NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 13 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Richland Cotton Mill

and/or common Pacific Mills/Lowenstein Mill/Whaley's Mill

2. Location

street & number 211-221 Main Street NA not for publication

city, town Columbia NA vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state South Carolina code 045 county Richland code 079

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	x unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	NA in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	NA being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	x other: unused

4. Owner of Property

name Liberty Development Corporation

street & number 903 Calhoun Street

city, town Columbia NA vicinity of state South Carolina 29201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance

street & number 1701 Main Street

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes x no

date 1983 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	x altered	___ moved date _____
_x_ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Richland Cotton Mill was the first mill in Columbia, South Carolina, constructed under the direction of the prominent mill architect and engineer, W.B. Smith Whaley.[1] Ground broke for the project on February 20, 1895, located on nearly four acres of land bounded by Tobacco (now Catawba), Main, Indigo (now Whaley), and Assembly Streets.[2] The surrounding sixteen acres of land adjacent to the railroad junction at the southern limit of the city were used for a village,[3] which included 52 six-room double houses built on the western slope of Wheeler Hill.[4]

W.B. Smith Whaley and Company, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and Architects, designed and supervised the construction of the mill. Up to that time New England engineers had monopolized the design and building of cotton mills in the region.[5] Gadsden E. Shand, an 1888 graduate of South Carolina College in Civil Engineering and superintendent of construction in completing the State House in Columbia, joined Whaley in his company and contributed to the project.[6]

Colonel Coleman, of the firm Rice & Coleman, who worked on the Columbia Canal project, excavated and constructed the concrete foundations. T.J. Bomar, a Black brickmason who had worked on several mill projects, including Pacolet and Union, was hired to complete the brick work. Brick was ordered from G.A. Guignard of Lexington County.[7] H.S. Pringle was named general superintendent of the property.[8] By October 1, 1895, the $150,000 project was complete. Within 10 months the sheeting and twills manufactured by the 10,240 spindle, 720 loom mill were selling on the New York market.[9]

When completed, the rectangular, common bond brick mill building measured 76 feet wide, 328 feet long, with 30 bays of 10 feet 8 inches each. Of a pier type, the four-story structure is dominated by a single stair tower, centering on the north facade, whose first elevation brick arched entrance served as the original entrance to the mill. The tower comprises seven elevations, the top elevation featuring a circular vent flanked by two arched vents on each of the four facades, completing the square tower. The regular fenestration consists of large arched double sash windows, 9 over 9 with 9 pane transoms. Most windows are now boarded up. A shallow gable roof extends over the building.

Immediate additions to the rectangular building included an engine room 50 by 52 feet, a boiler room 25 by 52 feet, and a machine shop 25 by 50 feet, all to the southeast of the main building and repeating the common bond brick pattern and regular fenestration. A round chimney, 140 feet in height, crowned by corbeling and encircling arching in the brickwork, was built adjacent to the boiler room. Following purchase of the building by Pacific Mills, a one-story brick double building, with each 10 by 10 foot common bond unit capped with a slate hip roof and connecting with a wooden flat roof was built facing Main Street at the northeast corner of the property. A reinforced concrete annex was added to the northwest of the mill building. A brick addition to the west of the machine shop and adjacent to the south facade of the mill building completed the twentieth century additions.

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	x engineering	___ music	___ theater
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
x 1900–	___ communications	x industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1895 **Builder/Architect** W. B. Smith Whaley

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Richland Cotton Mill was the first mill in Columbia, South Carolina, constructed under the direction of the prominent mill architect and engineer W.B. Smith Whaley.[1] The original rectangular brick mill building, essentially unaltered since its construction,[2] sits on nearly four acres bordered by Catawba, Main, Whaley, and Assembly Streets, where it was completed on October 1, 1895.[3] This mill signifies the focus of the Columbia community on its development as a cotton textile center in the late nineteenth century.[4] Locally generated design[5] and capital[6] set this mill apart from the majority of local cotton textile enterprises of the period, which were developed through northern interests.[7] Both architectural design and engineering expertise[8] combined to create an efficient[9] focal point of industrial development in late nineteenth century Columbia.

During the late nineteenth century the cotton textile industry experienced a period of significant growth in South Carolina. Columbia possessed resources: building materials (brick), availability of water both for energy and transportation, railroads, and climate conducive to industrial growth.[10] In the early days of January 1895, the Columbia city council decided to send a delegation including the mayor to promote its resources to eastern cotton manufacturing businesses.[11] Almost at the same time, W.B. Smith Whaley broke ground for the Richland Cotton Mill,[12] testing the theory of Columbia's "golden opportunity."[13] He chose skilled people to execute his plans: Gadsden E. Shand, an 1888 graduate civil engineer from South Carolina College as engineer;[14] Colonel Coleman of the firm Rice & Coleman, who worked on the Columbia Canal project to lay the foundation; and T.J. Bomar, a Black brick mason who had worked on several mill projects, to complete the brick work.[15] The majority of the $150,000 capital to build the mill was raised locally, with the assistance of the Carolina National Bank,[16] although northern machinery manufacturers did invest $46,700.[17]

W.B. Smith Whaley, as architect, engineer, investor, and promoter, was a dominant force in the development of the cotton textile industry in Columbia and in South Carolina.[18] Born in Charleston, South Carolina, he received training in mechanical engineering at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, where he graduated in 1888.[19] He visited Columbia in 1892 to investigate uses of water power in manufacturing there.[20] He established a firm with Gadsden E. Shand, W.B. Smith Whaley & Company,[21] whose reputation by 1899 "as mill architects is considered second to none."[22] Whaley's purpose in settling in Columbia was to practice "Mechanical and Civil Engineering and Architecture with especial attention to the designing of plants engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods."[23] Before the age of 30 he had built three mills in South Carolina,[24] including the Richland Cotton Mill. In five years' time he was responsible for the creation of eight mills, having financed half, housing 7,600 looms, equivalent to

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9. Major Bibliographical References

American Biography. New York: The American Historical Society, Inc,. 1930,. pp. 367-368.

Byars, Alvin W. Olympia-Pacific The Way It Was 1895-1970. West Columbia, S.C.: Professional Printers, Ltd., 1981. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.39 acres

Quadrangle name Southwest Columbia. S.C. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	497358	3760660
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Richland Mill nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Richland County tax map, sheet 15-3-1, 1982. which is drawn at a scale of 1":100'. This boundary includes the historic mill building and its extensions.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	NA	code
state	NA	code	county	NA	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia E. Grant

organization **date** 18 August 1983

street & number 1638 Greene Street **telephone** (803) 254-1408

city or town Columbia **state** South Carolina 29201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X state ___ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 9-22-83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Delores Byers **date** 11/10/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

The machinery was first run by steam with water gained from a small stream flowing through the property. Coal was provided for boilers by a 100 yard long branch track to the South Carolina and Georgia main rail line.[10] A Sturtevant system of heating was utilized. A 1000 gallon Underwood pump drew water from a reservoir for fire protection.[11]

The interior of the building comprises four working floors, each with an open space supported by rows of columns which line up with the brick piers between the windows. On the first three floors the columns are round wooden columns, on the fourth floor, round pipe. All are ten feet six inches apart (on center). The brick walls are unfinished on the interior. Heavy wooden beams aid in support, running from the piers between the windows to column, to column, to wall. Above the beams, three inch heart pine flooring, covered with one inch subflooring and one inch maple finish flooring comprise the five inch thick flooring on each level. Originally a complete sprinkler system and humidifiers covered all rooms.[12]

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1 "What One Man Has Done," The State, 14 December 1897, p. 4.

2 "Ground Broken Yesterday," The State, 21 February 1895, p. 8.

3 Fenelon DeVere Smith, The Economic Development of the Textile Industry in the Columbia, South Carolina, Area from 1790 through 1916, dissertation, Lexington, Kentucky, 1952, p. 121.

4 "The Two Newest Mills Built in Columbia, " The State, 23 December 1897, p. 7.

5 The State, 14 December 1897, p. 4.

6 Smith, p. 118.

7 The State, 21 February 1895, p. 8.

8 "United We Stand," The State, 17 January 1895, p. 1.

9 The State, 23 December 1897, p. 7.

10 Smith, p. 132.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

one-fifth of the total in South Carolina in 1897.[25] Whaley's textile and engineering genius extended beyond his early creativity in the Richland Cotton Mill. He held over 600 patents,[26] was responsible for the design and construction of twenty-one cotton mills,[27] and perfected a new oil engine before his death.[28] He was credited with creating an alternative industry to politics for Columbia, the capital city of South Carolina.[29]

W.B. Smith Whaley and his company specialized in the construction of mills. In the company's brochure, the design necessary to create a properly functioning cotton mill building is described:

> The proper designing of a cotton mill requires a knowledge of Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering and a certain amount of architectural skill, in order that all the problems involved may be skillfully handled and that the building shall be well proportioned and pleasing to the eye . . . . they take pride in the fact that every cotton mill they have designed has been an improvement on the one previous to it.[30]

In Columbia the Richland Cotton Mill was the beginning of the continuing improvement of the construction of the cotton mill. The architectural, mechanical and engineering balance stated above is evident in the design and construction of the Richland Cotton Mill.

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1 "What One Man Has Done," The State, 14 December 1897, p. 4.

2 "The Two Newest Mills Built in Columbia," The State, 23 December 1897, p. 7.

3 Ibid.

4 "The Way to Work" and "United We Stand," The State, 17 January 1895, p. 1.

5 The State, 14 December 1897, p. 4.

6 "United We Stand," The State, 17 January 1897, p. 1.

7 Fenelon DeVere Smith, The Economic Development of the Textile Industry in the Columbia, South Carolina, Area from 1790 through 1916, dissertation, Lexington, Kentucky, 1952, p. 121.

8 Alvin W. Byars, Olympia-Pacific The Way It Was 1895-1970, West Columbia, S.C., Professional Printers, Ltd., 1982, p. 4

9 The State, 23 December 1897, p. 7.

10 "The Way To Work," The State, 17 January 1897, p. 1.

11 Ibid.

12 "Ground Broken Yesterday," The State, 21 February 1895, p. 8.

13 "The Way To Work," The State, 17 January 1895, p. 1.

14 Smith, p. 118.

15 The State, 21 February 1895, p. 8.

16 "United We Stand," The State, 17 January 1895, p. 1.

17 Smith, p. 121.

18 American Biography, New York, The American Historical Society, Inc., 1930, p. 367.

19 Ibid.

20 "Examining Our Water Powers," The State, 31 March 1892, p. 8.

21 Smith, p. 118.

22 "Largest Mill In The Whole South," The State, 17 May 1899, p. 8.

23 Smith, p. 118.

24 Ibid., pp. 119-121.

25 The State, 14 December 1897, p. 4.

26 Byars, p. 4.

27 Smith, p. 116.

28 American Biography, p. 367.

29 Ibid., p. 368.

30 Smith, p. 118.

Hennig, Helen Kohn, ed. Columbia Capital City of South Carolina 1786-1936. Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, Printers, 1936.

"Insurance Maps of Columbia, South Carolina." New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1919, p. 36.

Kohn, August. The Cotton Mills of South Carolina. Charleston: The Daggett Printing Company, 1907.

"Pacific Cotton Mill," Richland County Tax Map, sheet 15-3-1, 1982.

"Pacific Mills," "Richland Mill," Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Plat Book I, page 78. Columbia: Tomlinson Engineering Comapny, 1939.

Richland County Book of Deeds. Richland County, S.C.: Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book BG, p.4; Deed Book BK, p. 522; Deed Book 175, pp. 363-384; Deed Book N, pp. 231-238; Deed Book 634, pp. 943-946.

Smith, Fenelon DeVere. "The Whaley Mills and Steam-Electric Power," The Economic Development of the Textile Industry in the Columbia, South Carolina, Area from 1790 through 1916. A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Economics at the University of Kentucky. Lexington, 1952, unpublished.

"Southwest Columbia, South Carolina." U.S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey, 1972.

The State, 31 March 1892, p. 8; 17 January 1895, p. 1; 5 February 1895, p. 3; 14 February 1895, p. 8; 21 February 1895, p. 8; 14 December 1897, p. 4; 23 December 1897, p. 6; 17 May 1899, p. 8.

Whaley, W.B. Smith and Company, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and Architects. Modern Cotton Mill Engineering. Columbia: The State Company, 1903.