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( ) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Orangeburg Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Enterprise Cotton Mills Building

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Zeus Industrial Products

LOCATION: Boulevard (U.S. Highway 21)

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Champlaine Associates
P.O. Box 298
Raritan, New Jersey 08869

DESCRIPTION

The Enterprise Cotton Mills Building was designed and built in 1896 - 1897. The building is a four-story, brick building, seventeen bays long and seven bays wide, with a five-story tower on the east side. The brickwork is common bond. Brick pillars defining the bays are carried up as an arcade at the fourth story. Each story is fifteen feet high. The original windows, which are intact on the third and fourth floors, are paired nine-over-nine wooden sash with fixed transoms in segmental-arched heads. The window openings on lower floors have been filled with brick. The mill has a corbelled brick cornice and a low-pitched gable roof. The original brick chimney has been demolished. A two-story. brick engine room and a one-story brick boiler room, parts of the original construction, are located at the east side. A four-story. brick tower has been added to the west elevation. There are numerous other smaller additions on the east elevation.

The mill was built with 10,000 spindles and 300 looms; a 400-horsepower steam engine provided power.

Outbuildings associated with the property included a one-story cotton storage warehouse to the east (now attached to the mill building with an overhead walkway), and a one-story, brick office building to the west; each part of original construction. The office building was demolished ca. 1982.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Industry
Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: _L_(for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Enterprise Cotton Mills Building is significant for its association with several textile companies that played major roles in Orangeburg's economy in the first half of the twentieth century. The Enterprise Cotton Mills was organized in the city in 1896.(1) There was much local support for the construction of the mill which would provide a home market for the agricultural products of the county.(2) According to a contemporary newspaper, "Cotton factories have proved profitable investments in other towns and they have worked wonders in the development of towns in which they were built, so the people of Orangeburg came to the conclusion that it was about time that they should take hold of the matter."(3)

The firm of W.B. Smith Whaley and Company, engineers and architects of Columbia, was retained to design the building and it was constructed in 1896 - 97. Whaley's firm was nationally prominent as a designer and developer of textile mills. The firm did work across the southeastern United States in the period from 1890 to 1902. Later work included mills in Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and China. Many of South Carolina's biggest textile plants in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were designed by Whaley's firm.(4)

Around 1900 the building was occupied by the Orangeburg Manufacturing Company, which produced a fine grade of homespun.(5) In 1907 the firm employed around 200 workers and produced brown shirting.(6) In 1917 the Santee Cotton Mills began operating in the building. The Santee Cotton Mills, which produced sheeting and cotton cloth, gave employment to around 450 workers, working two shifts, in 1935.(7) From ca. 1944 to 1976 the building housed the South Carolina Cotton Mills. (8)

ACREAGE: Approximately 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Enterprise Cotton Mill Building nomination is shown as the heavy black line on the accompanying map entitled "Enterprise Cotton Mills Building." The map was copied from Orangeburg County Tax Map No. 29 and is drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the historic Mill building and associated outbuildings, a non-historic parking area, and the immediate setting of the mill building.

QUAD NAME: Orangeburg South

QUAD SCALE: 1: 24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/513600/3705050

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

(1) Times and Democrat, 6 May, 5 August, 11 November 1896; Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, Passed at the Regular Session of 1896 (Columbia, S. C.: Charles A.Calvo, Jr., State Printer, 1896), p. 676.

(2) Times and Democrat,22 April, 10 June, 23 September 1896.

(3) Ibid., 22 April 1896.

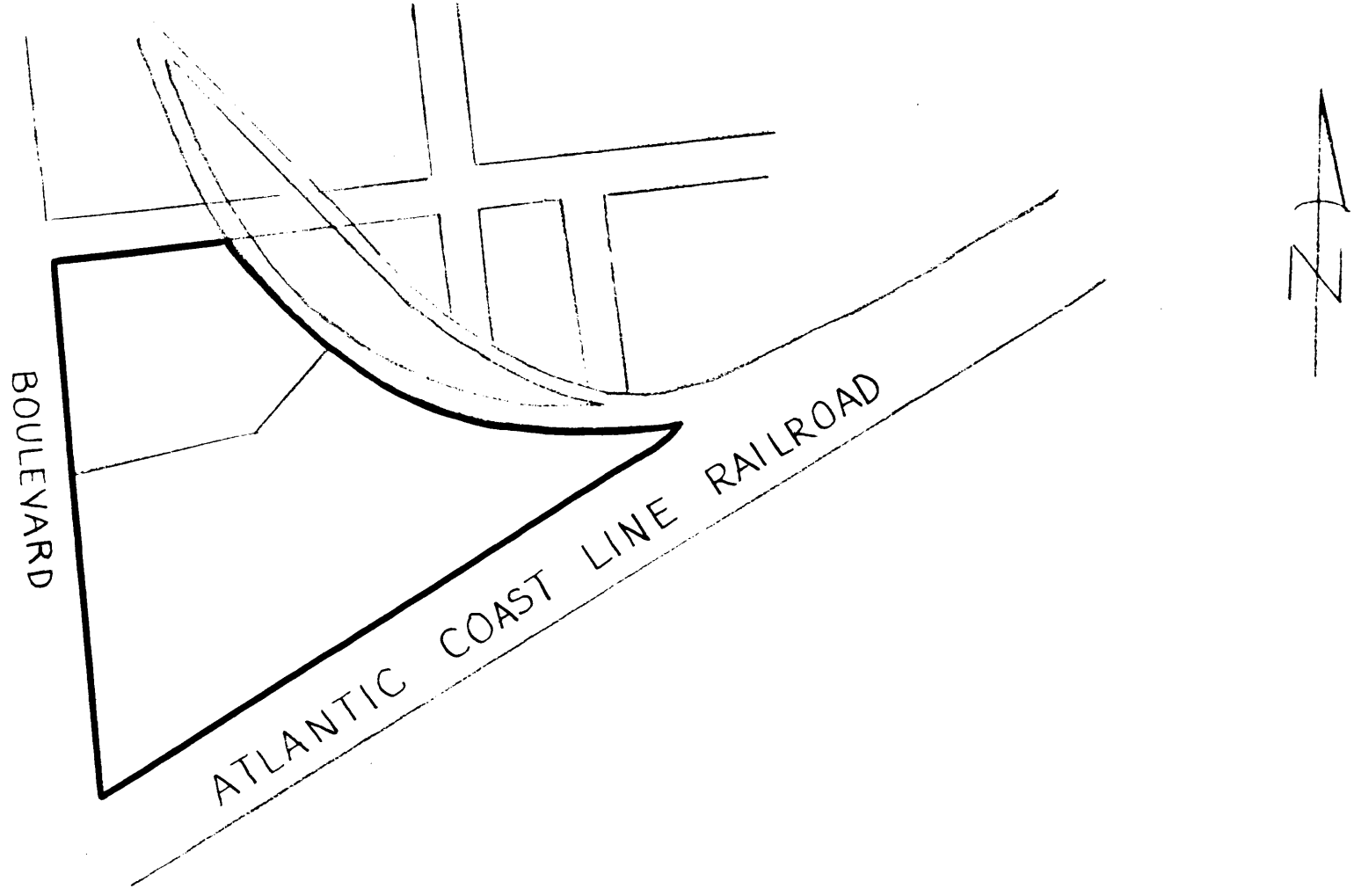
(4) Ibid., 10 June 1896; Handbook of South Carolina, p. 463; Manufacturers Record, 25 December 1896.

(5) Times and Democrat, 30 January 1901; Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, Passed at the Regular Session of 1901 (Columbia, S. C.: State Co., State Printers, 1901), p. 933.

(6) August Kohn, The Cotton Mills of South Carolina (Columbia, S.C.: S.C. Department of Agriculture, Commerce, and Immigration, 1907) pp. 88, 195.

(7) The State, 27 May 1917; Times and Democrat, 24 August 1937; Orangeburg (S.C) Observer, 19 July 1935.

(8) Ibid., 3 July 1981.



ENTERPRISE COTTON MILLS BUILDING

SCALE 1" = 200'