

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 Lando School  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Schoolhouse Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Lando vicinity N/A  
state South Carolina code SC county Chester code 023 zip code 29724

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and 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:

_____ entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.		
_____ determined not eligible for the National Register		
_____ removed from the National Register		
_____ other (explain):		

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources)

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

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education

Subcategory: School

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Vacant / Not In Use

Subcategory: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals - Italian Renaissance

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asbestos

other Stucco

**Narrative Description**

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or 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)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1905

**Significant Dates**

1905

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(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:  
Lando Manetta Mills History Center,  
Lando, S.C.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>498872</u>	3		
2		<u>3848091</u>	4		

See continuation sheet.

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

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Paul S. Williams, Historian  
 organization Lando Manetta Mills History Center date 15 July 2008  
 street & number 3801 Lando Road telephone (704) 533-1472  
 city or town Lando state SC zip code 29724

**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 Lando Investment Assoc, LLC  
 street & number 125 Scaleybark Road telephone (704) 716-1000  
 city or town Charlotte state NC zip code 28209

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lando Schoolhouse  
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**Narrative Description**

The Lando School, built in 1904-05, is located in the former mill village of Lando, a hamlet off Highway 901 in rural northeastern Chester County, South Carolina. Its setting is wooded, with an orientation to the southeast and just off the main thoroughfare [Highway 18] into the village, at the terminus of Schoolhouse Street. With the mill having been demolished in recent years, the school is likely the most visible and dominant public building within the village of Lando.

The school is a three-story rectangular brick building of Italian Renaissance Revival design. Set upon a concrete foundation, it features brick on the first two floors and brick and stucco on the third floor. The L-shaped hipped roof is in two sections, with one over the classroom section and another over the entrance and stairwell, and is clad in pressed metal shingles. The roof structure is wood frame with exposed rafter tails and a beaded board frieze evident beneath the wide eaves of the building.

The use of contrasting color and texture on the building's exterior [i.e. red brick on the first and second floors and white brick and rough pebbledash stucco on the truncated third floor] in its finish, belt coursing and corbelling all clearly articulate its stories and help define it as a good local example of Italian Renaissance Revival style composition. The building historically featured double-hung, eight-over-eight windows on the first two floors, and eight-pane round and eight-pane single-hung windows on the shortened third floor or attic story; however, most sash and glazing material is no longer present. A broad white brick corbelled cornice separates the second and attic stories while the round windows [oculi] of the attic story and their multi-coursed white brick surrounds add character and distinction to the building.

The eastern elevation of the building has five sets of what were eight-over-eight, double-hung windows on the first and second floors and two single-hung, eight-pane windows and three circular windows on the third floor. The western elevation had eleven eight-over-eight double-hung windows, six on the first floor and five on the second floor. Remnants of what was a fire exit, a single leaf door with two-light transom, and fire escape stair remain at the second floor. The third floor on the western elevation has six stationary square single-hung, eight-pane windows. The southern elevation, inclusive of the front ell, has four bays on each floor, with sets of what were eight-over-eight, double-hung windows on the first and second floors and three stationary single-hung eight-pane windows and one round window on the third floor. The main entrance is at the far right of the southern elevation and a part of the front ell. The northern elevation has five sets of eight-over-eight double-hung windows on the first and second floors and five single-hung square eight-pane windows on the third floor.

Windows on the first floor are capped with white brick segmental arches that are connected by a four-course belt course, while those on the second floor are capped with white brick jack arches and white brick shoulders. A slightly-projecting white brick belt course wraps around the building at the base of the second floor windows and serves as a sill for those windows. The square windows on the third floor are surrounded by white, textured pebbledash stucco finish. The stuccoed or attic story section is above a projecting white brick entablature that includes a four-course frieze and a six-course corbel that rises to a ledge.

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The concrete steps at the main entrance lead to a concrete landing on the east (façade) elevation of the school; the main entrance faces south. The landing or porch extends beyond the main footprint of the building, with the entrance itself being a wide segmental arched bay that once accommodated a double-leaf paneled door with multi-light transom and sidelights. Above the entrance are two windows: an eight-over-eight double-hung window on the second floor and a nine-pane circular window on the third floor.

The first two floors of the school housed classrooms and the main level of the auditorium, while the third floor was essentially balcony seating for the auditorium. There are three classrooms on the first floor, measuring 20'x13', 28'x19' and 20'x32'. The five-foot-wide staircase on the east [front] elevation exterior wall rises directly from a ten-foot wide entry or stair hall. No railing or balustrade remains on the staircase. Under the stairs on the first floor is a coal room. On the second floor, measuring 32'x32', a sliding divider is used to partition two classrooms and also provides open seating for the auditorium. There is also a small storage room measuring ten by ten feet, as well as a small office. There is a fire exit on the west elevation on the second floor. The third floor balcony seating has six levels and extends across the northern elevation. The balcony is over the divided room on the second floor and measures 17'x32'.

Floors are tongue-and-groove hardwood. Walls consist of plaster walls with beaded board wainscoting, baseboards and chair rails. Ceilings are twelve feet high on the first floor and twenty feet high on the second floor auditorium space that extends to incorporate the balcony.

There are no restrooms in the school. Heating was supplied by coal/wood burning stoves. Three large brick chimneys, the stacks for which once towered above the roofline and supported six stoves within the building, are still present but without the stacks.

The building is currently abandoned and in need of repair, though the overall structure is sound. There is one structural crack from foundation to roof on the southern elevation. On the interior, all floors are intact and there are a few small holes in the roof; doors have been removed, most windows have been broken, and vandals have painted graffiti throughout.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Lando School, built in 1904-05 as the school for Manetta Mill, is an excellent example of an early twentieth century school built in a textile mill village of the South Carolina Piedmont. Notable for its size and sophisticated design, unusual in South Carolina and Southern textile mill schools even in the boom period of 1890-1920, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture as an example of the use of Italian Renaissance Revival design that is rare in South Carolina public school architecture of the period, and even more rare in textile mill school architecture.<sup>1</sup>

**Historical Background and Significance**

A grist mill and sawmill were built on nearby Fishing Creek soon after the American Revolution, but the vicinity did not become a true community until after the Civil War. In 1870 Alexander Wiliford built the first cotton mill here, the Fishing Creek Manufacturing Company, run by waterpower from Fishing Creek. By 1884 Ferguson H. Barber acquired the company, and when it went bankrupt after a few years he reorganized the mill and renamed it Lewisville Cotton Mill.

The mill community that grew up here had no official name, and mail was addressed simply to "Factory" until 1895, when—according to local tradition—Amy Barber, the niece of mill owner Ferguson H. Barber, gave the village its new name of "Lando," a shortened version of "Landsdowne," which was her first choice but was already the name of another post office in the state.

In 1896 Benjamin Dawson Heath (1849-1919), a Charlotte, N.C., businessman and native of Lancaster County, S.C., purchased the Lewisville Cotton Mill, renaming it Manetta Mill after his first wife Mary and his second wife Nettie. Over the next eight years Heath renovated, then expanded, the existing textile mill, doubling its size by 1904. In 1907, Manetta Mill boasted 18,620 spindles and 400 looms, and produced cotton blankets, cotton flannel, and yarns.<sup>2</sup>

The Lando School was a major feature of Heath's expansion project. Built at a cost of \$15,000, it was described shortly after its opening in 1905 as having "ample recitation rooms, cloak room, ante rooms and a large auditorium."<sup>3</sup> The school was funded with both private and public funds. Manetta Mill paid for

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<sup>1</sup> There has been some speculation that Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926) may have designed the school, as the date, style, location, and Milburn's business relationship with Manetta Mill owner Benjamin Dawson Heath are consistent with Milburn being its architect. Milburn designed "Heathcote," Heath's house in Charlotte, N.C., in 1900, and designed many buildings in both Carolinas during the period. There is, however, no reliable evidence to substantiate such an attribution. Telephone interview with Daniel J. Vivian, historian, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., March 15, 2007; Frank P. Milburn, *Designs from the Works of Frank P. Milburn, Architect, Charlotte, N.C.* (Columbia: The State Company, 1903).

<sup>2</sup> Paul Scott Williams and the Lando-Manetta Mills History Center, *Lando*, Images of America Series (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2007), pp. 9-21, 43; August Kohn, *The Cotton Mills of South Carolina* (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Commerce, and Immigration, 1907), pp. 95, 194.

<sup>3</sup> Rev. E.A. Wilkes, "Lando and Manetta Mills," *The Rock Hill Herald* (Rock Hill, S.C.), December 2, 1905.

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maintenance, materials, and books, while the Chester County Board of Education paid the principal's and teachers' salaries. By 1907 the school boasted an enrollment of 200 (out of a mill village population of 300 children under 12 years of age) and an average attendance of 120 by 1907. Mill president H.B. Heath, son of B.D. Heath, commented, "since the establishment of a first class school the personnel of our operatives has greatly improved."<sup>4</sup> In 1919, enrollment was still over one hundred students, and Lando School also offered night classes for older children and adults.<sup>5</sup>

Lando School closed in 1955 when it and other rural Chester County schools were consolidated; half its students were transferred to the school in nearby Edgemoor, and the other half were transferred to Oakley Hall School.

Manetta Mills, under a succession of owners, remained in operation until 1991, producing primarily cotton blankets. When it closed its workers were transferred to the Manetta Mills plant in Monroe, N.C.

Today, the community that once was home to over 2,000 people now has a population of less than twenty, and fewer than ten of 181 mill houses survive.

Private investors purchased the community of Lando, including the old mill and the school, in 2000. In 2007 they sold their interest to a property development group, which plans to preserve the Lando School and incorporate it into their development plans.

In 2005, the Lando Manetta Mills History Center was formed. The center opened a museum within the old Manetta Mill company store and office. The Lando Manetta Mills History Center has been working with the owners of the property in the preservation of the history of Lando.

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<sup>4</sup> Quoted in Kohn, p. 163. See also "Closing of Lando School," *Rock Hill Herald* (Rock Hill, S.C.), May 24, 1907.

<sup>5</sup> Charles R. and Judi G. Inabinet, eds., *The Old Mill Stream*, Volume 2, Number 1, June 1976, pp. 50-51; see also *The Old Mill Stream*, Volume 1, Number 1, December 1975, p. 14.

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Select Bibliography

“Closing of Lando School.” *Rock Hill Herald* (Rock Hill, S.C.), May 24, 1907.

Inabinet, Charles R. and Judi G. Inabinet, eds. *The Old Mill Stream*. Volume 1, Number 1 (December 1975).

Inabinet, Charles R. and Judi G. Inabinet, eds. *The Old Mill Stream*. Volume 2, Number 1 (June 1976).

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

“Lando and Manetta Mills.” *Rock Hill Herald* (Rock Hill, S.C.), December 2, 1905.

Williams, Paul Scott, and the Lando-Manetta Mills History Center, *Lando*. Images of America Series. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2007.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Lando School" on the accompanying map titled "Boundary Survey for Merrifield Partners, LLC and Bissell Patrick, LLC, Located in the Town of Lando, Lewisville Township, Chester County, South Carolina, October 10, 2007," drawn at a scale of 1" =300'.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property is restricted to the footprint of the historic school.

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

Name of Property: Lando School  
Location of Property: Lando

Name of Photographer: Paul S. Williams  
Date of Photographs: 23 February 2008

Location of Original  
Digital Images South Carolina Department of Archives & History, Columbia, SC

1. Undated Historic Photograph, Lando-Manetta Mills History Center
2. Undated Historic Photograph, Lando-Manetta Mills History Center
3. Undated Historic Photograph, Lando-Manetta Mills History Center
4. Façade
5. Left Elevation, Rear at Left
6. Rear Elevation
7. Right Elevation
8. Entrance Detail
9. Balcony
10. Stage
11. Third Floor Round Window
12. First Floor Stair
13. First Floor Arch
14. First Floor Classroom
15. First Floor Classroom
16. First Floor Classroom
17. First Floor Classroom
18. First Floor Classroom
19. First Floor Classroom
20. First Floor Classroom
21. Second Floor Stair
22. Second Floor Stage
23. Second Floor Stage
24. Second Floor Balcony
25. Second Floor Balcony
26. Third Floor Balcony
27. Third Floor Stair