NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HICKORY

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at a meeting of the Hickory City Council to be held in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building in Hickory, North Carolina, at 76 North Center Street, on **Tuesday**, **August 2 at 7 p.m.** upon the question of designating the former Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill as a local historic landmark. The property is located at 310 Main Avenue Way SE and is further identified as PIN 3702-08-79-6291 on the Catawba County G.I.S maps. All citizens are invited to attend and present written or oral comments pertinent to the hearing. The local historic landmark designation report and copies of this notice may be reviewed in the Department of Planning & Development in the said Municipal Building prior to the public hearing. For information regarding the above listed items, contact the Planning Department at (828) 323-7422.

PUBLISH: July 22, 2016

City of Hickory
Historic Preservation Commission
Local Historic Landmark Designation Report

Property Name: Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill

Property Location: 310 Main Avenue Way SE (Parcel ID: 3702-08-79-6291) (Previously addressed as 56 Third Street SE)

Property Owner Information: OHM Holdings LLC, PO Box 516, Hickory, NC 28603

Proposed Boundary of Designation: The area proposed for designation is all of Parcel ID: 3702-08-79-6291 (1.76 acres). See Exhibit A for aerials of the property.

Proposed level of design review: If designated, the Historic Preservation Commission would have design review authority over the exterior features of the building and site as described in Section 2.5 (Certificates of Appropriateness) of the Hickory Land Development Code.

Land Assessed Value: $137,400

Buildings Assessed Value: $2,702,700

Total Assessed Value: $2,840,100

Date of Construction: The building was originally constructed in two phases circa 1930-1934.

Assessment of Significance: The Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is historically significant because of its association with events that have contributed considerably to the history of the City of Hickory. This assessment is described more thoroughly in the attached National Register Nomination Report.

Historical Assessment of the Property: The property serves as a reminder of the pivotal role that the hosiery industry played in the development of Hickory. The mill is the only remaining building associated with the important Elliott-Lyerly-Morgan mills, once the largest and most successful mills in the City of Hickory. More information is included in the attached National Register Report.

Architectural Description of the Property: The building exhibits the distinctive characteristics of industrial building design of this era, including loadbearing masonry walls large metal windows, a stair tower with decorative detailing, and interior steel framing. The attached National Register Nomination provides an overview of the architectural significance of the property. Since the completion of the National Register nomination, the building has been extensively rehabilitated through a Historic Preservation Tax Credit project. This included a complete restoration of the exterior and extensive interior renovations and upfit for a large logistics

company who now occupies the building.

Work to the exterior included demolition of a mechanical building and loading dock area, installation of a channel letter sign to western wall of the building, repointing of all exterior brick, and re-glazing of all windows.

Interior work included plumbing and mechanical work, refinishing of the wooden floors, installation of a new elevator using an existing elevator shaft, and building upfit for office space. Before and after photos of the interior rehabilitation and exterior work are attached. The rehabilitation work was completed according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and approved by the National Park Service.

Assessment of Integrity

The integrity of the historic mill building is described as excellent in the attached nomination report, as it retained its original materials, massing, and interior arrangement. Today, the building maintains a significant level of historic integrity post rehabilitation. The following is an assessment of the building's integrity.

- **Design:** The mill is a two-story, industrial building with large metal windows and a brick exterior. The building's most significant design feature is a 43 feet tall Art Moderne inspired brick tower above the main entrance. The tower contains three bays of narrow vertical windows surmounted by brick corbelling. Overall, the mill is considered architecturally similar to other mills in Hickory from the same era.
- **Setting:** The mill located approximately a half mile southeast of downtown Hickory, adjacent to the intersection of Highway 127 and 1st Avenue SE. Similar to other mills in Hickory, the Lyerly Mill is located in a transitional area and in close proximity to the rail line that divides the city between north and south. The mill is within 1,000 feet of the historic Kenworth neighborhood, which likely housed a portion of the company's workforce.
- **Workmanship:** The first phase of the mill was constructed in 1930-31 by Hans Scheller, a Shubert-Salzer company employee who later came to work for the Lyerly Mill. The second phase doubled the size of the mill and was completed by architectural firm Biberstein, Bowles, Meachem, & Reed out of Charlotte, NC. The expansion was completed in 1934 and completely enclosed the original mill with little physical evidence left behind. The building contains similar workmanship to other hosiery mills built in the 1930s.
- **Materials:** A majority of the building's original materials have been retained, as described in the attached nomination report. The owner used national and state historic preservation tax credits to redevelop the building while retaining its historical integrity.
- **Feeling:** The property continues to maintain an expression of the role that the hosiery industry served in early twentieth century communities.
- **Association:** The mill building remains in its original location. Its direct association with the hosiery industry serves as a reminder of the role the industry played in the development of Hickory.

Staff Recommendation: After compiling this report and reviewing materials relevant to the history of the mill, staff finds that the Historic Preservation Commission recommend that Hickory City Council designate the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill as a local historic landmark.

Exhibit A (Aerials of Subject Property)

Photo 1: Orthoaerial of the subject property taken in 2014 prior to any work. The property is outlined in red.

Photo 2: Orthoaerial of the subject project nearing completion in 2015 from Google Maps.

Exhibit B (Pre-Renovation Exterior Photos)
The following photos were taken in 2006 prior to the recent renovation and were included as part of the National Register Nomination report. Photos credited to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

Exhibit C (Post Renovation Exterior and Interior Photos)
The following photos were taken on May 10, 2016 by City of Hickory Planning & Development staff.

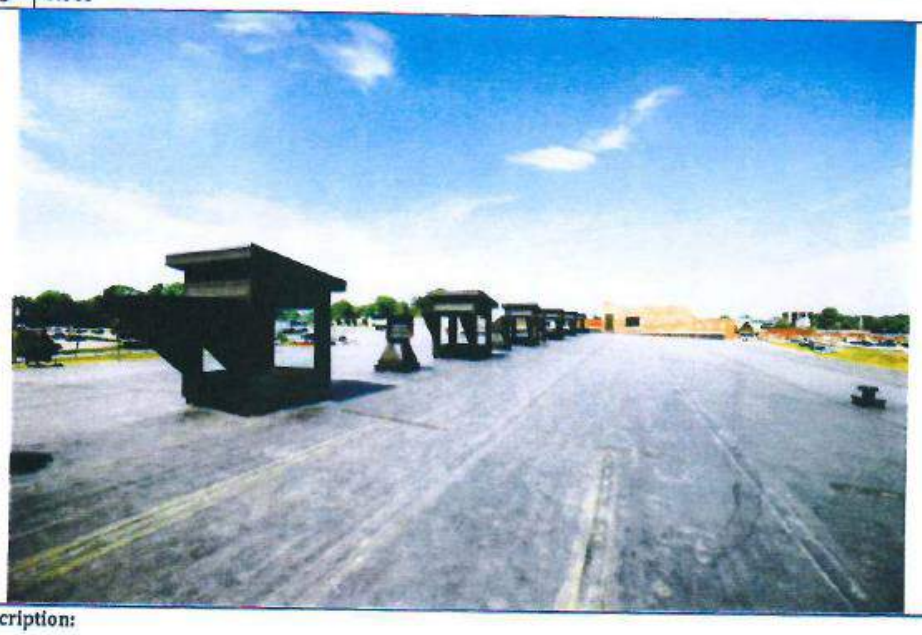
Transportation Insight

The following photos were taken post renovation as part of the owner's recent historic tax credit application with the State Historic Preservation Office.

9 NE Elevation

Description:

10 Roof



Description:

NC HPCA Part B / NPS PART III
Photographic Documentation

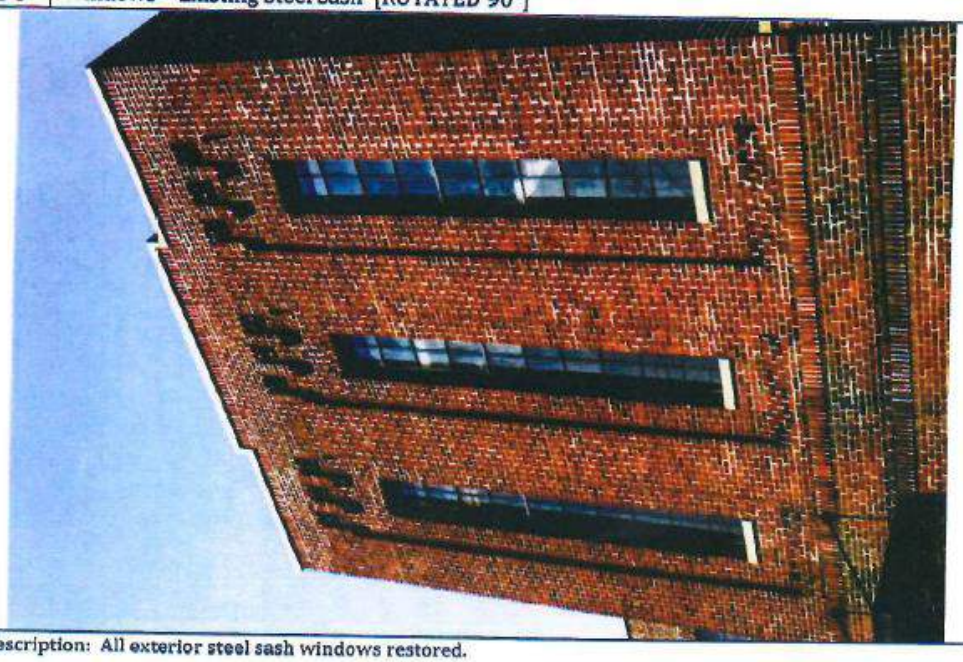
5

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill
56 Third St. SE, Hickory, NC

29 Windows – Typical Steel Sash [ROTATED 90°]

Description: All exterior steel sash windows restored.

30 Windows – Existing Steel Sash [ROTATED 90°]

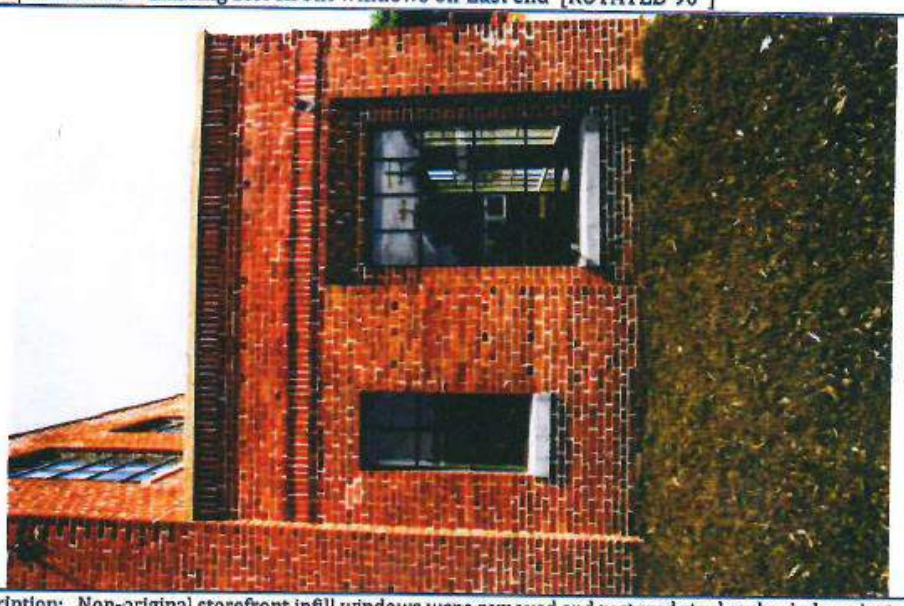


Description: All exterior steel sash windows restored.

33 Windows – Glass Block infill on South side

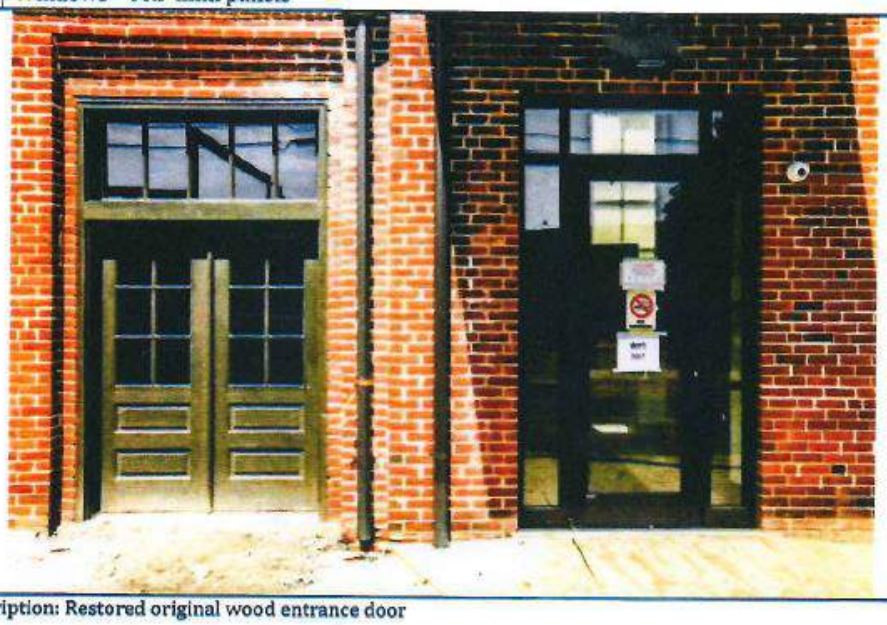
Description: Non-original glass block panels removed and restored steel sash windows installed.

34 Windows – Existing storefront windows on East end [ROTATED 90°]



Description: Non-original storefront infill windows were removed and restored steel sash windows installed with matching concrete sills.

35 Windows – FRP infill panels



Description: Restored original wood entrance door

36 Windows – West End

Description: All exterior steel sash windows restored. All entrance doors are bronze-finished aluminum storefront entrances.

43 Flooring – First Floor

Description:

44 Flooring – Second Floor

Description: Original salvaged flooring has been restored on the second floor.

57 Ceilings - First Floor

Description: Existing intumescent paint has been removed from structure and wood deck above. Original wood has been carefully restored and steel and sprinkler piping painted.

58 Ceilings - Second Floor

Description: Existing intumescent paint has been removed from structure and wood deck above. Original wood has been carefully restored and steel and sprinkler piping painted.

75 Additions – CMU

Description: Existing CMU and metal building additions have been removed and original walls and windows restored.

76 Additions – Interior Ramp

Description: Existing CMU and metal building additions and interior ramp have been removed and original walls and windows restored.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill

Hickory, Catawba County, CT0527, Listed 8/8/2007
Nomination by April Montgomery
Photographs by April Montgomery, May 2006

Front and side view

Side view

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 56 Third Street, Southeast not for publication _n/a

city or town Hickory vicinity _n/a__

state North Carolina code _NC_ county Catawba code 035_ zip code _28603-2089

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 _x_ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____ _____
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
____ 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): _____		

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill
Name of Property

Catawba, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

__x private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

__x building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Historic Resources of Hickory

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: INDUSTRY Sub: manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: COMMERCE Sub: warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation BRICK
roof Unknown
walls BRICK
other

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

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill_____ ___Catawba, North Carolina__
Name of Property County and State

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)

___x_ 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.

__x__ 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_____
__Industry_____

Period of Significance
__c. 1930 to 1957_____

Significant Dates
__1930, 1933, 1957_____

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_____n/a_____

Cultural Affiliation
_____n/a_____

Architect/Builder _
Biberstein, Bowles, Meachem & Reed - architect_____

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
__X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _North Carolina Division of Archives and History_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.34

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	469881	3954257	3			
2				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 April Montgomery

organization Circa, Inc. date July 27, 2006

street & number 16 N. Boylan Ave. telephone 919-834-4757

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27603

12. 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 Lyerly Full Fashion Mills, Inc (contact: Josephine Hambrick)

street & number PO Box 2089 telephone (828-294-0453)

city or town Hickory state NC zip code 28603-2089

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.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Section 7/Physical Description

Site Description

The Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is located at 56 Third Street Southeast in southeast Hickory, approximately one-half mile southeast of downtown. Hickory is in northwest Catawba County in North Carolina's western Piedmont.

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill sits on a 1.3 acre city block bounded by Main Avenue Way SE to the north, Highway 127 to the west, First Avenue SE to the south, and Third Street SE to the east. Highway 127 and First Avenue are busy commercial thoroughfares. Sanborn maps indicate an industrial presence on this block since at least 1902. With the exception of the mill, a machine shop building, and an unrelated c. 1930 service station at the northwest corner of Third St SE and First Avenue SE, the block has been cleared of structures. The block is relatively flat and treeless. A paved lot is south of the mill. North of the mill is a grassy lot where the circa 1900 Elliott Mill stood until the spring of 1997. The Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill's façade fronts east toward Third Street SE. The building is set back only a sidewalk's width from the road. The machine shop is located approximately one hundred feet from the mill's southwest corner.

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill, c.1930-c.1934 *Contributing*

Built in two stages between circa 1930 and circa 1934, Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is a two-story, rectangular, nine-by-twelve bay common bond brick building. Load bearing brick walls are supported by a poured concrete foundation. The façade features a one-story, flat roof office section with an off-center, Art Moderne-inspired two-and-a-half story stair tower projecting from the main building block. The office section, tower and the front (east) six bays of the main block were constructed around 1930. Spanning the west elevation is a one-bay deep, two-story service section with a windowless two-and-a-half story stair tower.

The Art Moderne style tower, corbelled on three sides, distinguishes what is otherwise an intact yet plain industrial building. The verticality of the tower is emphasized by three tall, narrow, fixed twenty-pane windows recessed between brick pilasters. Each window bay is topped by three corbelled brick pendants. A stepped parapet projects above the tower's flat roofline.

The one-story office section displays eight recessed corbelled window bays separated by brick pilasters. The fixed eight-light windows are not original. Documentary photos and plans show twenty-light casement windows in these openings. The bay at the southeast corner has been

infilled with brick. The fifth bay window has been replaced with a windowless door. Brick soldier courses decorate the office block above the windows and below the concrete coping of the parapet. The mill is accessed by an entry below the tower. This glass door is also not original and this opening may have been added. A documentary drawing shows a small, three-light window at this location. One of these windows survives at the north end of the sixth façade bay. The office section is appended to the mill's main block, which on the second story of the front elevation retains eight twenty-pane metal casement windows.

The front and rear (east and west) elevations of the mill's two-story main block have shallow, stepped parapet rooflines with concrete coping. From the ground the roof appears flat, although it is a very shallow gable. Six metal ventilators are on the roof and a plain, windowless stair tower rises from the rear elevation.

The rear (west) six bays of the mill comprise the second phase of construction, built around 1934. The side (north and south) elevations retain twelve bays of large, stacked, multi-light windows with metal mullions. The only exception is the mill's southeast corner where three bays on the first story have been infilled with glass block. A fourth window bay has been filled in on the first story of the southwest corner. Also on the south side of the mill is a one-story, metal, gabled addition. This addition spans the west half of the first story. It is covered in corrugated metal and has a concrete block foundation. The metal addition was constructed in a manner that has left the south wall undamaged. The windows covered by the addition are present and visible in the interior.

The mill's interior consists of large open spaces on both the first and second floors. On the first floor, wood columns divide the interior into a central passage and twelve open equipment bays. Concrete equipment pads are separated by tongue-and-groove oak "walkways." In a few places the oak flooring is missing, exposing massive, thick planks. The space is well-lit due to the banks of large windows. Interior evidence of the two phases of construction is inconspicuous. When the second phase was constructed the walls were sheathed with plaster and a yellow tile wainscot obscuring any evidence on the brick. A crack runs the width of the building on the concrete floor between sixth and seventh bays.

The second floor can be accessed by either the front or rear stair towers. Rectangular, glazed, yellow tiles form a wainscot in the stair wells. These are the same tiles used on the first level. Both the front and rear stairs have concrete steps with metal pipe rails. Like the first floor, the second floor is divided into twelve bays on either side of a central passage. Structure is provided by vertical steel I-beam posts supporting a system of horizontal I-beams. The ceiling consists of

six-inch-wide planks spanning the I-beams. When the building was expanded, a new roof system was built to span the original and 1934 sections. Therefore the roof does not portend the two stages of construction. The floors on the second level are oak.

The interior of the office wing consists of a central, yellow-tiled entry hall, with offices north and south of it. Original plans label the area south of the entry as offices, and north of the entry as windowless storage. The two-story rear service section houses an elevator, stair tower, bathrooms and storage rooms. The elevator, in the mill's northwest corner, is not original to the building. It was added at an unknown date. Original five-panel, metal-clad wood doors separate these rooms from the main mill space.

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill Machine Shop, c. 1933 *Contributing*

Located southwest of the mill adjacent to Highway 127, this one-story rectangular industrial building is built of 5/1 brick bond. Tile-coped stepped parapets are at each gable end (north and south). Two large metal ventilators sit on the roof. A large garage bay opening flanked by windows is on the façade (east). The garage opening was added in the mid-1990s. Window openings are covered with vinyl siding. Twenty-light metal casement windows, like those on the mill building, are present under the vinyl siding in deteriorated condition. The entrance to the building is at the northeast corner. It is surmounted by an awning and the original door has been replaced with a multi-light door.

Originally the interior was a forty-foot by forty-foot open space. However, in the mid-1990s the space was divided to accommodate a ten-foot by twelve-foot office and ten-foot by ten-foot bathroom. At that time the original pine floor was replaced with a concrete slab.

Integrity

The integrity and condition of the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is excellent. The building retains its original materials, massing, and interior arrangement. While the original windows of the office block have been removed, the openings and surrounding decorative brickwork have not been altered. The replacement windows do not significantly detract from the mill's historical appearance. The survival and excellent condition of most of the mill's original metal windows is remarkable. The machine shop also retains its original massing, materials, and most importantly its location southwest of the mill. Despite obscured window openings and the addition of the garage bay, the machine shop continues to convey its purpose as an auxiliary support building to the mill.

Section 8/Statement of Significance

Summary

Built in two stages from circa.1930 to circa 1934 just southeast of downtown Hickory, Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is a two-story, brick industrial building with massive metal windows, two floors of manufacturing space, and an office wing across the façade that also features a two-plus story stair tower. It has important associations with the expansive hosiery industry in Hickory that became one of the city's leading industries during the first half of the twentieth century. It is locally significant as one of the few surviving hosiery mills in Hickory that retains enough architectural integrity to accurately depict and represent the history of local hosieries. It is the only extant building associated with the Elliott-Lyerly-Morgan mills that were once the largest and most successful mills in Hickory. Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill fulfills Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for Industry and Architecture. An architectural and historic context is given in the "Historic Resources of Hickory" Multiple Resource Nomination (Section 8 pages 12-13 for historic context and Section 7 page 6 and Section 8 pages 14 and 17 for architectural context). The mill's period of significance spans from the circa 1930 date of construction to 1957 when the hosiery operation ceased and the building's use changed to wholesaling. While this end date is just shy of fifty years ago, 1957 is the most appropriate year in which to end of the period of significance based on the company's history and building use.

Historical Background and Industry Context

Post-Civil War North Carolina saw a proliferation of textile industries. The rolling terrain and numerous rivers of the North Carolina Piedmont, together with the recently arrived railroad, provided both a power source and a means for getting goods to distant markets. This combination attracted northern mill companies from New England and Pennsylvania who rapidly developed textile mills, and a number of industrial centers, including Hickory, were created in areas that historically had been crossroads towns and family farms. The proximity of the raw material, cotton, and the availability of cheap labor resulted in the construction of textile mills from Roanoke Rapids to Gastonia. Hosiery manufacturing developed as a significant sector of the textile industry.

The majority of the state's hosiery mills were located in Alamance and Catawba counties, but they were also found in Burke, Davidson, Guilford, and Randolph counties. By 1920 there were 147 hosiery mills in the state, a 640% rate of growth over the preceding twenty years. In the

succeeding two decades the industry continued to expand with a reported 249 mills in operation by 1939 (McGregor 3-9).

Hickory's first hosiery mill, the Hickory Hosiery Mill, was begun in 1906 by J.A. Cline and Rev. W. P. Cline (no relation), and produced men's hose and women's cotton hose. The Clines sold this plant in 1912 but remained active in hosiery production in Catawba County for decades through various new endeavors. Hickory's second hosiery was Elliott Knitting Mills, of which the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is an outgrowth. Formed in 1910, Elliott Knitting Mills was named for one of its founders, J.D. Elliott, a prominent local banker. Brothers Eubert, Walker and George Lyerly were Elliott's partners in this venture. Elliott Knitting Mills manufactured seamless silk and rayon hose, mercerized cotton hose for women, and half hose for men (Hickory Daily News, United Daughters of the Confederacy Special Edition (HDN UDC), 2/26/1938).

Hickory Hosiery Mill and Elliott Knitting Mills remained the dominant hosiery operations in Hickory until the late 1920s when a number of hosieries, Whisnant, Shuford, and Duke to name a few, began operation. According to a 1938 newspaper article written by a Lyerly employee named Hans Schuller, there were thirty-two hosieries and knitting mills in the city by 1937, and forty-two in Catawba County. In sum these operations produced eighty-four million pair of socks and hose annually, employed over 4,000 people, and were responsible for more than half of the city's $5 million manufacturing payroll (HDN, UDC). The other half of the manufacturing jobs were provided by Hickory's furniture industry.

In the 1930s, Elliott Knitting Mills was the largest hosiery manufacturing plant in Hickory with an output of more than 800,000 pair per year and more than 800 employees. The Lyerly brothers had bought out Elliott's interest in the company in 1916, but retained the name. In 1930 they organized the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill. "Full fashioned" referred to hosiery that was knitted on a special machine which resulted in a more formed and fitted product. Prior to the introduction of the full fashioned machine, hosiery was knitted by machine in the form of a tube and the toe was subsequently closed by looping or sewing it shut by hand. Hosiery knit on a full fashioned machine was knit flat and then varied stitching was used to form, or "fashion", the leg. The patent for the full fashioned machine was granted in England in 1857 (www.legsource.com). The machines that were installed in the North Carolina Piedmont were primarily manufactured in Germany by the Shubert-Salzer company. By 1938 there were approximately 300 of these machines in neighboring Burke and Catawba counties and approximately 4,500 in North Carolina (HDR, UDC 2/26/1938).

The original Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is contained within the nominated building. Constructed circa 1930, with it first appearing on the 1931 Sanborn map, the original mill was about half the size of the current structure. This building housed the original nine full-fashioned machines that were purchased by the mill in 1930 from Shubert-Salzer and installed between 1930 and 1931 by Hans Scheller, a Shubert-Salzer employee who would later return to Hickory and be employed by Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill (HDN, 2/26/1938).

In 1933 the company contracted with the architecture firm Biberstein, Bowles, Meachem, & Reed of Charlotte, North Carolina, to design an expansion of the mill that would double its size. Richard C. Biberstein (1859-1931) was one of the South's most productive mill architects, designing mills and mill villages in North and South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. The firm's North Carolina commissions included Roanoke Mills in Roanoke Rapids (NR 1999) the Rowan and Salisbury Cotton Mills in Salisbury (no longer extant), and the Belmont Hosiery Mill (NR 2002). Begun in 1905 in Charlotte, the firm remains active today.

The large, two-story brick structure designed by the Biberstein firm doubled the mill's space. The physical evidence of this expansion is limited to a 'seam' in the exterior brick work at the rear of the sixth bay on the north elevation, a crack that runs through the concrete floor on the ground level and a seam where the wood flooring abuts on the second level. The steel I-beam interior frame in both parts of the building is identical. The roof system is seamless and was likely replaced in whole when the building was expanded circa 1934.

A 1938 newspaper article stated that Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill was the only full fashioned mill in Hickory (HDN, UDC). In reality, Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill appears to have been the only mill exclusively producing full fashioned hosiery. Other local mills were also producing full fashioned hosiery, but this was done within their other knitting and hosiery operations. The Elliott-Lyerly hosiery operation was the only operation large enough to support an exclusively full fashioned mill. In 1938 the mill was producing 125,000 pairs of chiffon hose annually and employing 300 people (HDN, UDC 2/1938).

Eubert Lyerly, who had served as general manager of Elliott Knitting Mills since 1916 and Lyerly Full Fashioned Mills since 1930, died in 1938. His brother George Lyerly took over the operations of the two mills after Eubert's death. In 1946 George Lyerly and C. L. Morgan created the Lyerly-Morgan Co., Inc. The Lyerly-Morgan Co. focused on the production of ladies' full fashion nylon hosiery and was, for the next decade, an operation separate from the Elliott-Lyerly Mills. George Lyerly, Jr. took over operations of the Lyerly-Morgan Co. upon his father's death in 1952.

The shift of management between generations also resulted in a shift in the manufacturing operation. In the mid 1950s George Lyerly, Jr. began to shift the company's focus from nylon hosiery to sock production (Fogleman Interview). On January 1, 1957, Lyerly-Morgan purchased all equipment and operations of the Elliott and Lyerly Mills. All activities after this date were referred to as activities of the Elliott or Lyerly Divisions of the Lyerly-Morgan Company (HDN 9/1962 p. 30). All machinery associated with the mill's hosiery production was moved to the Elliott Knitting Mill building next door. Hosiery, exclusively socks, would be manufactured on that site until the mid-1990s.

As a result of the 1957 buy-out, the production of hosiery in the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill building ceased. A wholesaling operation known as both The James Company and The Master Supply Company moved into the building. The James/Master Supply Company supplied grocery and convenience stores with hosiery and other textile products. A 1962 article in the Hickory Daily News showcases the company's products as displayed on the first floor of the mill building. Today the James Company is gone and the building is primarily occupied by a warehousing operation.

The massive Elliott Knitting Mills building remained in operation in the manufacture of hosiery for Elliott-Lyerly Mills until the mid-1990s when George Lyerly, Jr.'s poor health and the extensive renovations the building required caused the oldest active hosiery in Hickory to close. In the spring of 1997 Elliott Knitting Mills was demolished, leaving the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill building and its associated machine shop the last extant structures of what was once Hickory's largest hosiery business (Catawba County Building Permit 9063).

Architecture Context

Early-twentieth-century industrial buildings in North Carolina were rarely constructed in popular national styles. As buildings more focused on function than frill, these structures were often plain, with an occasional adornment attributed to a particular architectural style. Unlike residential construction where the style, material, and overall shape of the building may be reflective of its locale, changes in the form, finish, or material of an industrial building were more likely to be industry-wide or owner-influenced than reflective of a stylistic trend or regional preference.

The construction of industrial buildings in Hickory followed this trend. Buildings associated with the hosiery industry that dominated Hickory in the early twentieth century were commonly

one and two-story brick buildings with large windows and, frequently, stepped parapets. Variations in these buildings included gabled or flat roofs and cast stone finishing elements, such as sills, cornices, and corner blocks.

Both the "Historic Resources of Hickory" Multiple Resource Nomination (MRN) and the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Catawba County" Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) state that many of the major manufacturing facilities that date to Hickory's major periods of development have been demolished or altered. This is largely due to these industries' continued growth resulting in the need to update their facilities to house modern manufacturing machinery or completely rebuild the site to suit present needs. The textile mills seem to have fared well in this evolution, where older buildings were retained, with small scale additions often to the side or rear of the original mill structure.

The Hickory MRN and Catawba County MPDF also address the limited presence of the Art Deco or Art Moderne styles in commercial and industrial development in early-twentieth century Hickory. Both reports state that the majority of the buildings constructed in this style have either been demolished or heavily altered to the point that their stylistic associations are no longer recognizable. However, two structures, the 1937 Coca Cola Building on First Avenue NW and the 1941 (former) First National Bank at the corner of Second Street and First Avenue NW retain Art Deco or Art Moderne-inspired elements. The low linear forms of both of these buildings can also be attributed to the more streamlined Art Moderne movement of the 1930s and 1940s.

The circa 1930-1934 Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is an excellent and intact example of a 1930s industrial building associated with the local textile industry. The main block of the building is a two-story load-bearing brick structure with an interior steel frame of I-beam supports. Large windows, concrete sills and parapet coping are defining elements of the building's exterior. The mill's most distinguishing feature, however, is an off-center, parapeted, two-story-plus central tower with three bays of original, narrow vertical windows surmounted by brick corbelling. The sleek linear design of this stair tower is the stylistic element that associates this structure with the Art Moderne movement. While the building as a whole is not overtly stylized, the tower's architectural expression is a rarity among Hickory's extant hosiery mill buildings.

A 1931-1948 Sanborn map shows seven hosiery mills in Hickory, including both the Elliott Knitting Mills and the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill. A 2006 windshield survey found five of these structures still standing, each of which has had some level of alteration and only one, originally the Whisnant Hosiery Mill, now Moretz Mills, Inc., continues to produce a textile product.

The two-story, brick hosiery mill at the corner of Highland Avenue and Third Street SE is a flat-roof structure, three-bays wide with replacement windows and a circa 1970 one-story flat-roof addition off the rear elevation. It is simply noted as "Hosiery Mill" on the 1931 Sanborn map and is small in comparison to its peers. Both its size and finish read more like a commercial structure than an industrial manufacturing facility.

The Hollar Hosiery Mill (883 Highland Avenue SE), originally Duke Hosiery, is contemporary with the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill. Its parapeted one-story façade fronts Eighth Street SE. As the building extends down Highland Avenue it reaches two-stories in height. Remarkably intact, the Hollar Hosiery Mill retains its original windows and decorative brick and stone elements. A one-story ca. 1960 rear addition connects the mill to the two-story, barrel-roofed structure that once housed the Louis Levett Company.

Moretz Mills, Inc. (74 Eighth Street SE) is also contemporary with the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill. Moretz can be seen on the 1931 Sanborn as Whisnant Hosiery Mills. Like Hollar Hosiery Mill, the parapeted façade of this one and one-half story building faces Eighth Street SE. There has been a large addition off the north elevation of this structure. The first section of this addition is a one-story parapeted structure executed in beige brick, and it appears on the 1931 Sanborn map. The second section, which connects to the first, is a more recent flat-roof one-story structure, also executed in beige brick. The original core of the building stretches a full block down Highland Avenue SE to Seventh Street SE where it is only one-story. The windows have been covered with vertical siding. The large-scale modern addition has impacted the overall integrity of the building complex, however, the historic sections of the mill are still identifiable.

The Sigmon-Terry Hosiery Mill also remains standing. This one-story, beige brick structure with a barrel-vaulted roof was constructed in 1940. The windows have been covered but the openings indicate that they were much smaller than the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill or Hollar Hosiery Mill window openings. A one-story red brick addition that appears to have been built circa 1980-1990 connects the Sigmon-Terry Building to the Catawba Paper Company Building

Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill differs from Hickory's other surviving mils in construction method. While all appear from the exterior to be of load bearing brick construction, their interior framing systems differ. According to county tax records, each of the buildings has an interior wood joist framing system with the exception of Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill which is listed a "fire resistant" frame.

The Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill is an intact manifestation of Hickory's textile heritage. The mill is Hickory's only surviving two-story hosiery mill building dating from the early part of the twentieth century.

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Section 10/Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill property is the 1.34-acre shaded area on the accompanying Catawba County GIS map drawn to a scale of 1” = 123’.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary includes the 1.34 acre legal parcel on which the only surviving buildings associated with the Elliott and Lyerly mill operations still standing. Until the Spring of 1997, buildings affiliated with the mill were present on the parcels north of the nominated parcel. These buildings have been demolished.

Photographs

1. View of front/east elevation of Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill
2. View of side/north elevation of Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill
3. View of rear/west elevation of Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill
4. View of side/south elevation of Lyerly Full Fashioned Mill
5. First floor interior looking west
6. Second Floor looking northeast
7. Tower stair detail
8. Rear stair detail
9. View of east and south elevations of Machine Shop