Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Graniteville Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Graniteville Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Along S.C. 19 and Gregg Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Graniteville — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Carolina	45	Aiken	003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
XX DISTRICT	— PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	— AGRICULTURE	— MUSEUM
— BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	— UNOCCUPIED	— COMMERCIAL	— PARK
— STRUCTURE	— BOTH	— WORK IN PROGRESS	— EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
— SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	— ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
— OBJECT	— IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	— GOVERNMENT	— SCIENTIFIC
	— BEING CONSIDERED	— YES: UNRESTRICTED	— INDUSTRIAL	— TRANSPORTATION
		— NO	— MILITARY	— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
(See continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN — VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Clerk of Court, Aiken County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Aiken

STATE
South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Survey
A Survey of Historical Sites in the Lower Savannah Region

DATE
1966; 1971

X FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Sites Survey
Lower Savannah Regional Planning and Development Commission

CITY, TOWN
Washington; Aiken

STATE
D.C.; S.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X__ORIGINAL SITE
X__GOOD	__RUINS	X__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Graniteville Historic District consists of the Graniteville Canal, which dates to 1846; the original 2 1/2-story Graniteville Mill constructed of locally quarried granite and completed in 1849; 26 original Workers' Houses in Early Gothic Revival style, most of whose exteriors are virtually unaltered; 9 other units of early mill housing; the 1847 Graniteville Academy where operatives' children were educated at company expense; and the Early Gothic Revival St. John's Methodist Church, designed by Charleston architect J. B. White and completed in 1849. Most of these structures were either constructed by William Gregg or under his close supervision, and many still retain much of their original architectural vitality. A Gregg residence which was located nearby is no longer standing.

Several months before William Gregg received his charter for the Graniteville Manufacturing Company late in 1845, he had begun to purchase large tracts of land, which eventually totaled 7,952 acres and cost nearly $11,000, near Aiken, S.C. Early in 1846, construction began with Gregg combining the responsibilities of building superintendent, engineer, and architect. He hired local workers, many of whom eventually became mill operatives, and quarried his own stone and cut his own lumber from company-owned land in an effort to hold building costs to the minimum.

During the first year, dams were constructed, the canal was dug, and the foundations for the factory completed. Next, a sawmill, utilizing water power, was erected, and over a 2-year period nearly 5 million feet of lumber was cut and utilized in the construction of the mill and its village. By 1849, the mill had been put into operation; nearly 100 workers' houses were ready for occupancy; 2 churches had been erected; the academy was receiving students; and 10 or 12 stores had opened their doors. Apparently, Gregg's 1844 tour of the New England textile districts made a deep impression on him because the layout of the village as well as the design of the mill and houses are strikingly similar ones erected at the same time in that region.

Graniteville Canal and Hardware. The construction of this waterway in 1846 was the first project William Gregg completed after coming to Graniteville. Nearly a mile in length, the canal has a 40 foot drop; a depth of 5 feet; a width of 15 feet at the bottom; and a width of 37 feet at the top. Although Gregg designed the canal for the express purpose of powering his factory, he first used it to operate a sawmill which cut

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845-1867 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Gregg

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Gregg, according to distinguished historian Clement Eaton, was "the most significant figure in the development of cotton mills in the South."[1] In highly influential newspaper and magazine articles and pamphlets, Gregg informed southerners of their abundant water power, cheap labor supply, and proximity to raw materials and argued that with good machinery, careful planning, and skilled management textile mills could prosper in the region.

Gregg "not only preached the gospel of industrialization," says Ernest M. Lander, a leading scholar of the textile industry, "he took practical steps to realize it."[2] In 1845 he began construction of a model factory based on his ideas. When completed in 1849 the Graniteville Manufacturing Company had one of the most modern and best equipped plants in the Nation. By 1852 it was operating at a profit, and for the period 1850-66 dividends averaged 12.56 per cent.

While building the mill, Gregg supervised construction of a company town, thus bringing into existence," says his biographer Broadus Mitchell, "the first typical Southern cotton-mill village."[3] By providing cheap housing, free schools, churches, and stores and by maintaining personal supervision over the morals and everyday lives of his operatives, Gregg established a pattern which would be emulated by scores of cotton mill owners throughout the region.

(continued)

[1]Clement Eaton, The Growth of Southern Civilization, 1790-1860 (New York, 1961), 225.

[2]Ernest M. Lander, The Textile Industry in Antebellum South Carolina (Baton Rouge, 1969), 55.

[3]Broadus Mitchell, "William Gregg," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IV, Part 1, (New York, 1931), 600.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY circa 55 acres.

UTM REFERENCES (See UTM Worksheet for UTM References.)

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A			
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See last page of description.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Discription: Christian, with George R. Adams, Director.
History: Ralph J. Christian, Historian, Historic Landmarks Project.

ORGANIZATION
American Association for State and Local History

DATE
May 1977

STREET & NUMBER
1400 Eighth Avenue South

TELEPHONE
615/242-5583

CITY OR TOWN
Nashville,

STATE
Tennessee 37203

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

(654)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Graniteville ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE one

GRANITEVILLE PROPERTY OWNERS

Property	Owner
Graniteville Mill and Canal	Robert P. Timmerman, Pres. The Graniteville Company Graniteville, S.C. 29829
Southern Railway Company Right-of-way	L.S. Crane, Pres. Southern Railway Company 920 15th St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

Tax Block No.	Tax Lot No.	Local Lot No.	House No.	
4	1	159 Canal	80 Canal	Ready Emery 80 Canal Street
4	2	158 Canal	79 Canal	Edward G. & Dorthy R. Coursey 79 Canal Street
4	3	157 Canal	78	Lee R. & Elise K. Lott 78 Canal Street
4	4	165 Taylor	77	James W. & Frances K. Cotney 77 Taylor Street
4	5	164 Gregg	76	Wm. T. & Grace Burrow 76 Taylor Street
4	6	163 Gregg	21	Robert T. Simons, Sr. 21 Gregg Street
4	7	162 Church	81	James S. McGee 81 Church
4	8	161 Church	90	Minnie H. Medlock 90 Church Street
4	9	160 Church	82	Alvie Eugene & Mildred W. McKay 82 Church Street

GPO 892 455

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

GRANITEVILLE PROPERTY OWNERS

Property				Owner
Tax Block No.	Tax Lot No.	Local Lot No.	House No.	
4	10	159A	vacant	Graniteville Co. (Local Lot 159A) Church Street
6	1	194 Gregg	23	Roy H. Hutto 23 Gregg
6	2	—	—	St. John's Methodist Church (includes 2 lots; 232' front)
6	3	195 Gregg	22	Douglas & Kathleen Perkins, Jr. 22 Gregg Street
6	5	—	18	St. John's Methodist Church
6	6	196 Gregg	17	James Norris Scott , et al Rt. 2, Box 317 Greenwood, S.C. 29646
6	7	197 Gregg	16	William & Joyce L. Barfield, Jr. 16 Gregg Street
6	8	198 Gregg	15	James H. Hammands 15 Gregg Street
6	9	199 Gregg	14	Mrs. Reba S. Baggott 14 Gregg
6	10	200 Gregg	13	Raymond O. & Nancy A. Scott 13 Gregg

(427)

GPO 892 455

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

GRANITEVILLE PROPERTY OWNERS

Property				Owner
Tax Block No.	Tax Lot No.	Local Lot No.	House No.	
6	11	201 Gregg	12	Clarence B. & Christine P. Wilson 12 Gregg Street
6	12	202 Gregg	11	Mrs. Sarah B. Keenan 11 Gregg Street
6	13	203 Gregg	10	Cora C. Gregory 10 Gregg Street
6	14	204 Gregg	9	Carl E. Renew, Sr. 9 Gregg Street
6	15	205 Gregg	8	Haywood R. & Catherine T. Williams 10 Gregg Street (prob. should be 8 Gregg St., but cty.records have it as #10.)
6	16	206 Gregg	7	Howell W. & Milledge K. Marchant,Jr. 7 Gregg Street
6	17	207 Gregg	6	Lish Alfred Boyd, Jr. Gen. Del. Graniteville
6	18	208 Gregg	5	Samuel G. & Gail W. Simpson 5 Gregg St.
2	1	115 Taylor	72A	John C. & Patricia Ligon 72 Taylor Street Graniteville
2	3	114 Taylor	vacant	Graniteville Company

(622)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

GRANITEVILLE PROPERTY OWNERS

Property				Owner
Tax Block No.	Tax Lot No.	Local Lot No.	House No.	
2	4	116 Taylor	73	Vaughn O. & Lillie S. Rhinehart 73 Taylor
2	5	117 Taylor	74	Essie B. Vanderley 74 Taylor Street
2	6	118 Taylor	75	James S. & Jewell B. Dean 75 Taylor
7	1	144 Gregg	24	Virgil R. & Ruth J. Conaway 24 Gregg
7	21	145 Gregg	25	Farrell E. & Mildred G. Baughman 25 Gregg
7	22	146 Gregg	26	Cecil W. & Louise N. Ready 26 Gregg
7	23	147 Gregg	27	Lish A. & Vivian P. Boyd, Sr. 27 Gregg
7	24	148 Gregg	28	William L. Shirley, Sr. 28 Gregg
7	25	149 Gregg	29	Shade W. & Mona P. Woodward 29 Gregg
7	26	150 Gregg	30	Thomas W. & Josie W. Autry 30 Gregg
7	27	151 Gregg	31	Allen G. & Cleo G. Sturkie 31 Gregg

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

GRANITEVILLE PROPERTY OWNERS

Property				Owner
Tax Block No.	Tax Lot No.	Local Lot No.	House No.	
7	28	152 Gregg	32	Johnnie W. Trotter 32 Gregg
7	29	153 Gregg	33	John H. & Lucille Conaway 33 Gregg
2	8	179 Canal	103 Canal	Grantieville Company Box 128 Graniteville, S.C. 29829

630

GPO 892 455

all the lumber needed for building Graniteville. The canal's gates and spillways are constructed of locally quarried blue granite set in hydraulic cement. For nearly a century, the Graniteville Mill utilized the canal as a power source. Gradually, however, the flow of water from Horse and Bridge Creeks, which feed it, virtually ceased, and the canal became inadequate, forcing the mill to turn elsewhere for a power source. At present the canal is still in good condition, but it is no longer utilized for textile manufacturing.

Graniteville Mill. This 2 1/2-story, eastward-facing factory, completed in 1849, is constructed of locally-quarried blue granite. Measuring 100 by 350 feet, the rectangular-shaped edifice rests on stone foundations and features a partial basement. The unornamented exterior walls are capped with a tin roof that is coated with tar and gravel and broken with skylights which have been covered with tin in recent years. Two square-shaped stone entrance towers with rectangular window and door openings project from the building's front (east) facade. These three-story structures are capped with small white-painted wood cupolas with conical roofs. One of these contains a bell dating back to 1849. It was used to summon employees to work. Like most currently operating older textile mills, this factory's windows have been bricked in to allow the installation of air conditioning. The windows were set in rectangular surrounds and featured stone slipsills and lugsills. The only other major exterior alteration occurred in the early 1940's when the rear (west) wall was carefully taken down so that the width of the plant could be increased from its original 50 feet to the present 100. The original stone work was then put back into place, practically restoring this section to its original appearance. Presently, the mill is used to weave denim and to manufacture flannel for work gloves. Originally in a parklike setting, this factory today is surrounded by numerous other buildings belonging to the Graniteville Company. It is in good condition and well-maintained.

Early Gothic Revival Workers' Houses (5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13, 14,15,16,17,18,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32, and 33 Gregg Street). These 26 frame cottages, situated along the east side of Gregg Street, make up the largest concentration of little altered Gregg-era housing in Graniteville. By the time

(continued)

the factory was completed in 1849, nearly 100 of these 1 1/2-story Early Gothic Revival structures had been built. They cost about $400 each to construct and were rented to employees at rates ranging from $16 to $25 yearly. All feature steep gable roofs, centrally-located corbeled chimneys, small rear extensions, a single front door, vergeboard trim, and red brick foundations. Most are constructed of white-painted board-and-batten siding; have six-over-six double hung wood sash windows; and feature shed-roofed front porches. Originally, the roofs of the houses were covered with wood shingles, but later this had to be replaced with slate. Some of the houses still retain their slate roofs, while others exhibit modern asphalt shingles.

All of these structures have undergone interior modernization over the years, and probably exhibit few original features. Until the 1950's the houses belonged to the Graniteville Manufacturing Company. Gradually, however, the company sold them to their occupants or other interested parties, and by the 1960's, the company was out of the housing business. The houses are in good repair, and there appears to be little danger of their demolition.

Other Early Mill Housing (21 Gregg Street; 81,82, and 90 Church Street; 78,79, and 80 Canal Street; 72-A, 73,74,75,76, and 77 Taylor Street). These structures provide a visual link between the original mill and the earliest mill housing along Gregg Street. Four houses (73,74, and 75 Taylor Street and 90 Church Street) are white frame edifices of relatively recent construction and do not contribute to the historical significance of the district. The other houses date back either to the Gregg era or subsequent periods of the company's history.

Four of the houses in this area are two-story structures (77 Taylor Street and 78,79,80 Canal Street) that probably served as boarding houses for single employees. These dwellings continue to exhibit many of their original exterior features. All are L-shaped; consist of a main block with a rear ell and L-shaped rear porch; have slate-covered gable roofs; feature two-over-two double hung wood sash windows; and exhibit one-story, hip-roofed front porches which pass almost fully across the front facade. With the exception of the house at 77 Taylor Street, these front porches are now screened. Generally, these houses are in good condition.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Four of the other houses are 3-bay-wide, 1 1/2-story structures that have transverse roof sections with a gable dormer at the front and the rear. Number 72-A Taylor Street has plain wooden siding, but the other three (75 Taylor Street and 81 and 82 Church Street) have board-and-batten siding. Presently all are painted white, with the exception of 81 Church Street which is painted green. All houses feature red brick foundations; vergeboard trim; hip-roofed front porches; center-placed, single, wood front doors; shed-roofed rear additions; six-over-six wood sash windows; and slate-covered gable roofs. Generally, these houses are in good condition and appear to be well-maintained.

Graniteville Academy (103 Canal Street). This school, completed in 1847, marked William Gregg's commitment to compulsory education for the children of his employees. When a family entered his employ, Gregg required them to send their children to school or else face heavy fines. This westward-facing structure consists of a two-story rectangular-shaped main block and two one-story projecting wings situated at the north and south ends respectively. Like the other Early Gothic Revival edifices in Graniteville, this one has red brick foundations, board-and-batten exterior wall construction, vergeboard trim, six-over-six double hung wood sash windows, and a steep. slate-covered gable roof. In the center of the main block, a gable dormer with vergeboard trim is featured. The structure has a hip-roofed front porch which runs the length of the main block. At the rear, each one-story wing features a similar shed-roofed porch, while a small shed-roofed ell projects from the main block. The structure has three chimneys of red brick. Two of these, situated in the north wing and the main block respectively, are of the interior variety while the other situated at the south end of the main block is of the outside end variety.

This building served as the school for Graniteville's children until a new edifice was erected in 1922. For several years, the company rented the old academy as a residence, and for a few years it served as a local museum. Since 1973 the structure, still owned by the Graniteville Company, has served as headquarters for the Community Leisure Years Club, a local senior citizens organization. Situated on a tree-shaded lot, the edifice is in excellent condition and is well-maintained.

(continued)

St. John's Methodist Church. When William Gregg began construction activity at Graniteville in 1847, he offered free building sites to religious groups if they agreed to erect churches designed by good architects. By 1849, two churches, a Baptist and a Methodist, had been completed, both of which were Early Gothic Revival in their architecture. Some years later, the Baptist church burned, but St. John's Methodist Church, designed by Charleston architect J. B. White, remains. This westward-facing, T-shaped structure rests on red brick foundations; is of frame construction and features white-painted board-and-batten wall construction; has Gothic windows and door openings; and is capped with a slate-covered, steep gable roof. Today, the church, which appears to have undergone little exterior alteration, is in excellent condition and still serves its original purpose. Situated near its south end is a 2 1/2-story hip-roofed church educational building that dates apparently to the late 19th century.

Boundary Justification. The boundary of the nominated property covers an area of approximately 55 acres and includes almost the entire length of the original Graniteville Canal and its hardware, including the canal gate at the lower end of Bridge Creek Pond; the original Graniteville Mill; 35 units of mill-related housing; Graniteville Academy; and St. John's Methodist Church. All these are described above and are significantly associated with the early history of Graniteville textile manufacturing. In addition to their obvious historical significance, the houses along Canal, Taylor, and Church Streets provide a visual link between the original mill and the earliest mill housing along Gregg Street. Also included within the boundary are several mill buildings and housing units that are not enumerated above and that do not contribute to the national historic significance of the district.

Boundary Description. As indicated in red on the accompanying maps [(1) U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, South Carolina, Graniteville Quad., 1964, photorevised 1971; and (2) AASLH Sketch Map, 1977], a line beginning on the west bank of the Graniteville Canal at the lower (south) end of Bridge Creek Pond about 30 feet south

(continued)

of S.C. 19 and extending southward approximately 3,000 feet along a plane 10 feet west of the west bank of the canal to a point due east of the outer plane of the north end of the original Graniteville Mill; thence, westward approximately 500 feet along the outer plane of the north wall of the original Graniteville Mill to the west bank of Horse Creek; thence, Southward approximately 1,000 feet along the west bank of Horse Creek to the north curb of Marshall Street; thence, eastward approximately 1,350 feet along the north curb of Marshall Street, across S.C. 19 and along the rear (south) property lines of houses 72-A, 73,74, and 75 (lots 115,116,117, and 118) to the east curb of Gregg Street; thence, southward approximately 500 feet along the east curb of Gregg Street to a point opposite the southwest corner of house 33 (lot 153); thence eastward approximately 160 feet along the south property line of house 33 (lot 153) to the west edge of the right-of-way of a dirt alleyway; thence, northward approximately 2,500 feet along the west edge of said right-of-way to the south curb of an unnamed paved east-west street immediately north of house 5 (lot 117); thence, westward approximately 200 feet along the south curb of said unnamed road to the east curb of Gregg Street; thence, southward approximately 1,000 feet along the east curb of Gregg Street to an unmarked point parallel to the south curb of Church Street; thence westward approximately 500 feet across Gregg Street and the south curb of Church Street to the west edge of the right-of-way of S.C. 19; thence, northward along said right-of-way to a point opposite the southwest corner of 103 Canal Street (Graniteville Academy, lot 179); thence, eastward approximately 550 feet across S.C. 19 and along the south property line of 103 Canal Street (Graniteville Academy, lot 179) to the west curb of Gregg Street; thence, northward approximately 180 feet along the west curb of right-of-way of Gregg Street to the south edge of the right-of-way of Gregg Highway; thence, westward approximately 550 feet along the south edge of said right-of-way to the west edge of the right-of-way of S.C. 19; thence, northward approximately 1,250 feet along said right-of-way to a point 10 feet from the east bank of the Graniteville Canal; thence northward approximately 60 feet to a point on the east bank of the canal due east from the point of beginning; thence, westward approximately 50 feet across the canal to the point of beginning.

(64)

Because of the company's prosperity, says Mitchell, "other cotton-mills . . . now sprang up in the South under the influence of Graniteville, and Gregg acquired a wide reputation as the leading Southern cotton manufacturer."[4] Although southern textile development was severely retarded by the Civil War, the postwar era brought a resurgence to cotton manufacturing in the region and the establishment of large scale enterprises. Today, the Graniteville Company, much enlarged, still operates, but more important, the primacy of the South in textiles which Gregg prophesied has come to pass with more than three-fourths of the Nation's spindles in the Carolinas and Georgia alone.

The Graniteville Historic District covers about 55 acres and consists of the 1846 Graniteville Canal; the original 2 1/2-story Graniteville Mill, which was completed in 1849; 26 original Workers' Houses in Early Gothic Revival style; several other units of mill housing and one 1849 church; and the 1847 Graniteville Academy where operatives children were educated at company expense.

[4] Ibid.

History

William Gregg was born February 2, 1800, in Brownsville, Pa., to William and Elizabeth Welch Gregg. While he was still an infant, his parents moved to West Virginia and settled near Carmichaels. In 1804 his mother died, and for the next several years, William lived with neighbors. Around 1810 he went to Alexandria, Va., to live with his uncle Jacob Gregg, a watchmaker and manufacturer of textile machinery. William tarried in Alexandria only briefly, however, and soon accompanied his uncle to Georgia. On the Little River between Monticello and Madison, Jacob Gregg established one of the first cotton mills in the South. For a while, the establishment proved profitable due to the impetus given American manufacturers by the War of 1812 and the subsequent exclusion of British goods. With the coming of peace, though, cheap British textiles flooded the Nation's markets, and Jacob Gregg like numerous others found himself forced to close his factory, but not before leaving an indelible impression on his young nephew.

After the factory failed, Gregg's uncle apprenticed him to a watchmaker and silversmith in Lexington, Ky. In 1821 William moved to Petersburg, Va., to complete his training, and 3 years later he established his own business in Columbia, S.C. He quickly prospered, and by 1834, when ill health forced his temporary retirement, he had accumulated a small fortune.

For the next 4 years, Gregg apparently lived with his wife's family in the Edgefield district of South Carolina. In 1836 he again turned his attention to textiles when he took charge of the Vaucluse Manufacturing Company in which he had invested and which was on the verge of financial collapse. Within a year, Gregg had made the operation profitable. Despite this success, Gregg, for reasons which remain unclear, left the company and sold his interest.

In 1838 Gregg and his family moved to Charleston where he became a partner in Hayden, Gregg and Company, a leading jewelry firm. As his wealth grew, he became increasingly interested in cotton mills, and by 1843 he had purchased a half-interest in Vaucluse. In 1844 Gregg paid an extensive visit to the New England textile districts and wrote a series of newspaper articles which were later published in pamphlet form as Essays on Domestic Industry. In these publications he excoriated southerners for their obsession with politics and subsequent neglect of their industrial resources. Pointing out that the region had abundant water power, proximity to the best cotton, and a cheap supply of labor, he urged his fellow southerners to imitate the North instead of disparaging it. Readily admitting that previous attempts to establish cotton mills had ended in failure for the most part, Gregg argued that with good machinery, careful planning, and skilled management such institutions could prosper, citing his success at the Vaucluse mill as proof. In these arguments, Gregg, says his biographer Broadus Mitchell, "made a sound diagnosis of the South's ailments, and showed more foresight in economic matters it may be thought than any other Southerner of his day."[5]

However, notes Ernest M. Lander, a leading historian of the textile industry, Gregg "not only preached the gospel of industrialization, he took practical steps to realize it."[6] In 1845 with financial support from a number of Charleston businessmen, Gregg attempted to establish a model factory based on his ideas. Because of the prevailing hostility to limited liability corporations, Gregg applied for charters in both South Carolina and Georgia. The Georgia Legislature rejected his request, and he obtained a South Carolina charter only with great difficulty. This opposition was due in large part, according to historian Eugene D. Genovese, to "displeasure

(continued)

[5]Broadus Mitchell, The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South (Baltimore, 1921), 210.

[6]Lander, The Textile Industry in Antebellum South Carolina, 55.

with Gregg's plan to use white labor."[7] Many legislators feared the development of a manufacturing and laboring interest which might provide recruits for a pro-tariff and antislavery party.

On December 15, 1845, Gregg's new company, named the Graniteville Manufacturing Company and capitalized at $300,000, received its charter. Gregg had little difficulty raising the necessary capital, and early in 1846 construction work began on a site near Aiken. Under his personal supervision, power dams were constructed, local granite was quarried for the mill building, timber cut for the mill and worker housing, and the best machinery purchased in New England and abroad.

In May, 1849, the mill began limited production of cotton shirting and sheeting. In full operation by July, it had 8,400 spindles and 300 looms and was capable of producing 13,000 to 14,000 yards of cloth daily. Heated by steam, the Graniteville factory, says Mitchell was "more modern than many of its New England contemporaries."[8] In its early years the mill had financial difficulties, and was kept afloat largely by a $90,000 personal loan from Gregg, who served as the company's president for several years without pay. By 1852 Graniteville was operating in the black and paid an 8 percent dividend. By 1854 this figure had reached 18 percent, and for the period 1850-66 dividends averaged 12.56 percent.

At the same time he built the mill, Gregg supervised the construction of a village with houses, schools, churches, and stores for his employees, "thus bringing into existence," says Mitchell, "the first typical Southern cotton-mill village."[9]

(continued)

---

[7]Eugene D. Genovese, The Political Economy of Slavery: Studies in the Economy and Society of the Slave South (New York, 1967), 231.

[8]Broadus Mitchell, William Gregg, Factory Master of the Old South (Chapel Hill, 1928), 45.

[9]Mitchell, "William Gregg," D. A. B., IV, 600.

(633)

This action, says historian William L. Barney, made Graniteville "as much a missionary venture as a manufacturing establishment" because of the close personal supervision which Gregg exercised over his employees.[10] He forbade the consumption of alcoholic beverages, prohibited dancing, refused to hire children under the age of twelve, and required the village's children to attend school.

As a result of the mill's prosperity, says Mitchell. "other cotton-mills . . . now sprang up in the South under the influence of Graniteville, and Gregg acquired a wide reputation as the leading Southern cotton manufacturer."[11] By the end of the Civil War, Graniteville was producing cotton goods valued at $289,736. After war came in 1861, Gregg, who had signed the South Carolina secession ordinance, served as president of the Manufacturing and Direct Trade Association of the Confederate States. Throughout the war, the factory operated at full capacity, and, according to distinguished historian Clement Eaton, "it became one of the mainstays of the Confederacy for textiles."[12]

At the end of the war, Gregg set about the task of reequipping and enlarging the mill. While engaged in this task, Gregg contacted pneumonia as a result of working in waist-deep water to help repair the mill's dam and died on September 13, 1867. The company which he founded in 1845 is still in operation. In addition to its Graniteville facilities, it has plants in Vaucluse, Warrenville, Williston, and Greenville, S.C., and Augusta, Ga. More important, the development of a southern textile industry which he prophesied has come to pass. By 1963 the Carolinas and Georgia alone had three-fourths of the Nation's spindles.

(continued)

[10]William L. Barney, The Road to Secession: A New Perspective on the Old South (New York, 1972), 44.

[11]Mitchell, "William Gregg," D.A.B., IV, 600.

[12]Eaton, The Growth of Southern Civilization, 227.

It should be noted that scholars are not in specific agreement about the relative significance of William Gregg and Henry P. Hammett (who is also the subject of a nomination in this study) in the development of the southern textile industry. Historians do agree, though, that both were highly important, with Gregg successfully propagandizing textile industrialization in the South in the 1850's and 1860's and Hammett paving the way in the 1870's and 1880's for eventual southern domination of textile manufacturing.

GPO 892 455

Barney, William L., The Road to Secession: A New Perspective on the Old South (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1972).

Eaton, Clement, The Growth of Southern Civilization, 1790-1860 (New York: Harper & Row, 1961).

Fogle, Elinor, "William Gregg and the One Hundred and Twenty-Six Years of the Graniteville Company," unpublished paper in Graniteville Company Archives, Graniteville Company, Graniteville, S.C.

Genovese, Eugene D., The Political Economy of Slavery: Studies in the Economy and Society of the Slave South (New York: Vintage Books, 1967).

Hesseltine, William B. and David L. Smiley, The South in American History (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1960).

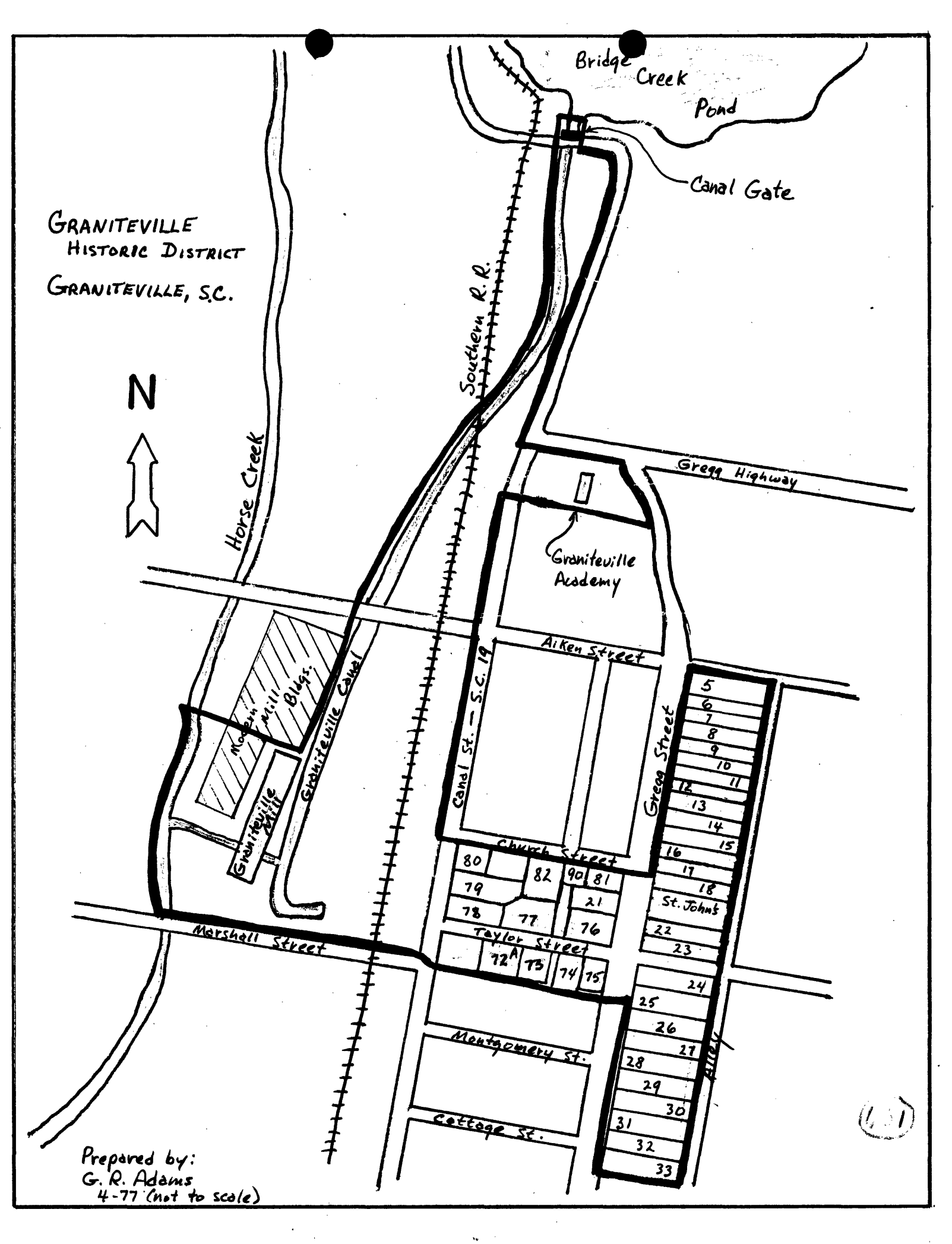
Lander, Ernest M., The Textile Industry in Antebellum South Carolina (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1969).

Lett, William C., "Graniteville--A Vision Become Reality," unpublished speech delivered June 27, 1939, copy in Graniteville Company Archives, Graniteville Company, Graniteville, S.C.

Martin, Thomas P. (ed.), "The Advent of William Gregg and the Graniteville Company," Journal of Southern History, XI (August, 1945), 389-423.

Mitchell, Broadus, The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1921).

_____, "William Gregg," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IV, Part 1, (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1931), 599-601.


GRANITEVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
GRANITEVILLE, S.C.
N
Bridge
Creek
Pond
Canal Gate
Southern R.R.
Horse Creek
Gregg Highway
Graniteville Academy
Aiken Street
Modern mill Bldgs.
Graniteville Canal
Graniteville Mill
Canal St. — S.C. 19
Gregg Street
Church Street
Marshall Street
Taylor Street
Montgomery St.
Cottage St.
Alley
St. Johns
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
80
79
78
82
77
90
81
21
76
72A
73
74
75
Prepared by:
G. R. Adams
4-77 (not to scale)