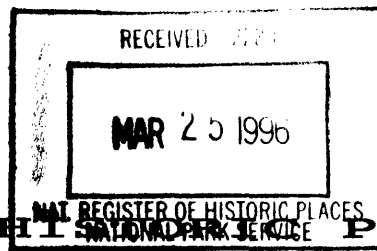


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



494

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Senn, Walton, Lott, Green Streets and Aiken Highway not for publication
city or town Vaucluse vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Aiken code 003 zip code 29850

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 3/18/96
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SEPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- X entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

M. J. M. [Signature] 5/7/96

for _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box) <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	Number of Resources within Property <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>90</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11</u></td> <td>buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td>sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td>structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>93</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11</u></td> <td>objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing		<u>90</u>	<u>11</u>	buildings	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites	<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures	<u>93</u>	<u>11</u>	objects			Total
Contributing	Noncontributing																			
<u>90</u>	<u>11</u>	buildings																		
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites																		
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures																		
<u>93</u>	<u>11</u>	objects																		
		Total																		
Name of related multiple property listing Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u> </u>																		

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u> <u>DOMESTIC</u> <u>INDUSTRY</u> <u>INDUSTRY</u> <u>COMMERCE</u> <u>RECREATION</u> <u>RECREATION</u> <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u> <u>Multiple dwelling</u> <u>Manufacturing facility</u> <u>Water works</u> <u>Department store</u> <u>Theater</u> <u>Outdoor recreation</u> <u>Post office</u>
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u> <u>INDUSTRY</u> <u>LANDSCAPE</u> <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u> <u>Industrial storage</u> <u>Parking lot</u> <u>Post office</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) <u>Greek Revival; Bungalow/Craftsman</u> <u>Other: shotgun; Other: hall-and-parlor; Other: New England prototype mill</u>	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation <u>brick; granite</u> roof <u>slate; asphalt; other: tar paper; gravel; asbestos</u> walls <u>brick; weatherboard; vinyl siding</u> other <u> </u>
---	---

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important 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 a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- INDUSTRY
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- ARCHITECTURE
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1832
- 1877
- ca. 1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

- 1832-1867
- 1877-1945
- _____

Architect/Builder

Lockwood, Amos

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: University of South Carolina-Aiken

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 200 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	425200	3720920	3	17	425820 3718900
2	17	425860	3719700	4	17	425240 3718520
	<u>X</u>	See continuation sheet.				

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Downey
organization Applied History Program/University of S.C. date 4 May 1995
street & number 502 Churchill Circle telephone (803) 649-5843
city or town Aiken state SC zip code 29803

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 5 Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Narrative Description

Vaucluse is located on South Carolina Highway 191 in northern Aiken County, three miles north of Graniteville and 6 miles west of Aiken. The mill pond and Horse Creek bisect Vaucluse into east and west sections. The historic district includes the Vaucluse mill compound, located in the center of the village; a ca. 1904 three-building commercial complex located just north of the mill compound; a company built swimming pavilion; the 1877 mill dam; the Vaucluse mill pond; and 83 former company dwellings located in parallel rows along five of the village's residential streets (Senn, Green, Lott, Walton Streets and Aiken Highway) which extend in a rough spoke fashion from the mill compound. A line of the Southern Railway passes through Vaucluse from the north to the south.

The overall setting of Vaucluse is quiet and secluded. Thick pine forests surround much of the village, and the lack of commercial operations of any kind help Vaucluse to retain its overall historic character. The nearest modern commercial district is three miles south at Graniteville. The 100-acre mill pond and Horse Creek give the village an added rural feeling as well. Textile production at the Vaucluse mill ended in 1991, and the Graniteville Company currently uses the site as a transportation depot.

The general character of the historic district is a combination of industrial, commercial, and residential uses. The Vaucluse mill dominates all other structures in the village, which comprised over 130,000 square feet of floor space at its operational peak. The mill compound consists of an estimated ten acres in the center of Vaucluse. Besides the textile mill, the compound also includes an 1877 boiler house and smokestack, seven brick hose houses, a 1939 office building, and a 1943 employee canteen.

The small commercial district just north of the mill compound comprises four structures: two large front gable buildings, a smaller front gable U.S. Post Office building, and a swimming pavilion built by the company for the enjoyment of its employees. At varying times, these buildings served as general stores, storage, a movie house, and barber shop. After the stores and movie house closed, one building was briefly used by residents as a community center. Although used mainly for storage today, the current presence of the post office and the community center sign help maintain the area's historic character as a center of commercial and social activities in Vaucluse.

The residential sections radiate from the mill compound and commercial area at the center of Vaucluse. The dwelling houses tend to be bunched in clusters within Vaucluse, lined in parallel rows along residential streets. A handful of styles are repeated among the houses, helping to maintain the uniformity among the houses which was present when they were owned and leased by the company to the operatives. The houses are generally small, consisting mainly of four or five rooms, and almost all have shed porches. Most are built in vernacular styles, with shotgun and hall and parlor styles most prevalent.

Overall, the general condition of the buildings in the historic district ranges from good to neglected. The mill remains in good condition, as do the other buildings in the compound, although overgrowth from the Horse Creek boundary of the compound has obscured most of the west facade of the mill. The commercial area appears to be in solid condition, although the weatherboard on the two largest structures and swimming pavilion are peeling and in need of fresh paint. Residents have kept most of the housing in good condition, although a number of dwellings are deteriorated through owner abuse and neglect or being unoccupied for an extended period.

A handful of buildings within the district have been deemed as non-contributing, due either to excessive alterations or construction after the period of significance. Although churches played a significant role in the social history of Vaucluse, neither the First Baptist or Methodist church buildings are considered contributing properties. The Baptist Church has undergone a significant expansion, and the original board and batten siding has been covered with a brick veneer in the 1950s. The current Methodist Church was built in 1949 on the site of the ca. 1920 building, which burned in 1946. The dwellings at 79, 81-82 Green St. and 10, 44, 56, 59, 63, and 67 Senn St. are considered

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 6

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

non-contributing to the district, since extensive alterations have destroyed their historic integrity. The buildings at 5 and 15 Senn St. are mobile homes using lots formerly occupied by Type A dwellings which were destroyed by fire, and are both non-contributing.

A few buildings present during the period of significance do not survive today. A second mill pond, the Good Springs Pond, was located in the eastern end of the village, formed by a dam along a railroad embankment across Good Springs Creek. The pond was created ca. 1880 and connected to the main mill pond with a 450' conduit. The additional pond ensured an extra water source if the level in the main pond fell too low. The dam burst around 1930 and was not rebuilt. A second general store was located on Church St. across from the Baptist Church, as were additional dwellings behind the church on Lott St. and a duplex on Church St. The mill compound also housed a number of lumber sheds, a blacksmith shop, and a coal house, none of which are present today. A large brick and wood cotton warehouse occupied the current parking lot on Senn St. across from the post office, and a railroad depot was present just west of the intersection of Senn St. and the Southern Railway line. Both structures were removed sometime after 1945.

In 1946 and 1947, the village of Vaucluse underwent a facelift courtesy of the Graniteville Company. New drinking water mains were installed and a modern sewage system constructed. Green, Church, Lott Streets and Aiken Highway were hard surfaced and sidewalks were built throughout the village. A concrete retaining wall was built on the west side of Lott St. to prevent erosion. Sixteen dwelling houses from Social Circle and Rabbit row were relocated to their current location on Aiken Highway in order to take advantage of the new water and sewage systems. Also, a new street was built, beginning at the south end of Lott St. and heading west and connecting to Green St. The street and building layout completed by the 1947 renovation provided the layout of Vaucluse today.

The difficulties in describing a large and complex district such as Vaucluse make it necessary to break the detailed description into sections: the Vaucluse mill and mill compound; the dam and mill pond; the commercial area; and the dwelling houses.

The Vaucluse Mill and Mill Compound

Overview

The Graniteville Company's Vaucluse Division mill and surrounding compound are located in the center of the mill village of Vaucluse. The enclosed compound is bordered by Walton St. on the north, Senn St. on the east, Horse Creek on the west, and a wooded ravine on the south. Within the compound reside the Vaucluse mill, the 1877 boiler house and smokestack, seven hose houses, a 1939 office building, and 1943 employee canteen.

The Vaucluse Mill

The current mill is laid out in an irregular rectangular plan, and consists of four major sections: the 1832 granite wheel house and foundation, the 1877 mill complex (main mill, tower, connecting building, and picker house), the 1952 northside expansion, and the 1955 warehouse. Taken as a whole, the current mill provides an architectural history of the textile industry in South Carolina from 1830 through the present, as each section represents the design, technological requirements, and advances of the industry. The flexibility of the site enabled it to adapt to changes in the industry. Its inability to continue in this role led to the end of textile production here in 1991.

The size and complexity of the mill make a concise overall description difficult, if not impossible. With this in mind, the following narrative describes the individual sections of the mill, discussing its original appearance and changes over time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 7

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

1832-1833 Granite Foundation

This section consists of the eastern 40' of the 1877 mill's foundation. Built of cut granite, this portion of the mill foundation dates to 1832 and is the remnants of the textile mill built by Christian Breithaupt at Vaucluse from 1832-1833. The foundation measured 40'x80', and was incorporated into the foundation of the 1877 mill. This section of the current mill actually creates a lower level basement due to the sloping of the terrain towards Horse Creek. The upper level of the east facade of the foundation contains six rectangular bays with casement windows, while the lower level contains two awning vents and is attached to the 1832 wheel house. The south facade also contains rectangular window bays, as well as a single entry.

1832-1833 Wheel House

The 1832-1833 Wheel House is the most eastern projection on the current mill. It is a cut granite, two-story structure built in a square plan measuring roughly 20'x20', and possesses a very low pitched gable roof with wood cornices. Flora overgrowth along Horse Creek completely obscures its north and east facades. However, early photographs and an interior inspection indicate the east facade contains a single bay with a 8/8 rectangular sash window centrally located over a granite arch, through which the mill's tailrace passes. The same evidence also indicates two bays of 8/8 rectangular sash windows on the upper level of the north facade. The upper level of the south facade contains two 8/8 rectangular, sash windows, as well as a single 6-pane recessed window, while the lower level contains a partially filled central opening with a stone lintel, and an 8-pane horizontal rectangular window. The lower level still houses the mill's water turbine, which was used up to the late 1980s to provide a portion of the power supply for the mill. The upper level originally served as the 1833 mill's picker house, but currently houses a variety of power generating machinery.

The 1877 Mill

Designed by the engineering firm of Lockwood Greene, the 1877 mill makes up the largest percentage of the current facility. In addition to the wheel house and foundation from the 1833 mill, the 1877 mill consists of four main sections:

1. The Main Mill: Built in a rectangular plan measuring 236'x 74'. It consists of 4-stories: a raised granite basement and three brick stories. The roof is a very low-pitched gable style with wood boxed cornices, and originally was built of plank on timber with a gravel covering, and a series of ventilation pipes lined the peak. Unfortunately, a current description of the roof is problematic due to the lack of a location from which to view its properties. The north, south, and east facades of the Main Mill building originally contained groupings of 12/12 sash windows with slightly rounded arches, in shallow recessed column. The majority of these windows were brick filled in the mid 1960s, with only three columns remaining at the northeast corner of the 1877 main mill.

2. The Tower: A 14'x 24' brick tower with concrete foundation is attached to the center of the south facade of the 1877 main mill. The tower extends approximately one story higher than the main mill, and a brick balustrade is present along the top. The east, west and south facades of the tower originally contained columns of rounded arched dash window, like the main mill, but these have been brick filled. The top section of the tower did not contain windows, but rather decorative brickwork consisting of a recessed rounded arch. The tower originally enclosed an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 8

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

elevator, with the top housing an 11,000 gallon water tank used to supply the mill's sprinkler system.

3. The Connecting Building: When built, the connecting building consisted of a 20'x 25' three story brick and granite structure which connected the main mill with the picker house. It was expanded northward in the early 1950s with the new northside addition. A fourth story was also added at this time. Like the main mill and tower, its windows were brick filled in the mid 1960s.

4. The Picker House: The 1877 picker house was originally 42' x 100', consisting of three stories: a raised granite basement and two brick stories. It had a very low pitched gable roof with wood boxed cornices, and also possessed a square brick dust chimney protruding from the southeast corner. Windows were placed as they were on the rest of the mill, and were likewise brick filled in the 1960s. A fourth story was added to the picker house in 1949 to house the spooler and warper and make room for new equipment in the rest of the mill. The new story enclosed the lower portion of the dust chimney, and it was either completely removed or covered with equipment sometime after 1955.

1952 Addition

From 1948-1952, new construction on the north side of the 1877 main mill almost doubled the size of the Vaucluse mill. A rectangular, single story brick weave room was added to the north facade in 1948, with solid walls except for scattered openings for ventilation. The north facade was expanded even further from 1951-1952. The new addition added over 65,000 square feet of floor space to the Vaucluse mill. A three story rectangular, brick addition with flat roof extended from the 1877 main mill. The 1877 picker house and connecting building were also extended northward at this time. Windows on the new addition were less numerous, consisting of 4/6 sash windows confined mainly to the second story, except for the northwest portion of the extension. Also, a single story, rectangular brick addition was attached to the new three story expansion at this time, which was windowless except for a number of ventilation openings on its north facade covered with metal louvers. A small, square enclosed entry was also constructed. The one-story brick building with a flat roof was attached to the north side of the new picker house extension and to the east facade of the one-story north facade extension. This section served as the main northside entry into the mill. The open area in front of the entry was covered with a metal roof sometime after 1955.

1955 Warehouse

The final major addition to the Vaucluse mill was a warehouse constructed from 1954-1955 along the east facade of the 1877 picker house. The warehouse is 100'x 140', with a half basement storage room measuring 100'x 70'. The roof is a very low pitched gable. The south facade loading bay was covered with a full facade porch with flat metal roof. Garage bays are also located along the north facade for the loading and unloading of trucks.

1877 Boiler House and Smoke Stack

This building housed boiler machinery used to heat and power the Vaucluse mill. It is a square plan of brick construction. It has a very shallow gable roof, covered with tar and gravel. The exterior walls contain 12/12 sash windows with slightly rounded arches. A single door entry is located on the south elevation, and a larger entry is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 9

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

located on the east facade. A section of the south elevation wall was removed in order to replaced boiler equipment then rebricked once installation was completed. A square, brick smokestack about 100' in height is attached to the center of the west facade.

Hose Houses

These small, brick dwellings were built in the late 1800s to house pumps which fed water to the mill in the event of a fire. There are seven total, with three each located in a row, spaced equidistant along the north and south elevation of the mill. The seventh is located in the mill compound parking lot near Walton St. They are approximately 5'x 5' square, with a pair of doors on one side.

Office

Built in 1939, this structure has served as the main office for the Vaucluse mill for its entire existence. It is built in a massed rectangular plan, side gable style with no cornice returns. The roof is covered with diamond pattern slate shingles and the sides are covered with vinyl weatherboard. The north elevation has a A/B/C opening pattern, with A=a 6/6 sash window, B=a single door entry with a rectangular surround, and C=a fixed 8-pane window. A square, flat roof entry porch is supported by two posts and a brick landing is present in front of the entry. A windows have awnings.

Employee Canteen

The company built this structure in 1943 so its Vaucluse employees would have a place to enjoy a snack or a smoke during their 20-minute break. It is a rectangular plan, front gable style, with overhanging eaves on all sides. The roof is low pitched, and was originally covered with diamond pattern slate shingles, but now has asphalt shingles. A ribbon of four 12-pane awning windows are located off-center on the north and south elevations. The entry is on the east facade.

Commercial Area

The commercial area of the Vaucluse Historic district is located on the west side of Senn St., just north of the mill compound. It consists of four structures: the ca. 1904 general store; the ca. 1904 warehouse; the ca. 1904 U.S. Post Office building; and the 1943 swimming pavilion.

ca. 1904 General Store

This building is a rectangular plan, front gable structure with partial cornice returns. The walls are covered with wood weatherboard and the roof is covered by diamond pattern slate shingles. The street facade has a A/B/A opening pattern, with A=a 6-pane fixed window with a wood plank covering the lower section, and B=a double door entry. A single set of wood steps lead to the entry and a sign "Vaucluse Community Center" is located above the doors. The south elevation contains three additional entries. A central entry has a single door and a long shed roof porch supported by two posts covering the entry and a set of wood steps. Two other entries are located at opposite ends of the south elevation, and have a single door covered by a small gable porch with exposed rafters and supported by two brackets. The stairs on the western entry are missing. A small brick, ridge chimney is located off-center. The building is elevated on brick piers, which are filled along the west half of the building. The building served as a general store for most of its existence. After closing it was used for storage by the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 10

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Graniteville Company, and briefly served as a community center. It is currently not in use.

ca. 1904 Warehouse

This building is very similar to the ca. 1904 general store, but of shorter length. It is a rectangular plan, front gable style with partial cornice returns, and has wood weatherboard siding and diamond pattern slate shingles. The street facade has an identical opening pattern, but all windows on the structure are boarded up. A single brick chimney is located in the north slope of the roof, and the building is elevated on brick piers. This structure was used originally for storage, but was used during the 1920s and for many years beyond as a movie theater for Vaucluse inhabitants. It later returned to use as a warehouse, and is currently not in use.

ca. 1904 Post Office

Currently serving as the U.S. Post Office for Vaucluse, this building may be the smallest in the village. built ca. 1904, it is in a rectangular plan, front gable style with partial cornice returns. The street facade has an A/B/A opening pattern, with A= a 1/1 sash window, and B=a single door entry. The facade also has a small, central porch with shed roof over the door supported by two brackets. A sign above the door reads "United States Post Office, Vaucluse SC, 29850." Other A style windows are located on the other elevations. Diamond pattern slate shingles cover the roof, and synthetic weatherboard covers the exterior walls. A covered brick chimney is located in the center of the roof ridge. It appears the building was extended westward approximately 6', but the date of this alteration is unknown. During the 1920s, this building served as a barber shop. No other uses of the building are known.

1943 Swimming Pavilion

Built by the Graniteville Company for the amusement of its employees, this structure is located about 100 yards north of the post office building, between Senn St. and the eastern edge of Vaucluse Pond. It is built in a square plan and has a low pitch gable roof with exposed rafters and no walls. The roof is supported by square wood posts and brackets, and it covered with tar paper. The pavilion is built entirely of wood and set on high wood piers. A wood bench is attached to the posts along the interior sides. A wood bridge with wood railing leads from the street to the pavilion, and a set of wood steps leads from the pavilion to the pond. It is currently not in use.

Horse Creek Dam and Mill Pond

The dam across Horse Creek forms part of Walton St., which passes over it in the form of a one lane bridge just to the west of the mill compound. It creates Vaucluse Pond, a 100-acre body of water which has been a major source of water power for the Vaucluse mill since its creating in 1877. The dam is built of granite blocks, and measures approximately 300' in length and 28' high. The fall on its south side is around 60' high. The north side contains the flume gate, with its iron flow controls still intact, though rusty. The dam has changed little since its construction, although an overgrowth of vegetation along Horse Creek makes access to the south side of the dam difficult.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 11

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Dwelling Houses

Overview

The dwelling houses at Vaucluse were built between ca. 1830 and 1946. The first reference to the presence of housing at Vaucluse appeared in a notice in the November 22, 1830 Charleston Courier, which noted "several good Dwelling Houses for workmen" in addition to the mill itself. No description of housing construction is found again until President H.H. Hickman's 1878 report to Graniteville Company stockholders. In describing the new mill at Vaucluse, Hickman also mentions the construction of 64 new dwellings and the repair of 12 old ones, all separated by wood fencing. In a later stock holder report, Hickman announced the construction of an addition eight dwelling houses during 1881. No evidence of new house construction is found until 1942, when various issues of the Graniteville Bulletin announced the construction of a number of new bungalows (Type H) throughout the year. The last dwelling houses were built in 1946 (Type I). The south end of Senn St. (Type A) appears to have been the first residential area in Vaucluse. The 1877 mill expansion placed dwelling houses along the north end of Senn St., along Lott and Green streets on the western side of Vaucluse, and along two paths on the east side of Vaucluse in areas known as Social Circle and Rabbit Row. These houses were later moved to their present location along Aiken Highway in 1947. The ca. 1877 overseer houses (Type E) were placed just outside the mill compound at its southeast corner. The post-1877 dwellings were built in scattered locations in and around the residential areas, either on the end of established residential rows, or within residential rows on empty lots created when an earlier dwelling burned down.

Based on Sanborn maps from 1920 and 1923 and other scattered evidence, original building materials appear to have consisted of almost exclusively wood, with brick piers used to elevate dwellings. In the mid-1940s, the company replaced wood roof shingles with diamond pattern slate shingles, and the piers were brick filled at this time to prevent erosion. The present roofs are currently covered with the diamond pattern slate or asphalt shingles. Exterior walls were probably wood weatherboard originally, with some scattered board and batten. Current exterior walls are a mix of wood and synthetic weatherboard, with one house (75 Green St.) possessing board and batten, and the two Type I houses using asbestos siding. Photographic evidence from the 1940s indicate most porches were of a shed roof type, with squared supporting posts, an "X" pattern balustrade, and wood steps. Scattered porches among the dwelling houses have gone through varying degrees of alteration, including replacement of wood supports with metal, alteration or removal of balustrades, replacement of wood steps with brick or concrete, and in a few cases partial or complete enclosure.

During the period of significance, the housing at Vaucluse was practically identical to each other. Almost all were painted white, and materials and design tended to be duplicated among all the dwellings. When improvements such as sewage systems, piped water, or electricity were brought to Vaucluse, the company added kitchens and bathrooms to its housing, with the placement and appearance of each addition the same on all houses.

Since the sale of the Vaucluse housing by the company in 1968, many owners have altered their house in varying degrees to suit their needs, an individuality that would have been unthinkable when the dwellings were company owned. Many built additions, screened or enclosed porches, replaced older building materials with synthetic roofing and siding, or simply painted their homes in something other than white. In a few instances, the degree of alteration has been severe enough to destroy all traces of historic appearance, and thus make them non-contributing to the district. However, for the most part, alterations have not severely altered the visual or historic integrity of the historic district. While the historic fabric may be threadbare in places, overall, it remains strong.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 12

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Dating this type of vernacular housing is difficult. Built by the company in an unincorporated village, no public records, directories, or other sources exist to describe the dwellings. Construction dates are used based on existing company records, known dates of building activities, conversations with village residents, and data from the 1986 historic survey of the area which is available at the South Carolina Historic Preservation Office.

Repeated Dwelling Types

Type A: constructed ca. 1830 (3-4, 6-9, 11-14 Senn St.; 94 Lott St.; 11 total)

These dwellings were built on a rectangular plan, 3-room, front gable shotgun style with partial cornice returns. They are elevated on brick piers, now filled. The street facade has a 3/4 facade porch with shed roof, supported by four squared posts. It also has an A/B/A opening pattern, with A=rectangular sash windows and B= a single door entry. A brick ridge chimney is positioned slightly off center. In the 1940s, the Graniteville Company built side additions, consisting of partially enclosed porches with shed roofs. These additions housed indoor bathrooms after the company built a modern sewage system for its villages.

Type A-1: constructed ca. 1877 (46,48,50,52-55, 57-58, 60-62, 64 Senn St.; 13 total)

Built in a "L" plan, gable and wing style, these dwellings were built probably during the ca. 1877 period. It is unknown whether the wings were built at the same time as the front gable portions, but according to Sanborn Map evidence, all the Type A-1 properties possessed wings on their south elevations by 1920. The front gable portion of Type A-1 is identical to Type A, with the exception of the dwellings at 55, 57, 60 Senn St. which have had their shed roof porches replaced with hipped roof porches. The wings are one room deep, and have gable ends with partial cornice returns. A full facade porch with shed roof is attached on the street facade of the wing. This facade possesses a A/B/A pattern of openings, with A= a sash window and B= a single door entry. A brick, interior end chimney are also present.

Type B: constructed ca. 1877 (65 Senn St. and 102 Lott St.; 2 total)

These dwellings were built in a rectangular, side gable plan in the hall and parlor style. The gables have partial cornice returns, and a brick ridge chimney was positioned slightly off center. A 1/2 central porch with shed roof is attached to the street facade, with four supporting squared posts. The street facade also has a A/A/B/A/A opening pattern, with A= a 9/9 sash window and B= a single door entry. 65 Senn St. also has a shed roof porch attached to the rear facade, and 102 Lott St. has a rear addition.

Type C: constructed ca. 1877 (26,36,38 Aiken Highway; 3 total)

Possibly designed as multiple family housing, these houses were built in a rectangular, side gable plan with partial cornice returns. A 3/4 central porch with shed roof is attached to the street facade, supported by six squared posts, with a balustrade in either a vertical post or "X" pattern. The street facade possesses a A/B/A/B/A opening pattern, with A= a sash window and B= a single door entry, with the property at 26 Aiken Highway having one B type opening filled. The porch probably contained two sets of stairs, one leading to each entry, which only 38 Aiken Highway still retains. Originally, exterior brick chimneys were probably positioned on the gable sides, although 38 Aiken Highway possesses a single, central ridge chimney.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 13

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Type D: constructed ca. 1877 (25,27-35,37,39 Aiken Highway; 84,86,88,90-92 Green St.; 97-101, 104-107 Lott St.; 26 total) Type D style dwellings constitute the largest group of house types at Vaucluse. Built in a rectangular plan, side gable hall and parlor style, these dwellings possess a 3/4 central porch with shed roof attached to the street facade. The porch is supported by four squared columns and the balustrade has an "X" pattern. The street facade also has a A/B/A opening pattern, with A=9/9 sash window and B= a single door entry. A single exterior brick chimney is attached to one gable end. Additions were made to most Type D houses by the company either prior to 1920 or 1945. Additions were mainly either a 3/4 front gable wing attached to the rear facade with ridge chimney and full facade shed porch attached to the wing, or a side gable addition which almost duplicates the main structure in style and size attached to the rear facade, creating a parallel side gable appearance.

Type E: constructed ca. 1877 (19-21, 23-24 Aiken Highway; 5 total)
These dwellings served Vaucluse as houses for the mill's superintendent and room overseers. They are also one of the only dwelling types with strong architectural style present. Constructed in the Neo-Classical style, they were built in a massed rectangular plan with 1 1/2 stories. The gable ends possess partial cornice returns. The street facade has a A/A/B/A/A opening pattern, with A=6/6 sash windows, and B= a single door entry with a rectangular surround of transom and side lights. Two brick ridge chimneys are present, near either gable end. A massive 3/4 central pediment porch is present on the street facade, supported by four squared, decorative columns with a balustrade of turned vertical posts. The superintendent's house (20 Aiken Highway) was destroyed by fire sometime prior to 1945, leaving only the pediment porch. The current dwelling was rebuilt prior to 1945, incorporating the surviving ca. 1877 pediment porch. It is slightly wider than the other Type E structures. It also has an additional ridge chimney, cylindrical instead of squared columns, and the door surround lacks side lights.

Type F: constructed ca. 1881 (89 Green St. and 106 Lott St.; 2 total)
These two dwellings are similar to Type D dwellings. They are built in rectangular plan, side gable style, slightly wider than the Type D. However, the roof lacks a cornice and has a more pronounced eaves overhang. The porch is a 3/4 central with shed roof supported by four squared posts, but is attached above the eaves on the street facade and the balustrade has vertical posts instead of the "X" pattern. The A/B/A pattern also differs, with B= a single door entry positioned off center on the street facade. The chimney is a brick ridge style centrally placed.

Type G: constructed ca. 1881 (75-78, 80 Green St.; 5 total)
These types were built in a L plan, with gable ends. Like Type F, the roof line lacks a cornice and has a more pronounced eaves overhang. Two brick chimneys are usually present, one being an exterior style attached to a gabled end and the second a covered ridge chimney positioned near the rear of the wing. It is uncertain how the porch originally appeared. 75, 78, and 80 Green St. possess 3/4 central porches with shed roofs attached to the street facade supported by four posts with balustrade of either vertical posts or "X" pattern. 75 and 77 Green St. possess shed roof porches over the entry only. The A/B/A opening pattern on the street facade varies slightly as well between properties, with A= either a 6/6 or 9/9 sash window and B=a single door entry. The presence of wood board and batten exterior walls indicates all Type G

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 14

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

dwellings may have possessed this exterior treatment when built, but are currently covered with synthetic weatherboard.

Type H: constructed 1942 (1-2, 16-17, 66 Senn St.; 22 Aiken Highway; 83,85,87 Green St.; 103, 105 Lott St.; 11 total) Built in a square plan, bungalow style, these dwellings possess a low pitched side gable roof with partial returns. An full facade, extended roof porch is present along the street facade, supported by four squared posts with an "X" pattern balustrade. The street facade has a B/AA opening pattern, with B= a single door entry located off center, and AA= a paired set of 6/6 sash windows. A brick, interior chimney is located on the rear roof slope.

Type I: constructed 1946 (49, 51 Senn St.; 2 total) These dwellings were built in a square plan, bungalow style, with a low pitched, gable on hip roof, with vents in the gable ends. The inset corner porch is screened and has brick steps. The street facade has a AA/C/B/C opening pattern, with AA=a paired set of 6/6 sash windows, B=a single door entry on the inset porch, and C=a single 6/6 sash window on the inset porch. An interior covered brick chimney is located on the rear slope of the hipped roof. The asbestos siding, slate roof, and filled brick piers which elevate the dwellings are original. A small hipped roof wing is located off center on the north elevation, and is also original to the dwellings.

Unique Dwelling Types

Type 1: ca. 1877 (70 Walton St.)

Built in a rear facing U plan, cross gable style, this property probably served as a duplex. The roof lacks cornices and has overhanging eaves, and has a central ridge chimney on the main roof, with two covered exterior chimneys attached to the rear gables. The street facade has a 3/4 central porch with shed roof supported by six squared posts with no balustrade present. The facade has a A/B/B/A opening pattern, with A=1/1 sash window and B= a single door entry.

Type 2: ca. 1877 (18 Aiken Highway)

Very similar to Type D, but with a few variations. The dwelling appears slightly wider than Type D dwellings, and the gable end eaves overhang slightly. The 3/4 shed roof porch is attached at the eaves, not below the cornice as with Type D. Also, the windows are less elongated than Type D, with an 8/8 sash window instead of 9/9.

Type 3: ca. 1881 (74 Green St.)

Similar to Type G dwellings, 74 Green St. is built in an L-plan, with gable ends. Like Type G, it lacks cornices and has overhanging eaves. The street facade is wider however, and the 3/4 central porch has an extended roof supported by six squared posts with an "X" pattern balustrade. The A/B/A opening pattern on the street facade is identical to type G, but spaced farther apart. Instead of an exterior chimney, it has an interior chimney on the rear slope of the roof.

Type 4: pre-1920 (43 Senn St.)

This dwelling may have served as an overseer's house, judging from its elaborate plan. However, its use and origins are uncertain. It is constructed in an irregular plan, with cross gabled roof. The street facade consists of a L plan with a gable end possessing three sash windows arranged in a bay pattern and an inset porch with shed roof wrapping around the remainder of the street facade and half the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 15

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

north elevation. The porch is supported by wood posts and has a partial balustrade in an "X" pattern. The street entry has side lights and all facades possess rectangular sash windows spaced at irregular intervals. The building is all the more unique in that it is set at some distance from the highway.

Type 5: pre-1920 (45 Senn St.)

Like its neighbors at 43 and 47 Senn St., this dwelling has uncertain origins. It was built on a rear facing U plan (almost square), and has a hipped roof with a gable vent dormer facing street ward. An almost full facade porch with shed roof is present on the street facade, supported by six posts with a vertical post balustrade. The street facade has a AA/B/AA opening pattern, with AA=a paired set of 6/6 sash windows and B=single door entry with side lights. A single interior slope chimney is also present.

Type 6: pre-1920 (47 Senn St.)

This dwelling is probably the most unique in appearance among all the Vaucluse dwelling houses. Built in an irregular rectangular plan, the building has a combination pyramidal and hipped roof with varying pitch. The street facade has a 3/4 central porch with shed roof, and a A/B/A/A/B/A opening pattern, with A=6/6 sash window and B=a single door entry. The porch is supported by six square posts with a lattice balustrade. A single set of wood porch steps with railing is located off center. The wide eaves give the structure a Prairie style appearance. It was first believed this may have been the Vaucluse RR depot moved to its current location. However, residents claim the depot burned down, leaving the origins of this structure a mystery. It seems likely it served as a multiple family dwelling due to the presence of two single door entries.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 16

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Statement of Significance

The textile mill village at Vaucluse, in Aiken County, South Carolina, is an excellent representative example of a southern textile mill village. It is the oldest mill village in the state, with textile production commencing there around 1830. Contextually, it relates to the birth, rise, and decline of the textile industry in South Carolina. In addition, Vaucluse represents the social changes brought about by the spread of mill villages in the state, with the development of the mill worker population created by the expansion of the textile industry. Vaucluse was also the site of William Gregg's first foray into textile production, with many historians considering Gregg to be the father of the textile industry in the South. The 1877 mill building was also one of the earliest efforts of architect Amos Lockwood, whose subsequent firm, Lockwood and Greene, would go on to design 50 textile manufacturing facilities in South Carolina. Lockwood's factory design at Vaucluse was of the earliest examples of the New England prototype mill to be built in South Carolina. The village also contains some of the earliest examples of mill worker housing in the state. The continued geographic isolation of Vaucluse has kept the number of modern intrusions to a minimum, and today, the village still retains much of the historic integrity reflecting its over 150-year involvement with textile manufacturing in South Carolina.

Historical background and significance

The textile industry in the Palmetto State possessed colonial roots, with reports of activity dating as early as 1776. The industry grew slowly by fits and starts between 1808 and 1830, with numerous small spinning and weaving operations dotting the midlands and piedmont of the state. By 1840, a few sizable mills, such as Vaucluse in Edgefield District and the Saluda Factory near Columbia, were well established and producing substantial amounts of yarn and cloth. However, it was William Gregg and his enormous textile mill at Graniteville which placed South Carolina's textile industry on the map. His 10,000-spindle, 300-loom granite behemoth dwarfed other mills in the state, and was the largest ante-bellum textile factory in the South. By 1860, South Carolina was home to 18 textile factories, employing a labor force of 891. Though small by New England standards, the industry had gained a small, but solid foothold in the Palmetto State.¹

Textile production began at Vaucluse in 1828. That year, Christian Breithaupt, a planter residing in Edgefield District, South Carolina, constructed a four-story factory building in the isolated location, powered by water from Horse Creek. The small textile mill was the first constructed in the Horse Creek Valley, which would become home to six large textile operations by the early twentieth century. Breithaupt's mill was minuscule by later standards, a mere 65'x37' and four stories in height, the first of which was of granite. Machinery consisted of 588 spindles, 10 carding machines, and 7 looms, and concentrated on the production of cotton bagging and other course fabrics. A small village was also built to house workers. In 1831, Breithaupt and his partners sold their Vaucluse factory to a pair of Massachusetts investors for \$15,000. Shortly thereafter, a former employee, probably a slave, burned the factory to the ground. Unable to rebuild

¹Ernest McPherson Lander, Jr., The Textile Industry in Ante-bellum South Carolina (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1969), 1-80, passim; August Kohn, The Cotton Mills of South Carolina (Columbia: SC Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration, 1907), 6-20.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 17

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

the mill themselves, the Massachusetts owners sold the mill and its surrounding property back to Breithaupt in 1833 for \$7,000.²

Breithaupt quickly went to work on a bigger, better textile mill. With the substantial financial support of prominent backers, Breithaupt sought and received a charter of incorporation, in December 1833, from the South Carolina General Assembly. The charter created the Vaucluse Manufacturing Company with capital not to exceed \$100,000. A new, more substantial mill was completed in Vaucluse by 1833, consisting of a four story building with a granite foundation and walls, measuring 40'x80', with a separate one-story, 20'x40' building at the lower end. A 12'x13' staircase was situated on one end, and an attic of wood with granite gables served as a fifth story. The interior walls were plastered, with the attic walls covered with dressed boards. Each floor had 10.5' between them, with only 8.5' between the attic and the factory roof. A picker house and water wheel were attached to the main building. Machinery was expanded to 1800 spindles and 35 looms, and employed around 50 people, 30 whites and 20 blacks, most likely slaves.³

The isolation and unhealthy nature of the locale caused some difficulties in hiring enough labor to complete the new mill. The foreman at Vaucluse confided to a friend that they were situated "entirely in the midst of woods 16 miles from any Town." The unhealthy climate of the region, especially in the summer months, compelled mill managers to increase their initial wage offers in order to attract sufficient labor. The Vaucluse mill soon ran into financial difficulties as well. Breithaupt died in 1835, and the remaining company directors soon proved unwilling or unable to provide efficient management to the enterprise. Management of the mill fell into complete disarray, and by 1837, the company was \$6,000 in debt.⁴

It was at this time that Vaucluse directors turned operations over to William Gregg, a successful jeweler from Charleston. Gregg's business made him sufficiently wealthy to retire while still in his mid-thirties. He developed an interest in the textile business and became a stockholder in the Vaucluse Manufacturing Company. The decision of company directors to place Gregg in charge of the operation was a wise one, for Gregg's ample business acumen soon put the Vaucluse mill on the road back to profitability. Within months of Gregg's appointment, the factory was turning out 8,000 yards of coarse cloth per week, its debts were paid, and the company showed a \$5,000 profit as well. However, stockholders decided to rid themselves of the unpredictable investment, and, in December 1837, Vaucluse came into the possession of John Bauskett, a state senator, planter, and lawyer from Edgefield District.⁵

²Lander, Textile Industry, 35-36; Charleston, SC, Courier, 22 November 1830.

³Lander, Textile Industry, 36; "Historical Notes: Cotton Manufacturing in South Carolina," South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, 8 (October, 1907): 220-221; David Duncan Wallace, "A Hundred Years of William Gregg and Graniteville," 8-11, unpublished ms on microfilm, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia (hereafter cited as SCL); "Offer of James Jones for Insurance on the Vaucluse Factory" [1856], Diagram Book, Athanaeum Fire Insurance Company, SCL.

⁴John Munro to James Spears, 5 May 1834, SCL; Lander, Textile Industry, 36-37.

⁵Lander, Textile Industry, 37-38; Broadus Mitchell, William Gregg: Factory Master of the Old South, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1928; reprint, New York: Octagon Books, Inc., 1966), 11-14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 18

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Bauskett took over day-to-day management of the Vaucluse mill, and under his guidance, the factory returned a steady stream of profits. Production ran at 1100 yards of cloth and 150 pounds of yarn per day. The number of spindles was upped to 2000, and he employed 70 mill hands, now almost all white. Bauskett wrote his sister that the Vaucluse factory "is doing well" and that its income was greater than that yielded by his plantation. In fact, the factory was proceeding almost too well. Labor needs compelled Bauskett to take five or six slaves from his plantation and employ them at Vaucluse, and he confided to his father that the mill kept him so busy that he neglected his law practice and feared it would cost him his seat in the state senate. By 1841, the pressures placed on Bauskett forced him to sell a half interest in the factory to James Jones, with the stipulation that Jones reside in Vaucluse and oversee its operations. Bauskett sold his remaining interest to William Gregg in 1843, and, together, Jones and Gregg would oversee operations for the next several years.⁶

The cycle of expansion, modernization, and reorganization at Vaucluse continued through the 1840s and 1850s. Gregg sold his interest in the factory to Jones in 1846, preferring to concentrate his efforts on his huge new textile factory at Graniteville, just three miles downstream from Vaucluse on Horse Creek. Jones ran the company alone for almost 10 years, but met with fluctuating levels of success. When placed in charge of construction of the new state house in Columbia, Jones sold his share to William Gregg for \$16,500. By 1856, in addition to his substantial holdings and commitment to his Graniteville Manufacturing Company, Gregg was sole owner of the Vaucluse factory as well. He quickly placed his son, James, to oversee the Vaucluse operation.⁷

For the next three years, the Vaucluse mill sat idle, as William and James Gregg set about installing another round of new equipment. Spinning operations recommenced in June 1859. The main building was equipped with a repair shop, carding engines, drawing frames, speeders, 2892 spindles, and machines for bundling and baling yarns. Weaving operations were discontinued, but restarted in early 1861. Following the elder Gregg's example at Graniteville, James Gregg instituted a strict regimen for the operatives at Vaucluse. About 50 hands were employed, "all free white." The mill operated 12 hours per day, with operatives working by the light of oil lamps during winter months. No "spirituous liquors" of any kind were permitted to be sold within the village. Advertisements for factory hands sought "Families who can bring a good moral recommendation," and in return the Vaucluse mill promised "steady employment, good wages, and a comfortable home." No child under the age of twelve would be employed, and all children in the village, ages six through twelve, were required to attend school.⁸

⁶John Bauskett to [Mrs. Ann Wadlington], 25 September 1838, John Bauskett to Thomas Bauskett, 19 April, 1839, and 7 February 1841, microfiche no. 28-368-d, David Duncan Wallace Papers, SCL; Lander, Textile Industry, 38, 74.

⁷Ibid., 74-75; James Jones to William Gregg, 10 July 1856; Acc #98, Gregg/Graniteville Collection, University of South Carolina, Aiken.

⁸"Offer of Wm Gregg, for Insurance of the Vaucluse Factory [1859]," Diagram Book, Athanaeum Fire Insurance Company, SCL; James J. Gregg & Co. to James H. Taylor, 29 April 1861, Diagram Book, Athanaeum Fire Insurance Company, SCL; Letter from J.J. Gregg & Co., 302, Letterbook, Graniteville Manufacturing Company, SCL.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 19

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

The textile industry remained stagnant in South Carolina through the Civil War and Reconstruction years. However, the 1880s saw the textile industry explode across the state and the South. Statistics demonstrate the dramatic growth. In 1880, South Carolina was home to 18 textile mills, operating over 95,000 spindles, and employing 2612 persons. By 1900, the number of mills grew to 115 and the number of spindles grew twenty-fold to 1.9 million. The total number of spindles surpassed 4 million by 1910, 5 million by 1921, and 5.7 million by 1930. In 1920, the state became the third leading textile producing state in the country. By 1925, South Carolina led the nation.⁹

Aside from the economic benefits the burgeoning industry brought, the textile industry also provided a long needed psychological boost to the South in the post-bellum years. As each new mill appeared, funded with southern capital, managed by southern businessmen, equipped with the most up to date equipment, and yielding often enormous profits, southern communities felt pride in their new-found ability to hold their own against Northern and European competition. Newspapers, politicians, and local boosters all celebrated the new industrial strength of the South. The drive to develop the textile industry became more than an economic impulse, but rather a spearhead in the crusade to create a New South.¹⁰

Vaucluse survived the Civil War intact. However, the immediate post-bellum years did not bode well for Vaucluse. A fire destroyed the mill on January 3, 1867. Cloudy circumstances surrounded the mill's destruction, with many evidently feeling that its owner, James Gregg, deliberately set the fire in order to collect insurance money. Investigations, however, turned up only circumstantial evidence. Insurance covered all of the \$89,500 loss, but the Vaucluse mill remained idle for the next ten years.¹¹

While Vaucluse sat inactive, the nearby Graniteville Manufacturing Company entered a postwar boom. Soon, company president H.H. Hickman began urging his stockholders to expand their operations and erect a new cotton mill. Hickman purchased the Vaucluse property in 1876, but company officials were slow to make use of the new asset. In his report to company stockholders in April 1877, Hickman stated the potentially valuable Vaucluse property, while left unattended, would be a continued tax on the Graniteville Company's resources. The property needed to made a source of income, either by erecting a new factory on the site or selling it to the highest bidder. Hickman strongly preferred the former option, arguing "Labor is abundant and cheap; building materials are cheap; and machinery may be purchased at very low prices, and on the most easy terms." Technological advances in textile machinery would allow them to compete with other new mills, and Hickman felt it imperative that the company make use of new technology to "keep apace with the times." The stockholders were persuaded by Hickman's argument, and authorized the

⁹South Carolina Department of Agriculture, The Cotton Mills of South Carolina: Their Names, Locations, Capacity, and History, (Charleston: News and Courier Book Press, 1880), 3; Kohn, Cotton Mills of South Carolina, 91; William Plumer Jacobs, Facts and Figures About the Cotton Mills of South Carolina (Jacobs Press, 1938), 28-30; David L. Carlton, Mill and Town in South Carolina: 1880-1920 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982), 7-8. Walter B. Edgar, South Carolina in the Modern Age (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1992), 50-51.

¹⁰Edward L. Ayers, The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), 111-113; C. Vann Woodward, Origins of the New South: 1877-1913 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951; reprint, 1971), 131-134.

¹¹Documents relating to the burning of the Vaucluse Mills, Acc. #371, Gregg/Graniteville Collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 20 Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

directors "to improve the mill property at Vaucluse, provided not more than one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars be expended, and that the cost per spindle shall not exceed twenty-five dollars." Construction commenced soon thereafter.¹²

Hickman engaged the services of Amos Lockwood to oversee the construction project. Lockwood was an established mill engineer from New England, whose work was beginning to gain favorable attention among textile manufacturers in South Carolina. By 1911, the firm of Lockwood Greene would erect almost 50 textile manufacturing buildings in the state. The mill at Vaucluse was Lockwood's second South Carolina mill project, and marked one of the earliest examples of the New England prototype textile mill in the state. Previous factories at Vaucluse possessed sloped-gable roofs, as did many early New England mills. However, insurance companies soon deemed these to be a fire hazard, as flammable lint from spinning and weaving operations tended to collect in inaccessible spaces under the peak of the roof. By the 1860s, new mills in New England began to be constructed with flat roofs, with an enclosed tower attached to one of the building's facades to house stairs and an elevator, as well as a water tower used to supply sprinkler systems.¹³

The new Vaucluse mill reflected these building innovations. The building was situated at a right angle to the old one, with a portion resting upon the 1832 foundation. Measuring 236'x74', it was comprised of three stories, built of brick and granite, a picker building, weave shed, and a new power plant. A 343' dam was erected across Horse Creek to provide water, and a 6.5' iron pipe conveyed the water to a turbine wheel generating 300 horsepower to operate the machinery. A low pitched, almost flat, roof covered the building, and an attached tower of brick and granite was attached to center of the south facade. The new mill housed 10,000 spindles and 300 looms, capable of a producing 16,500 yards of cloth daily. In a single two week period ending on January 10, 1880, the Vaucluse mill consumed 70,738 pounds of cotton and produced 197,000 yards of cloth.¹⁴

One of the most visible features of the cotton mill campaign was the appearance of hundreds of "mill villages" across the southern piedmont. The mill village originated as a practical means of securing an adequate labor force. Given the isolated locations of most early mills, situated along the numerous streams providing power for machinery, managers needed to provide housing and services in order to attract workers. The mill setting later included company-built and -operated churches, schools, recreation facilities and stores. By the turn of the century, 92 per cent of all southern textile workers lived in mill villages. The advent of steam and electric power helped spread mills across a wider area, as they no longer remained dependent on a steady water source for their power. However, the mill villages persisted. Operatives came to expect the material benefits of the villages as part of their just return for their labor. Owners came to acknowledge the mill village as a means to assure a steady source of labor, as

¹²"Report of the President of the Graniteville Manufacturing Company at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, April 19, 1877 and April 18, 1878," Acc. #68, Gregg/Graniteville Collection.

¹³John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary, (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992), 107-108; Samuel Lincoln, Lockwood Greene: The History of an Engineering Business, 1832-1958, (Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press, 1960), 89-97, 178-179.

¹⁴Augusta, GA, Chronicle, 19 April 1878; Lincoln, Lockwood Greene, 97; "Report of the President of the Graniteville Manufacturing Company at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, April 24, 1879," 7-8, Acc. #68, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Cotton Mills of South Carolina, 4-5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 21

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

well as aiding in their efforts to control their labor force. A company owned village offered mill managers the chance to "stamp their personality" on the operative community. As historian Edward Ayers put it: "Born of necessity, the mill villages quickly became a resilient tradition."¹⁵

The mill village took many forms. Some, such as Vaucluse, were remote, far removed from neighboring towns, usually situated on a creek or stream. Mill "towns" were larger, often consisting of a central town surrounding by a number of mill complexes. By the turn of the century, no longer dependent on water power, mills began to locate on the fringes of larger cities, creating a kind of mill suburb to make use of the economic, transportation, and labor advantages cities possessed. Layouts varied from winding paths to strictly planned grids of streets and blocks. Housing consisted mainly of 3 or 4 room frame houses, either single family homes or duplexes. Occasionally boarding houses were constructed to shelter single workers. Large, and often quite ornate homes were constructed closest to the mill to house supervisors and overseers. Churches, schools, and at least one general store, either company-owned or -leased, also inhabited mill villages. Companies also provided a number of recreational facilities, ranging from baseball diamonds, parks, and swimming pavilions to libraries, lodge halls, and gymnasiums.¹⁶

An expanded mill village grew up around the new mill at Vaucluse. Sixty-four new houses were built and twelve older houses were repaired. The architectural style of these buildings borrowed heavily from traditional southern vernacular styles. Worker housing consisted of 3- and 4-room front gabled shotgun and side gabled hall-and-parlor structures, and totaled 244 rooms for the entire village. Fencing was placed around each house. The company expended \$16,158,07 on the new and updated worker housing, which translated to about \$212 per house. The company also built five 8-9 room Greek revival houses for the mill superintendent and room overseers, placing them on a small rise just outside the entrance to the main building. The location of the housing within Vaucluse demonstrated the village's social hierarchy. The large, ornate superintendent and overseer housing sat nearest to the mill: their close proximity providing a spatial manifestation of the importance of their tenants to the company. Worker housing occupied lots further from the mill. Placed in parallel rows, the tenant houses formed rough spokes which radiated from the mill complex at the center of Vaucluse. The company claimed it leased housing to its employees at half its actual rental value. Operative housing rented for \$3 per month, and overseer houses went for \$6 per month.¹⁷

Aside from its economic impact on South Carolina, textile mills also sparked massive social changes during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Prior to coming to the mills, operatives worked the land. But as rural opportunities declined, the lure of the

¹⁵Ayers, Promise of the New South, 114-115; Marjorie A. Potwin, Cotton Mill People of the Piedmont: A Study in Social Change (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1927), 30-32, 38-39.

¹⁶Jennings J. Rhyne, Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers and Their Villages (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1930), 20-64; Kohn, Cotton Mills of South Carolina, 124-177.

¹⁷"Report of the President, April 24, 1879," Acc. #68, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991), 80-82, 94-95; Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, et al, Like a Family: The Making of the Southern Cotton Mill World (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1987), 114-116; SC Dept. of Agr., Cotton Mills of South Carolina, 5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 22

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

mills increased, as they came to be seen as a new opportunity and alternative to the farm. By 1920, one South Carolinian in six resided in a textile village. Entire families left the land for the mills and the possibilities many believed existed there. These "mill people" constituted South Carolina's first large industrial population, and became the focus of efforts by mill managers and urban reformers to "uplift" the poor, uneducated, and less-than-moral portions of the state's population. However, the new "cracker proletariat" of the mill villages brought with them cultural values which stood in direct contrast with those of the middle class. Instilled with a deep tradition of independence and distaste for authority of any kind, mill workers resisted, often times violently, the control and reform impulse of the companies and reformers.¹⁸

President Hickman proudly trumpeted the positive influence mill work at Vaucluse had on the families it attracted from the surrounding countryside. Operative housing contained attached gardens which workers could cultivate during off hours. They were permitted to raise chickens and hogs, as well as cut wood from the surrounding company-owned lands without charge. Hickman reported their "mental and physical condition has been greatly improved." Operatives were, as a rule, "a thrifty, well-behaved set," and Hickman declared that living in the mill village was so inexpensive that operatives were able to save a great deal of money. Hickman also touted the indigenous origins of his operatives, who, as such, remained isolated from the influence of "foreign help," the source of so much labor unrest in the North.¹⁹

Hickman sought to further instill morality into his workers by encouraging the development of churches in Vaucluse. The Baptists first appeared in Vaucluse in 1840, and held services in a small church which was destroyed by fire in 1875. The following year they built a new, board-and-batten church across from the factory, on the west side of Horse Creek. A small Methodist congregation held meetings there as well beginning in 1878. Later, the Graniteville Company permitted the Methodists to hold worship services in an unoccupied company storehouse. By 1886, the local Methodist congregation began to plan a new church building. President Hickman donated a lot in Vaucluse, giving \$100 as well. The new Methodist church was later completed with private subscriptions. Local church officials felt the appearance of religious institutions was long overdue, with a Methodist official recalling, "Vaucluse was a hard place then." The Augusta Chronicle hailed the impact of an 1886 Methodist revival meeting, declaring "Vaucluse is no longer the wickedest place in South Carolina." Graniteville officials supported local churches in Vaucluse with periodic monetary donations, which also maintained a degree of company influence in what transpired there.²⁰

The population of the mill villages became the focus for much of the social discourse of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in South Carolina. Reformers attacked the mill owners for their use of child labor and the abysmal conditions of many mill villages. Town reformers criticized mill workers for their backward ways and resistance to have their children educated, often calling them such derogatory names as "lint head"

¹⁸Carlton, Mill and Town, 1-13; Ayers, Promise of the New South, 114-117; Hall, et al, Like A Family, 3-42.

¹⁹"Report of the President, April 24, 1879," 5-6.

²⁰"Vaucluse Mill Village: Site History," Horse Creek Textile Survey, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Columbia (hereafter cited as SCHPO); Church Tidings July, 1894, Acc. #531, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; "President's Report to the Stockholders of the Graniteville Manufacturing Company, April 21, 1887, ACC. #68, Gregg/Graniteville Collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 23

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

or "bobbin dodger". Mill owners exhorted the moral, as well as economic, benefits mill work and mill village life held out operatives. Despite these claims, most mill workers did not receive the monetary or material returns which owners claimed. Labor unrest arose periodically throughout the era, usually sparked by wage cuts, but which also vented much of the workers' frustration and resentment of company paternalism and meddling reformers. However, the isolation of much of the mill population from each other, and the overwhelming position of economic and political strength of mill owners thwarted attempts by mill workers at long term organization.²¹

Despite the effort of religious reformers and the pronouncements of Hickman and company officials, the mill workers of the textile factories along Horse Creek, including Vaucluse, developed a rather unsavory reputation. James Gregg, son of William Gregg, was shot and killed by a disgruntled Graniteville employee in 1876. A year earlier, in October and November, 1875, Graniteville Company operatives initiated one of the first major strikes among southern textile factories. A wage cut touched off a strike which lasted for a month. One mill superintendent was shot and wounded, while another had his house fired upon. The company stood firm, however, and the wage cut remained. Officials lauded the bravery of its superintendents and overseers, while denouncing "certain disaffected persons" believed responsible for the troubles.²²

More labor problems broke out in 1886. Vaucluse weavers petitioned company directors for an increase in wages, apparently orchestrated by a room overseer, who also served as the head of a local order of the Knights of Labor. Company officials rejected the petition's demands, and replaced their leader with a more trustworthy overseer from the Graniteville mill. Feelings ran high for a while among the operatives, with one woman allegedly calling the new man "that red headed son-of-a-bitch" and threatening his life. The new overseer carried a gun with him for the next three weeks until tempers cooled. The Knights organization briefly counted almost half the mill hands at Vaucluse in its membership. But the labor union failed to influence the policies of the Graniteville Company directors, and soon dissolved.²³

Aside from constant efforts to maintain a stable and orderly workforce, President Hickman's other main concern was the constant need to update and modernize his mills and their machinery. Sometimes, the concerns overlapped. At the 1881 stockholders meeting, he requested permission to install steam engines at Graniteville and Vaucluse. Not only would this help insure a steady power supply when water levels went too low to power turbines, but it would also prevent the negative influence such stoppages had on workers. "Idleness is demoralizing, disorganizing in its influence," Hickman declared, "and is calculated to make them discontented, and to incline the best and most industrious of them to seek more constant employment elsewhere."²⁴

²¹Edgar, South Carolina in the Modern Age, 31; Carlton, Mill and Town, passim; Dowd, et al, Like a Family, passim; Ayers, Promise of the New South, 116-117.

²²Tom E. Terrill, "Murder in Graniteville," in Orville Vernon Burton and Robert C. McMath, Jr., eds, Toward a New South? Studies in Post-Civil War Southern Communities, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982), 193-215; Wallace, "A Hundred Years of Gregg and Graniteville," 209-211.

²³Wallace, "A Hundred Years of Gregg and Graniteville," 223-224.

²⁴"President's Report to the Stockholders of the Graniteville Manufacturing Co." [1882], Acc. #68, Gregg/Graniteville Collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 24

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

The unpredictability of water power from Horse Creek was long a concern of Vaucluse officials. Floods washed out portions of canals and dams, while droughts and competition from other mills periodically left water levels too low to allow operations. By 1885, the company connected their main mill pond on Horse Creek with another pond on the east edge of Vaucluse, a 42-acre body of water created by a railroad embankment across Good Springs. A 4.5' wide conduit, 450' long, was laid between the ponds, thus ensuring an extra source of water for the Horse Creek pond to operate the Vaucluse turbines.²⁵

General stores were also present in Vaucluse. Four such establishments operated in 1889, although two were estimated to be worth less than \$500 each. Of the two larger stores, the establishment of Peter Parker soon dominated the commercial activities in the village. Probably operating under a lease from the company, Parker's business thrived to the point that he later opened a dry goods store and general store in Graniteville as well. Unlike a number of other textile mills, the Graniteville Company paid its operatives in cash.²⁶

Modernization efforts continued at Vaucluse throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. As competition in the textile industry increased, Hickman continually warned of the need to "keep abreast or we will drop out of the race." More new equipment, \$9,000 worth, was installed at Vaucluse in 1895, and another \$54,000 worth by 1907. At the 1913 stockholders meeting, the new company president, Tracy I. Hickman, requested permission to double the capacity of the Vaucluse mill. Such an expansion would not only increase output and reduce costs, but Hickman argued it would also make Vaucluse operatives happier, "because it would give them many more people for their churches and schools, and we could do more for their pleasure generally than we can afford to do now in such a comparatively small community."²⁷

The Graniteville Company went through a rapid bust/boom cycle in the mid 1910s. In 1915, financial difficulties forced the company into receivership. However, the production boom spurred by the First World War quickly reversed the situation. Within 17 months, the Graniteville Company was out of receivership, and for the next few years ran flush with wartime profits. Workers also sought a share of the war prosperity. The United Textile Workers, a union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, led the second attempt in the effort to organize the mill workers of Horse Creek valley. In 1918, the union succeeded in gaining a 10 per cent wage increase for Graniteville Company employees. Buoyed by their achievement, they struck again the following year, seeking another wage increase, as well as an 8-hour workday. This time, however, company officials fought back. The mills were closed, and a three-week lockout soon broke the

²⁵United States Department of the Interior, "Southern Atlantic Water-Shed," in Reports of the Water Power of the United States, part I (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1885), 792-793, typed extract Acc. #309, Gregg/Graniteville Collection.

²⁶Mercantile Association of the Carolinas, Reference Book of the Mercantile Association of the Carolinas for the States of North and South Carolina (Wilmington, NC: Jackson & Bell, 1889, 1891), 1889, 12; 1891, 12; The Mercantile Agency, Reference Book (and Key) with a List of Banks and Bankers, State Collection Laws, Maps, Etc., Etc. (New York: R.G. Dun and Company, 1904), 102.; William E. Woodward, The Way Our People Lived (New York: Washington Square Press, 1944), 306-309.

²⁷Reports of the President to the Stockholders of the Graniteville Manufacturing Company" 1881, 1887, 1895, 1896, 1907, 1913, Acc. #68, Gregg/Graniteville Collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 25

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

fledgling union. By the end of 1920, Graniteville President Jacob Phinizy reported that the labor troubles were over.²⁸

Despite the constant modernization efforts concerning the mill, the surrounding village of Vaucluse remained relatively stable, strengthening the sense of community among its residents. A 1915 company census counted 393 people residing in 77 houses at Vaucluse. In the following years, the population fluctuated between around 400 and 500. By the early 1920s, a small, but established, commercial center existed at Vaucluse, in three ca. 1904 buildings located just north of the mill compound. A large, one story general store and post office building occupied a building adjacent to the Horse Creek mill pond. Next to the store, a similar style building served as a motion picture house, a new form of entertainment well patronized by local mill hands. The third building, a tiny barber shop served the grooming needs of village inhabitants, and later served as a United States Post Office. Also by this time, the Southern Railroad ran a line through Vaucluse, and a small depot in the center of the village helped lessen its physical isolation from the outside world. The company also operated a recreation area with a bath house on Good Springs Pond. Unfortunately, a flood in 1929 destroyed the Good Springs dam, which ruined the bath house, and damaged the railroad track and depot, as well as the mill itself. Since the Vaucluse mill was now powered with electricity, the security of the Good Springs pond for water power was no longer needed, and the dam was never rebuilt.²⁹

An elementary school was built in Vaucluse sometime before 1920, adjacent to the Methodist Church. It was replaced by a brick structure ca. 1943, constructed just south of the supervisor's house. The original school building briefly served as a boarding house for employees, until it burned in October, 1945. Older students in Vaucluse were served by the high school building in Graniteville, named after former company president Leavelle McCampbell. Textile vocational classes were also taught at night, and were available for those employees wishing to acquire new skills to apply in the mills.³⁰

The 1920s and 1930s were lean years for the Graniteville Company and its operatives. Despite an expanded capacity, company mills suffered from a nationwide lull in the textile industry. The post World War I depression resulted in a 20 per cent wage reduction on Graniteville Company workers and the company shut the mills down temporarily. When they reopened in early 1921, a further 10 per cent cut in wages was instituted. Few dividends were paid from 1921-1935, and profits were small. Employees were kept on, but often only on a part time basis. Operations periodically shut down altogether during the summer, further exacerbating the economic dilemma of the operatives. Directors noted a sharp increase in advances of groceries, fuel, and cash to operatives, totaling over \$13,000 by 1924. The economic downturn continued until the late 1930s.³¹

²⁸Wallace, "A Hundred Years of Gregg and Graniteville," 245-255.

²⁹"Vaucluse Census, 1915," Acc. #482, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; Aiken, SC, Journal and Review, 29 September 1920; Sanborn Map Company, Map of Augusta, Georgia, 1904, 68, photocopy, Aiken County Historical Museum, Aiken, South Carolina; Sanborn Map Company, Map of Vaucluse, SC, 1920, SCL; Sanborn Map Company, Map of Vaucluse and Graniteville, SC, 1923, SCL; "Vaucluse Site History," 13-14.

³⁰"Vaucluse Site History", 14; Wallace, "One Hundred Years of Gregg and Graniteville," 257-258.

³¹Wallace, "One Hundred Years of Gregg and Graniteville," 255, 261, 266-269.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 26

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

By the 1930s, many of the old justifications for maintaining the mill village system were disappearing. Cars and improved roads removed spatial limitations on where mill workers could live. Increasing competition within the industry led many companies to sell off their villages in order to cut expenses. New minimum wage laws gave workers a wider choice in selecting accommodations, and the decline of child labor in the mills reduced the need for the family unit of labor which the villages served to foster.³²

However, company ownership of the Vaucluse village persisted. World War II revived Vaucluse's fortunes, as wartime demands brought a new surge in demand for textile production. By 1942, the Graniteville Company had paid off all its debts, and a growing surplus soon began to swell company coffers. Soon, the flush profits of the company spilled over to Vaucluse. Employment at Vaucluse expanded as well. Pay rates jumped from 36 cents an hour in 1938 to 62 cents an hour by 1944. The mill ran three shifts, and an increase in the number of persons employed led the company to construct new housing. Eight bungalow style houses were built in 1942, and were deemed necessary since gas rationing made it difficult for workers to commute to and from Vaucluse. A new swimming pavilion was built for employees, this one on the Horse Creek pond. Existing houses were remodeled and received a fresh coat of paint. A new office went up inside the mill grounds, as well as a "smoke house" providing employees with a place to relax, smoke, or purchase a snack during the 20-minute rest period granted by the company.³³

Company improvements to the Vaucluse village increased in the immediate postwar years. With the war over, access to rationed materials allowed the company to give Vaucluse a complete facelift. Over \$435,000 in improvements were installed in Vaucluse from 1946-1947. Another three bungalow style houses were built. All houses were rewired and modern lighting installed. Water mains were laid, and a modern drinking water system was installed, replacing the public wells which dotted the village landscape. A modern sewage treatment plant served company villages at Vaucluse, Graniteville, and Warrentonville, and indoor bathrooms were periodically added to company housing. Curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and storm drains appeared, and paved streets made their first appearance in sections of Vaucluse. In order to economize in the laying of sewer and water systems, two of Vaucluse's eastern residential sections, known as Social Circle and Rabbit Row, were moved to a new location on Aiken Highway. Sixteen houses were moved in all. A beautification program was also instituted, planting numerous shrubs and trees around town. Yard beautification contests were held among houses in the Graniteville Company villages, with winners receiving cash or company stock. By the end of 1947, Vaucluse counted 108 dwellings, totaling 470 rooms, as well as four commercial buildings.³⁴

³²Dowd, et al, Like a Family, 356-357; Brent D. Glass, The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992), 84-86.

³³Graniteville Bulletin, 1(June 1942), 5; 1(August 1942), 5; 1(September-October 1942), 5; 2(January 1943), 5; 2(February 1943), 5; 2(April 1943), 3; 2(November 1943), 12, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; Wallace, "One Hundred Years of Gregg and Graniteville," 277-282.

³⁴Graniteville Bulletin, 5(February-March, 1946), 9; 5(April 1946), 12; 6(April 1947), 7; (June 1947), 4; 6(August-September, 1947), 8; 8(February 1949), 10; 8(September, 1949), 9, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; Envelope 3A-3B, J.F. Sofge Pictures, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; "Report of the President for the Year 1947," 11, 18, Acc. #455, Gregg/Graniteville Collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 27

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

The Vaucluse mill also underwent a major expansion in the early 1950s. From 1951-1952, over 65,245 square feet of new floor space was added to the north side of the 1877 mill, almost doubling its previous size. A new warehouse filled the mill grounds by April 1955. The expansion was sorely needed, as the Graniteville Company joined the rest of the Southern textile industry in feeling the effects of new overseas competition. As President Samuel H. Swint commented to company stockholders, "it must not be forgotten that modernization is a job that never ends."³⁵

The ever present need to cut costs, highway improvements, and the increased availability of the automobile all combined to end the need for the company owned mill village. The Graniteville Company began to divest itself of its mill housing in 1941, when it began selling off the dwellings at its two Augusta, Georgia mills. The high cost of maintaining such houses in an urban area was cited as the reason. Vaucluse, however, still a relatively isolated village, remained a company town until the late 1960s. In 1968, the company sold its Vaucluse houses to operatives. Prices were fairly low, with most selling for only a few thousand dollars. Those employees currently occupying the house were given first opportunity to buy. If they declined, then the property was offered to other company employees, with those of higher position and seniority given first option. The previously all-white labor force within the mill building changed with the times as well. By 1981, minorities made up 43% of the Graniteville Company's workforce.³⁶

The textile industry remained strong in South Carolina throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s. Nationwide, however, the industry began to weaken. Over 800 mills and 250,000 textile jobs were lost nationally from 1947-1960. Economists warned of the continued adverse effect cut-throat competition, overproduction, and foreign competition would have on textile manufacturing. In 1962, a University of South Carolina economist warned that South Carolina must find new applications for textile products and called for the "modernization of productive facilities towards automation." To assure the future of the textile industry, he declared, "the pace of change will have to become more rapid." The rise in new technology and automation brought about a similar decline in textile employment in South Carolina. From a peak of slightly over 200,000 employees in 1975, the number dropped to 183,000 by 1980, and to 137,000 by 1993.³⁷

Despite the growing challenges to the southern textile industry, Vaucluse managed to survive into the 1990s. Over 30,000 spindles and 527 looms produced twill, drill, and denim fabric in its 192,000 square foot confines. Unfortunately, the Vaucluse mill eventually lost the battle to modernization, as its century old wooden floors proved unable to bear the vibration of even newer, faster machinery. Similar occurrences have

³⁵Photographic Record Showing Progress Made in the expansion and enlargement of the Vaucluse Mill, Vaucluse, South Carolina," Gregg/Graniteville Collection; Envelope 3D, J.F. Sofge Pictures, Gregg/Graniteville Collection; "Report of the President, 1947," 9, Acc. #455, Gregg/ Graniteville Collection.

³⁶Wallace, "One Hundred Years of Gregg and Graniteville," 276; "Vaucluse Site History," 15; Aiken County Titles, Office of the Register of Mesne Conveyance, Aiken, South Carolina; Graniteville Company, "1981 Annual Report," 7, SCL.

³⁷James A. Morris, "South Carolina and the National Economy," Essays in Economics 11(October 1964): 16-17; State Budget and Control Board, Economic Report: The State of South Carolina, 1980 (Columbia: South Carolina Budget and Control Board, 1980), 33, 37; Division of Research, College of Business, USC Labor Market Information Division, South Carolina Economic Indicators 28(December 1993).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 28

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

signaled the demise of the New England prototype mills' continued use in textile production. The Graniteville Company ceased textile production at its Vaucluse plant in 1991. The building still remains in use as a storage and transportation facility, but Vaucluse's over 160-year history as a textile producer had come to a close, and the mill's future remains in doubt.³⁸

Today, the mill village of Vaucluse remains a strong historical link to the industrial and social history of South Carolina. Although many of the individual properties have undergone varying degrees of alteration over the past several decades, the overall spatial and historic integrity of Vaucluse remains strong. The majority of the mill housing built from the 1830s to 1940s remains, as does the mill and compound, dam, and ca. 1904 commercial buildings. Post-1945 intrusions are almost non-existent, and at present, not a single commercial business is located in the town limits. Surrounded by woods and its mill pond, Vaucluse retains the sense of isolation of its earlier days, and the historic character of South Carolina's oldest mill village is still present today.

³⁸"Graniteville," Textile World (June 1976), [5]; Derrick Lee, Corporate Insurance-Public Relations Office, Graniteville Company, interview by author, 23 February 1995; Billy Brewer, Forest Ranger, Graniteville Company, interview by author, 25 April 1995.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 29

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Major Bibliographical References

Primary Sources

Manuscript Division, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia:

Athanaeum Fire Insurance Company Diagram Book
Graniteville Company Letterbooks
James Munro Papers
David Duncan Wallace Papers

University of South Carolina, Aiken:

Gregg/Graniteville Collection

Government Records

Aiken County Titles, Office of Register of Mesne Conveyance, Aiken, South Carolina

Interviews

Brewer, Billy, Forest Ranger, Graniteville Company. Interview by author, 25 April 1995.
Lee, Derrick, Corporate Insurance-Public Relations Department, Graniteville Company. Interview by author, 23 February 1995.

Maps and Photographs

Sanborn Map Company, Augusta Georgia, 1904. Photocopy. Aiken County Historical Museum, Aiken, South Carolina.
Sanborn Map Company Collection, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia
J. F. Sofge Pictures, Gregg/Graniteville Collection, University of South Carolina, Aiken

Newspapers and Periodicals

Aiken, SC, Journal and Review
Augusta, GA, Chronicle
Charleston, SC, Courier
Graniteville Company, Graniteville, SC, Graniteville Bulletin

Secondary Sources

Ayers, Edward L. The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Carlton, David L. Mill and Town in South Carolina: 1880-1920. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 30

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Division of Research, College of Business Administration, University of South Carolina Labor Market Information Division. South Carolina Economic Indicators 28 (December 1993).

Edgar, Walter B. South Carolina in the Modern Age. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1992.

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

"Graniteville." Textile World (June 1976), Special Commemorative Edition.

Hall, Jacquelyn Dowd, et al., eds. Like A Family: The Making of the Southern Cotton Mill World. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1987.

Jacobs, William Plumer. Facts and Figures About the Cotton Mills of South Carolina. Jacobs Press, 1938.

Kohn, August. The Cotton Mills of South Carolina. Columbia: South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Commerce, and Immigration, 1907.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

Mercantile Agency, The. Reference Book (And Key) with a List of Banks and Bankers, State Collection Laws, Maps, Etc., Etc. New York: R.G. Dun & Company, 1904.

Mercantile Association of the Carolinas. Reference Book of the Mercantile Association of the Carolinas for the States of North and South. Wilmington, NC: Jackson & Bell, 1889.

. Reference Book of the Mercantile Association of the Carolinas for the States of North and South Carolina. Wilmington, NC: Jackson & Bell, 1891.

Mitchell, Broadus. William Gregg: Factory Master of the Old South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1928; reprint, New York: Octagon Books, 1966.

Lander, Ernest McPherson, Jr. The Textile Industry in Ante-Bellum South Carolina. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1969.

Lincoln, Samuel. Lockwood Greene: The History of an Engineering Business, 1832-1958. Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press, 1960.

Morris, James A. "South Carolina and the National Economy." Essays in Economics 11 (October 1964): 16-17.

Potwin, Marjorie L. Cotton Mill People of the Piedmont: A Study in Social Change. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1927.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 31

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

-
- Rhyne, Jennings J. Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers and Their Villages. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1930.
- South Carolina Department of Agriculture. The Cotton Mills of South Carolina: Their Names, Locations, Capacity, and History. Charleston: News and Courier Press, 1880.
- South Carolina Historical Society. "Historical Notes: Cotton Manufacturing In South Carolina." South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine 8 (October 1907): 220-221.
- South Carolina Budget and Control Board. Economic Report: The State of South Carolina, 1980. Columbia: South Carolina Budget and Control Board, 1980.
- Terrill, Tom E. "Murder in Graniteville." In Towards a New South? Studies in Post-Civil War Southern Communities, ed. by Orville Vernon Burton and Robert C. McMath, 193-215. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982.
- "Vaucluse Mill Village: Site History." Horse Creek Textile Survey, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Columbia.
- Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992.
- Woodward, C. Vann. Origins of the New South: 1877-1913. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951; reprint, 1971.
- Woodward, William E. The Way Our People Lived. New York: Washington Square Press, 1944.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 32

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The district boundary consists of the city limits of Vaucluse as marked on the accompanying sketch map "Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District," drawn at a scale of 1" = 340'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the properties historically associated with Vaucluse, except those whose association is after the period of significance or lack sufficient historical evidence to warrant their inclusion. It also includes unoccupied lands immediately surrounding the district buildings in order to preserve the historic rural setting of the village.

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5	<u>17</u>	<u>425900</u>	<u>3718580</u>
6	<u>17</u>	<u>424620</u>	<u>3719340</u>
7	<u>17</u>	<u>425240</u>	<u>3721000</u>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 33

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
name of property
Aiken County, South Carolina
county and State

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District
Location of Property: Vaucluse, Aiken County, S.C.
Name of Photographer: Tom Downey
Date of Photographs: April 1995
Location of Negatives: Tom Downey, 502 Churchill Circle, Aiken, S.C. 29803

1. Vaucluse Mill, S elevation, looking NW
2. Mill and Boiler House, S elevation, looking W
3. Vaucluse Mill, W facade, looking S
4. 1952 Addition, Vaucluse Mill, N elevation, looking SW
5. 1955 Warehouse, Vaucluse Mill, S elevation, looking N
6. 1877 Mill and Tower, Vaucluse Mill, S elevation, looking N
7. 1832 Foundation and 1877 Mill, Vaucluse Mill, SW corner, looking NE
8. 1832 Wheel House, Vaucluse Mill, S elevation, looking N
9. Hose Houses, Vaucluse Mill, N side of mill, looking E
10. 1939 Office, Vaucluse Mill, NW corner, looking SE
11. 1943 Employee Canteen, Vaucluse Mill, N elevation, looking S
12. Aiken Highway, Type E Dwellings, Southside streetscape, looking SW
13. Commercial District, Senn Street, Westside streetscape, looking SW
14. Aiken Highway, Type D Dwellings, Southside streetscape, looking W
15. Mill Pond and Commercial District, looking E
16. Green Street, Type D and H Dwellings, Looking SE
17. 1877 Dam and Mill Pond, Northside, looking SW
18. Lott Street, Type D Dwellings, Streetscape, looking N
19. Senn Street, Type A Dwellings, Eastside streetscape, looking SE
20. Swimming Pavilion, S facade and E elevation, looking NW
21. ca. 1904 General Store, Senn Street, E facade, looking NW
22. ca. 1904 Warehouse, Senn Street, E facade and N elevation, looking SW
23. ca. 1904 United State Post Office, Senn Street, E facade and N elevation, looking SW
24. Type A Dwelling, 13 Senn Street, W facade and S elevation, looking NE
25. Type A-1 Dwelling, 141 (48) Senn Street, E facade, looking W
26. Type B Dwelling, 65 Senn Street, W elevation, looking NE
27. Type C Dwelling, 38 Aiken Highway, S elevation and W facade, looking NE
28. Type D Dwelling, 25 Aiken Highway, N facade and E elevation, looking SW
29. Type E Dwelling, 21 Aiken Highway, N facade and E elevation, looking SW
30. Type F Dwelling, 106 Lott Street, E facade, looking SW
31. Type G Dwelling, 78 Green Street, N facade and W elevation, looking SE
32. Type H Dwelling, 105 Lott Street, SW corner, looking NE
33. Type I Dwelling, 51 Senn Street, W facade, looking E
34. Type 1 Dwelling, 70 Watson Street, N facade, looking S
35. Type 2 Dwelling, 18 Aiken Highway, W facade, looking E
36. Type 3 Dwelling, 74 Green Street, NW corner, looking SE
37. Type 4 Dwelling, 43 Senn Street, W facade, looking E
38. Type 5 Dwelling, 45 Senn Street, W facade, looking E
39. Type 6 Dwelling, 47 Senn Street, SW corner, looking NE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

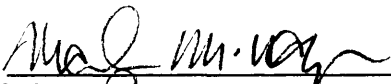
NRIS Reference Number: 96000494

Date Listed: 5/7/96

Vaucluse Mill Village Historic District	Aiken	SOUTH CAROLINA
Property Name	County	State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/18/96
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 3

This nomination is amended to show that the SHPO recommends that the property be considered significant statewide.

This change has been confirmed by the South Carolina SHPO by cc:mail.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)