Old Fort, including textiles, hosiery, furniture, and lumber.<sup>29</sup>

Due to changing market forces, Burlington's operations began to shift and downsize beginning in the 1970s. In 1978, Burlington announced plans to convert the Clinchfield plants, weave corduroy fabric exclusively, and double its production. The yarn processing division moved to another Burlington-owned plant in Gastonia. At the time, company officials stated that the building left vacant by the yarn processing department, which appears to have been Mill No. 1, would not be sold but used for storage.<sup>30</sup> Burlington Industries sold the property, including both mill buildings, to Galey & Lord Inc. in 1988 (DB 381:363), and since then, the facility has been primarily used for warehousing. Chamad Inc. began using the property for warehouses in 1995 (DB 488:573) before selling the property for redevelopment in 2023 (DB 1422:489).

Of the four early-twentieth-century cotton mills built in Marion, only Clinchfield Mill No. 2 remains extant and largely intact. A lightning strike and subsequent fire destroyed Clinchfield Mill No. 1 during a storm in August 2019. The ruined foundations of Mill No. 1 are all that remain at the north end of the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company property. The three-story Marion Manufacturing Company mill at 302 Baldwin Avenue, built in 1910, was demolished in 2010-2011. Destruction of the original mill building where the Marion Massacre occurred has left only later warehouse additions that were attached to the north and south ends of the mill building. The Cross Cotton Mill, built in 1917 and enlarged in 1929, was similarly demolished around 2005. The northwest end wall of the mill near Roane Street is all that remains of the mill building. The company's spinning room and ca. 1929 yarn warehouse located on the south side of the mill remain standing. The brick buildings are typically one-story in height and windowless, but they retain their low-pitched gable roof with heavy timber eave brackets. A short distance north of the Cross Mill site, at the intersection of Blue Ridge and Carson streets, the sprawling Drexel Furniture Plant was demolished around 2015. The complex of one- to three-story buildings covered 15 acres and grew into a single facility from two separate plants—Blue Ridge Furniture and Marion Veneer & Panel. Many of the county's surviving manufacturing plants date from the post-war period, leaving Clinchfield Mill No. 2 as a rare surviving example of early twentieth century industrial architecture in Marion.

### *Statement of archaeological potential*

The Clinchfield Mill complex constructed in 1915-18 is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. While to date, no archaeological sites have been recorded through

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<sup>28</sup> "Burlington Observes Its 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Too," *The McDowell News*, November 14, 1973.

<sup>29</sup> Sharpe, *A New Geography*, 1957.

<sup>30</sup> "Burlington To Phase Out Yarn Operation," *The McDowell News*, February 1, 1978.

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professional surveys within one mile of the property, there are likely archaeological deposits containing debris that accumulated during operation of the textile mill, underground infrastructural components such as water pipes and drainage features, and other remains which may be present, that can provide information valuable to the understanding and historical interpretation of the property. Information concerning worker health, nutrition, quality of life, environmental and social transformations during industrial development in the region, the effects of technological change on work culture and daily life in Marion, as well as details of the construction/design process, and the operation of the mill during the early twentieth century period of significance may be obtained from the archaeological record. While Clinchfield Mill No. 1 burned in 2019, subsurface archaeological contexts may still be intact mixed with or below burned material, and these deposits could provide information that contributes to the site's National Register of Historic Places eligibility. Archaeological remains associated with Clinchfield Mill No. 2 also have potential to contribute to the significance of the property under Criterion A. So far, no archaeological investigation has been done to document and interpret the mill, but material remains undoubtedly exist that relate to the industrial history of this location, and this should be considered in any development of the property. It is beyond the scope of this nomination to pursue archaeological significance at this time. However, Additional Documentation may be submitted in the future that provides a more thorough analysis of the archaeological significance of this site.

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*Marion Progress* (Marion, NC)

*The McDowell News* (Marion, NC)



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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** MC0136

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 9.6 acres (approx.)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 410167 | Northing: 3950540 |
| 2. Zone: 17 | Easting: _____  | Northing: _____   |
| 3. Zone: 17 | Easting: _____  | Northing: _____   |
| 4. Zone: 17 | Easting: _____  | Northing: _____   |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The eligible boundary is shown by a dashed line on the accompanying National Register boundary map. The boundary encompasses less than half of the 18.9-acre McDowell County tax parcel [PIN 1712-11-0836] containing the mill and associated structures formerly affiliated with the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company. In addition to a portion of the current tax parcel, the boundary also encompasses another 1.65 acres of right-of-way formerly associated with a railroad spur running along the east side of Mill No. 2 and terminating alongside the boiler house and cotton warehouse (DB 59:470).

The boundary begins on the southern property line near Branch Street and follows the tax parcel line north along Branch Street to a point beyond the personnel entrance and sharp curve in the road away from the mill. The boundary roughly follows a cluster of vegetation

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to the edge of the former mill pond, excludes a gravel parking area outside of the mill fence, and continues around the eastern and northeastern edge of the former mill pond. From a point on the north side of the former mill pond and beyond the west end of the boiler house, the boundary continues in a direct line towards the gatehouse on the north edge of the property. Following the line of a concrete sidewalk to gatehouse, the boundary extends to the northwest along the former foundation of Mill No. 1 (no longer standing) to encompass the water tower and returns eastward past the gatehouse along the fence line to the north edge of a driveway accessing the north side of the cotton warehouse. From this driveway, the boundary again follows the legal parcel line on the west side of Virginia Road to a point where the property line and concurrent chain-link fence turn to the west, away from the road. The boundary then follows the legal property line on the east side of Mill No. 2 and back to the beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The eligible boundary for Clinchfield Mill No. 2 encompasses the portion of acreage historically associated with the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company's cotton mills that still contains extant buildings and structures functionally related to the operation of Mill No. 2. The northwestern portion of the site containing the foundation remnants of Mill No. 1, destroyed by fire in 2019, and the dry bed of the former mill pond has been excluded from the boundary due to a lack of physical integrity. The surviving resources associated with Mill No. 2 generally retain sufficient integrity to convey the function and development of the locally significant textile production facility.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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telephone: 828-281-3852  
date: December 15, 2023

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### 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.)

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## Photographs

The following information pertains to each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Clinchfield Mill No. 2  
Location: 56 Branch Street, Marion, North Carolina  
County: McDowell  
Name of Photographer: Clay Griffith / Acme Preservation Services  
Date of Photographs: August 19, 2022 (unless otherwise noted)  
Location of Digital Master: Historic Preservation Office  
North Carolina Division of Archives and History  
109 E. Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807

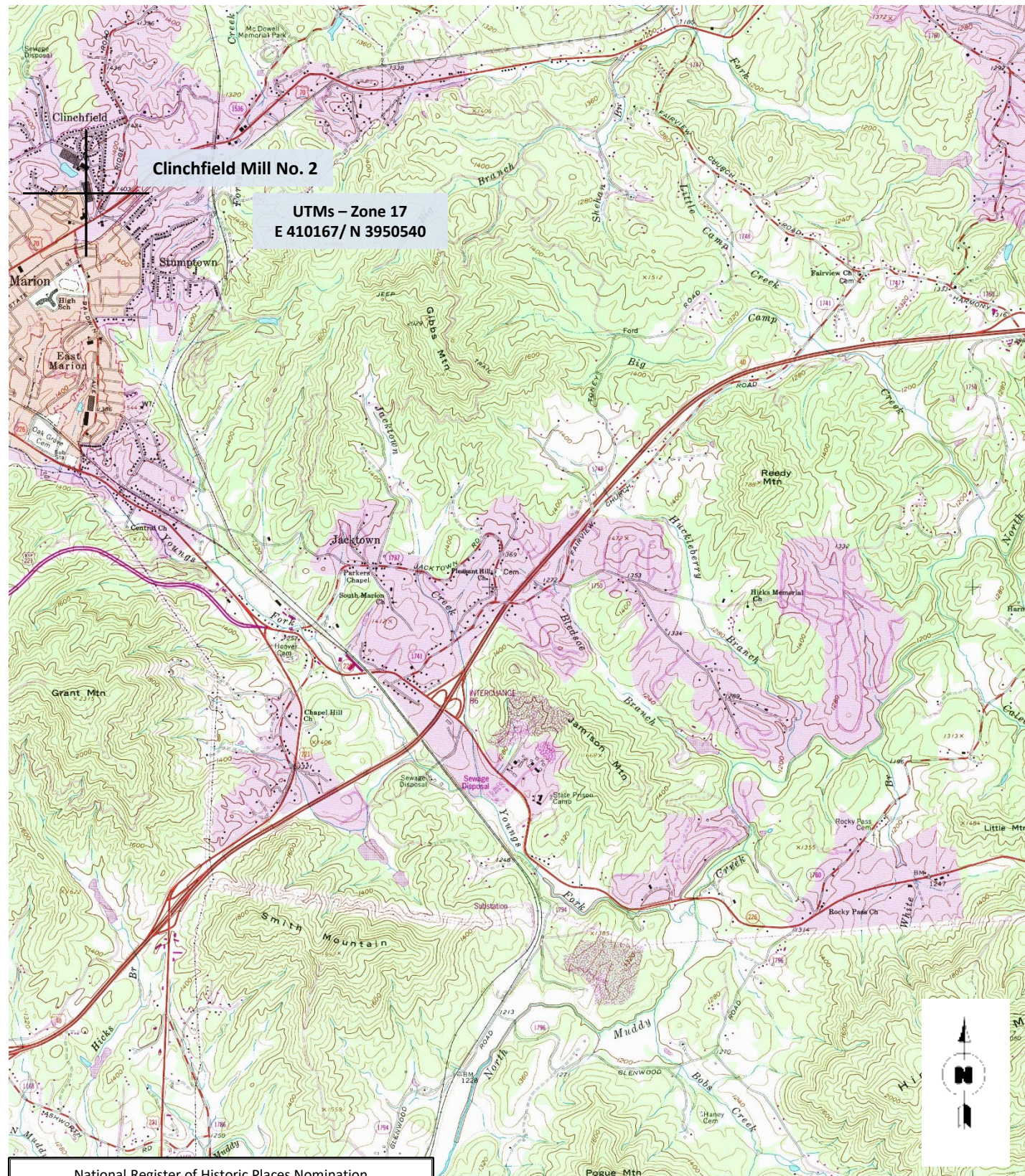
### Photographs:

1. Mill No. 2, south end elevation, view to north (photo January 26, 2022)
2. Mill No. 2, east side elevation, view to southwest
3. Mill No. 2, east side elevation, view to northwest
4. Mill No. 2, north end elevation, view to south
5. Mill No. 2, west side elevation and air conditioning tower, view to south
6. Mill No. 2, west side elevation, view to northeast (photo by James Maynard, July 6, 2021)
7. Mill No. 2, 1<sup>st</sup> floor interior, view to south (photo January 26, 2022)
8. Mill No. 2, basement interior, view to east
9. Overhead track at northwest corner of Mill No. 2, view north to Boiler House
10. Boiler House, oblique view to northwest (photo January 26, 2022)
11. Boiler House, interior, view to east
12. Boiler House chimney, view to west (photo January 26, 2022)
13. Cotton Warehouse, south elevation, view to north
14. Cotton Warehouse, oblique rear view to southeast
15. Cotton Warehouse, interior, 1<sup>st</sup> story, view to south
16. Cotton Warehouse, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> story baling room, view to north
17. Cotton Warehouse, interior, 2<sup>nd</sup> story cloth storage, view to north
18. Gatehouse, oblique view to southwest
19. Water Tower, view to northwest

**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 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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



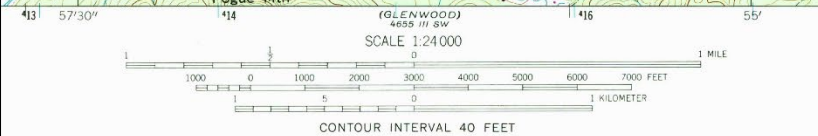


National Register of Historic Places Nomination

## Clinchfield Mill No. 2

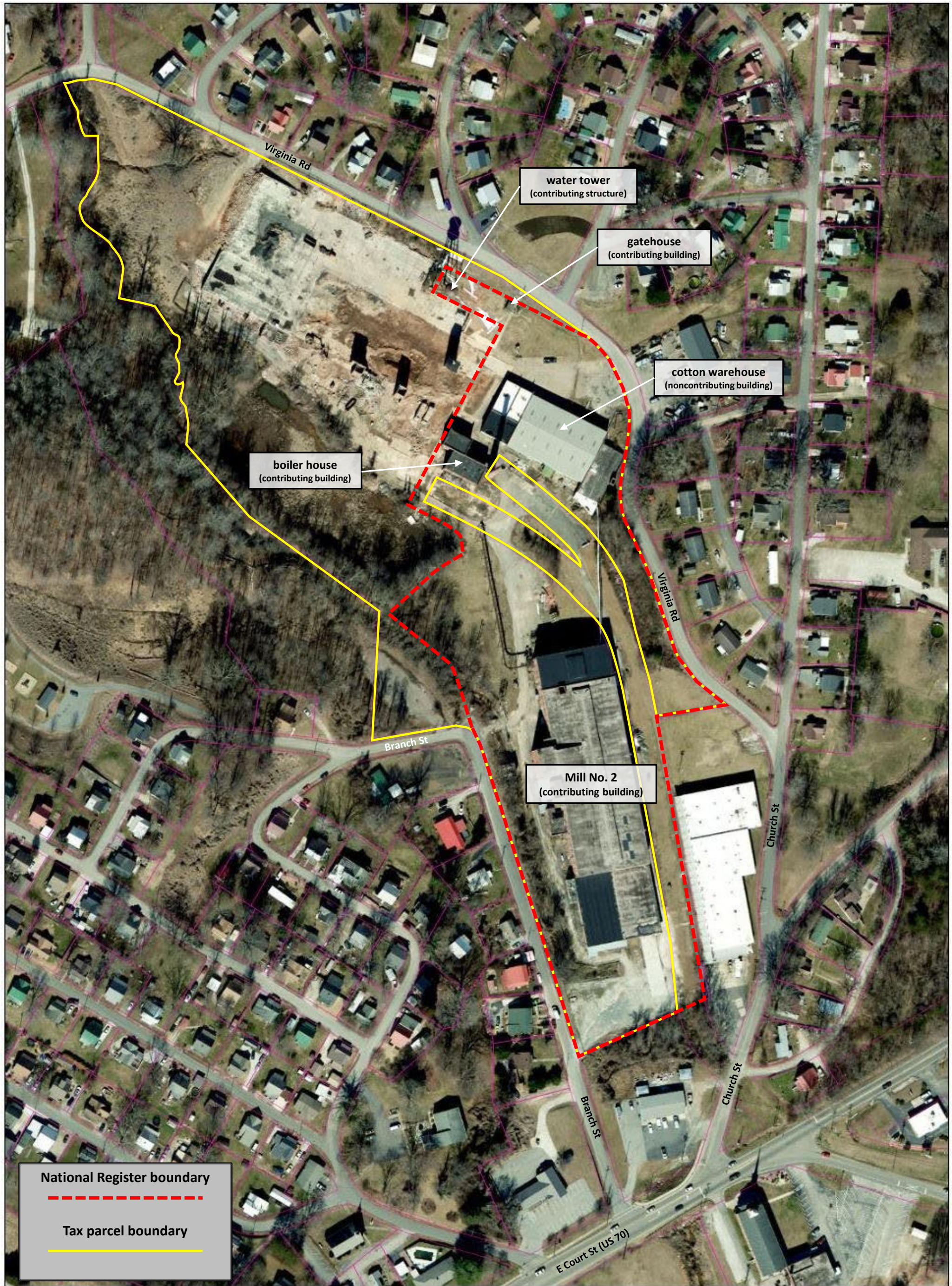
56 Branch Street, Marion  
 McDowell County, North Carolina

### Location Map + UTM's



Marion East, N.C. 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle map (1993)  
 Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, April 2023





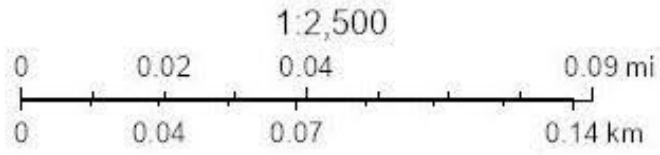
**National Register boundary**  
 - - - - -  
**Tax parcel boundary**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

National Register of Historic Places Nomination

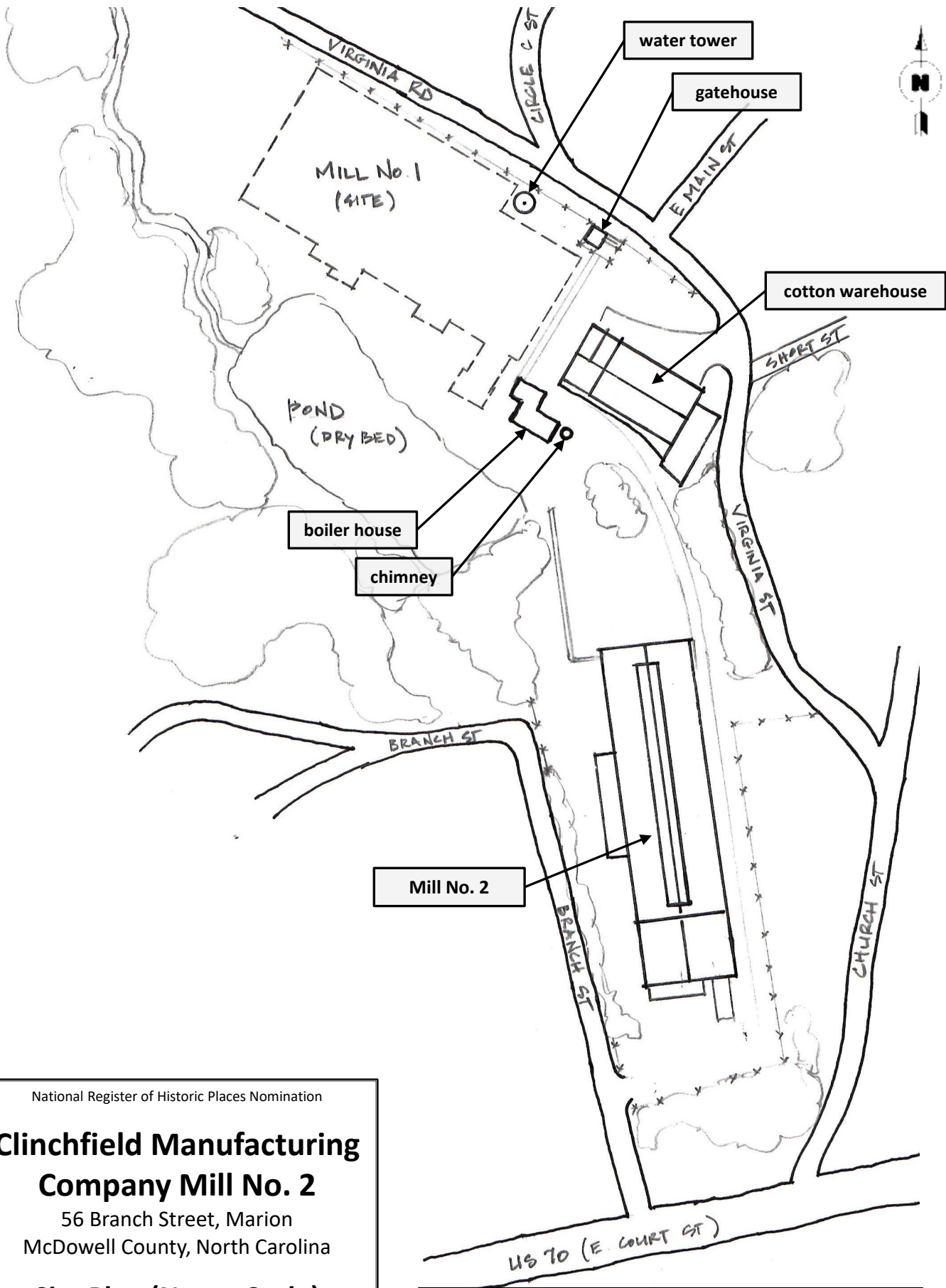
**Clinchfield Manufacturing Company**  
**Mill No. 2**  
 56 Branch Street, Marion  
 McDowell County, North Carolina

**National Register Boundary**

Base map: HPOWEB 2.0, aerial imagery 2022  
 Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, April 2023







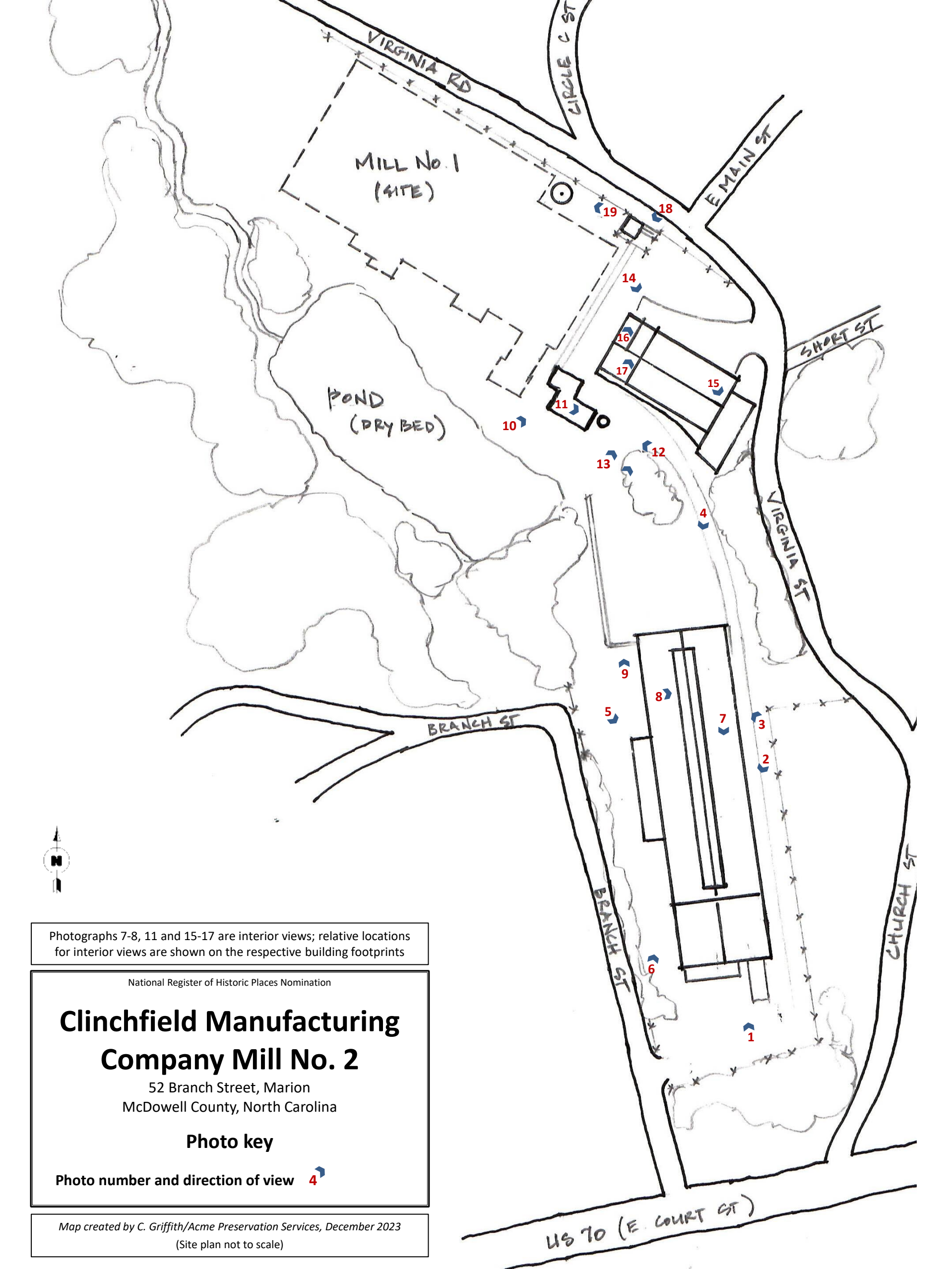
National Register of Historic Places Nomination

**Clinchfield Manufacturing  
Company Mill No. 2**

56 Branch Street, Marion  
McDowell County, North Carolina

**Site Plan (Not to Scale)**

Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, April 2023



Photographs 7-8, 11 and 15-17 are interior views; relative locations for interior views are shown on the respective building footprints

National Register of Historic Places Nomination

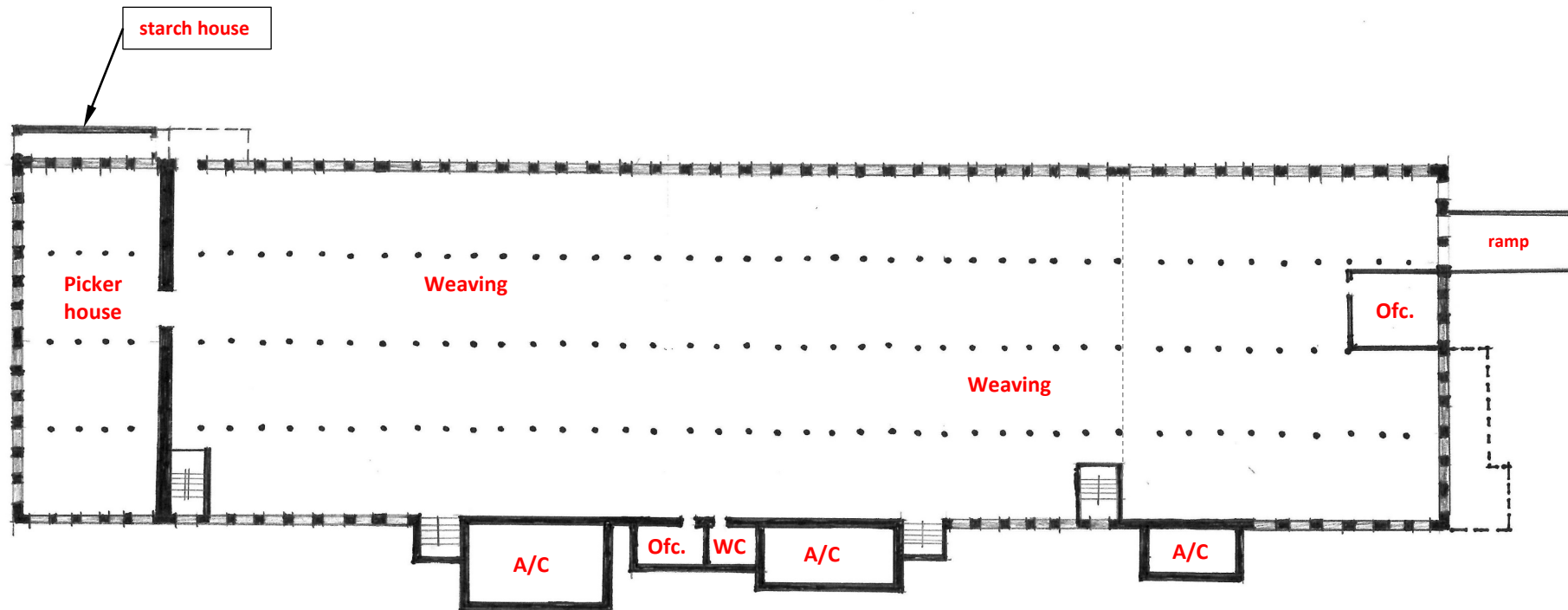
# Clinchfield Manufacturing Company Mill No. 2

52 Branch Street, Marion  
McDowell County, North Carolina

## Photo key

Photo number and direction of view 

Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, December 2023  
(Site plan not to scale)



National Register of Historic Places Nomination

**Clinchfield Manufacturing Company  
Mill No. 2**

56 Branch Street, Marion  
McDowell County, North Carolina

**Main Mill – 1<sup>st</sup> floor plan (Not to scale)**

*Map created by C. Griffith/Acme Preservation Services, March 2023*

