NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED ON:
VLR 06/16/2011
NRHP 08/18/2011

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Crompton-Shenandoah Plant

other names/site number The Mill at South River; DHR File No.136-5056

2. Location

street & number 200 West 12th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Waynesboro N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Waynesboro (Independent City) code 820 zip code 22980

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** **X** **local**

Signature of certifying official — Date: July 7, 2011

Deputy Director, Deputy SHPO — Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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
	building(s)
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	0	buildings
0	0	sites
8	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	buildings
19	0	**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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility
INDUSTRY: energy facility
INDUSTRY: industrial storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility
INDUSTRY: industrial storage
COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE: office building	VACANT
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store	HEALTH CARE: clinic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT, SYNTHETIC: Rubber
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheet.

Narrative Description

See 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)

- [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)

Property is:

- [ ] A — owed by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B — removed from its original location.
- [ ] C — a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D — a cemetery.
- [ ] E — a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F — a commemorative property.
- [ ] G — less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926-1961

Significant Dates

1926

1936-1939

1947-1948

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Southeast Construction Co. (Plant #3)

Barker & Turoff (Office Building)

Harry Graham Co. (Office Building)

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance for the property begins in 1926 when construction began on Plant #1 and ends in 1961, fifty years ago at a time when the last large warehouse addition had been built. From the 1960s on, major improvements focused on the water treatment and environmental regulations. These improvements drastically changed the topography of the site and became the cause of much damage to the complex as they increased the flooding of the site. This period represents the height of the cotton manufacturing years before the industry began to decline in the face of foreign markets,

synthetic materials and environmental regulations. After 1960, the two-story Personnel Office (formerly the main office) was replaced with a new one-story addition to the Gate House in the mid-1960s and two smaller warehouse additions were added to Plant #1 in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These later additions do not share the same architectural characteristics as the remainder of the complex.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

See continuation sheet.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See 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: **Virginia Department of Historic Resources, h Richmond, VA.**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR File No. 136-5056

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 40.885 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	684910	4214290	C	17	685590	4214990
B	17	684900	4214950	D	17	685560	4214310

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alison S. Blanton
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheet.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant complex is located on a 40-acre site on the west bank of the South River in Waynesboro, Virginia. The complex consists of eleven primary buildings--two plant buildings, a machine shop/supply storage building, a former enameling plant, a boiler house, a water softener building, a chemical storage building, a lab, a gate house/personnel office, an office building and a retail store--that range in construction dates from 1926 to 1948 with various additions through the 1970s. Many of these buildings are currently connected to one another by such additions. The site also contains eight historic structures (seven hose houses and one silo). The factory complex is entered from the west by Twelfth Street with the Office Building (1947) on the right and the one-story Retail Shop (1947) on the left (both of which have always been accessible to the public) before coming to the Gate House (1947) and the secured plant beyond. Plant #1, constructed in 1926-1927 with subsequent additions, extends along the river bank as a long, one-story, brick building with sawtooth skylights and large industrial steel-sash windows. The other buildings on the site, including Plants #2 and #3, the Boiler House, and the Mechanical and Chemical Storage Building, are typical examples of industrial architecture with their brick and concrete construction, sawtooth skylights and monitors and banks of industrial sash windows. Small brick hose houses are located throughout the complex. The open area between the buildings, which was paved in 1996 for parking, was historically open lawn space as parking was outside the gates. Numerous berms, clarifiers and basins were added to the site in the 1960s-1970s for flood control and water treatment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant in Waynesboro is a large complex of industrial buildings constructed between 1926 and the 1970s to provide dyeing and finishing for grey cotton goods from Georgia. The plant produced finished corduroy, velveteen and velvet materials. Built during a time of specialization and regional expansion within the

textile industry, the plant is a physical representation of the processes used to finish the cloth. The plant, with its layout of a secured complex with inter-related plant buildings and a Gate House, Office Building and Retail Shop at the entrance, also represents the organization and operation of an extensive industrial plant with a large, skilled workforce.

The successful processing of greige goods relied on efficiency and quality control. The various areas of the plants are clearly labeled in early drawings and Sanborn maps to indicate the functions of each. As with any process, their physical location was directly related to their specific function and its integration into the overall process. At Crompton-Shenandoah, the greige goods arrived, originally by rail and later by truck, at the north end of the plant. From here, the goods made their way through the various processing steps and back to the shipping warehouse to be transported out to market.

Plant #1 produced corduroy and velveteen fabrics. The process for these fabrics started with napping in which the back of the fabric was scratched to soften it. The material was then stiffened with a light coat of caustic solution and soap to aid in the cutting step (one of the most important steps) where the loops left in the woven pile were cut. Next, the fabric was rinsed and scoured removing natural cotton waxes and applied starches. The fabric then passed lengthwise through treadling machines with brushes that unraveled and straightened the fibers in the fabric. The next step was crossing where a wet brush process knitted the fabric into a rib. The fabric was then singed very carefully and quickly on hot frames to burn off lint and ragged edges, giving a uniform finish to the fabric. At this point, the fabric had reached the south end of Plant #1 where the Bleaching Room was located. The bleaching process removed all color from the fabric to get it ready for dyeing. During the dyeing process, color was added very carefully for uniformity and consistency. The Passing Room, with its large bank of north-facing windows for the best light, was located next to the Dye House and the Print Shop to allow for quality control. The next step was printing, in which patterns of colors were added to the base color of the fabric. During the finishing process, the fabric was brushed and dried, treated with chemicals for the desired finish, and then framed to set the fabric at a uniform width. Final inspection took place in the upper floor of the

shipping warehouse at the north end where north-facing windows again provided good natural light to inspect every square inch of the fabric for defects and uniformity of color, and then the fabric was classified and made ready for shipment.[1]

The manufacture of velvet fabrics, which took place in Plants #2 and #3, was more complicated as it involved taking the synthetic yarn from cones or beams through weaving, cutting, dyeing and finishing. The cutting process for velvet was very complex and required highly skilled workers to operate the machines quickly and without error. A single mistake could cost thousands of yards of fabric as the machines moved so quickly.[2]

While it was the machinery, distinctive to the textile industry, that actually accomplished the fabric production, the buildings supported these machines and the workers with solid foundations, large, open floor plans and good natural light. The concrete slab foundations and heavy masonry and steel construction were necessary to support the heavy, moving machinery and reduce the potential for fire damage. In areas where the process required the use of water or other liquids, outlines of troughs in the concrete floor can be seen. As described, the north-facing windows in the passing and inspection rooms were important to provide good natural light for the inspection and quality control that was so critical in the textile industry. The single point of entry and exit for raw and finished goods at the north end reflects the efficiency of the entire operation. The expansion of the 1940s Shipping Warehouse with its large loading docks is a testament to the shift from rail to truck transportation. The Boiler House and the Chemical and Mechanical Storage Building, which were both constructed as separate, free-standing buildings away from the plants themselves, and the presence of the hose houses throughout the property illustrate the ever-present threat of fire. Finally, the location of the Office Building, the Retail Shop and the Gate House, all built (or completed) in 1947 reflect the growth of the company after World War II and the desire to separate buildings accessible to the public from the secured plant complex.

Inventory:

Plant #1:	1926-27 with additions in 1938, 1939, 1940, 1947, 1951, 1959, 1962, 1963 and 1971	Contributing

The original plant was built in 1926-1927 to provide the dyeing, finishing and cutting of corduroy and velveteen greige goods. The building is a one-story brick building laid in stretcher bond on a concrete slab foundation with a flat roof with steel trusses and sawtooth skylights. Industrial steel-frame windows with multiple lights and a central pivoting section line the building along the east and west sides. The windows at the south end, in the Bleach House, have been replaced with glass block. A number of windows, particularly along the east side, have been either infilled with block or covered with boards or siding. The front (west) side of the building has been painted. The rear (east) elevation remains unpainted although metal siding covers the muck of this side, including many of the original window openings. Several original sliding freight doors survive on the north end, where the railroad docks were located. These doors are vertical board with cross-bracing and fireproofed with a sheet metal on one side. Other doors are modern, single-leaf, flush metal doors. Many of these doors have been added over the years as the building has been subdivided for reuse. The original plant had a limited number of doors as personnel entry was tightly controlled. The interior features a relatively open plan with concrete floors, some limited areas of brick paving, painted brick walls, exposed structural systems and exposed tongue-and-groove roof decking. Modern partition walls have been added to some areas for tenant subdivision. Numerous additions have been made to Plant #1 over the years. Generally these additions have the same industrial design and construction as Plant #1, although the more modern sections are built of concrete block instead of brick. Plant #1, with its many additions, survives in relatively good condition.

Boiler House	1926-27 with additions in 1941, 1952, and 1974	Contributing

Water Softener Building	1937	Contribuitng
Silo	1937	Contributing Structure

Located at the southwest corner of the site, the two-story brick Boiler House, constructed in 1926-27, sits on a concrete slab foundation and is distinctive to the complex with its gable roof. The windows are steel industrial frame with only some frames remaining. Several original double-leaf, wooden freight doors remain intact. Additions were made to the Boiler House in 1941 and 1952. A 1974 hyphen connects the Boiler House with the 1937 Water Softener Building to the north. This section was built to store salt as part of the water softening process used in finishing the materials. The interiors of these spaces are open with the exception of the brick enclosure for the boilers themselves. This enclosure has been partially removed for the dismantling of the boilers several years ago. The floors are concrete slab with varying levels to accommodate the equipment. Steel catwalks and ladders extend throughout the interior to provide access to various parts of the machinery. A terra cotta tile silo, built circa 1937 to store salt for the Water Softener Building. stands to the northwest of the Boiler House.

The main three sections of the Boiler House, built in 1926, 1941 and 1952, survive in fair to poor condition with the failure of the roof and a number of windows either missing their sashes or the entire frame. The Water Softener Building is in severely deteriorated condition as the brick walls have stood without a roof for over a decade and water infiltration with the resulting freeze-thaw conditions have rendered this section to be structurally unsound and beyond repair.

Plant # 2 & #3:	1936-1937 with additions in 1938,1947, post-1959, 1962	Contributing
Machine Shop (Supply Storage)	ca. 1920	Contributing
Weave Room	ca. 1925, post 1947 addition	Contributing

Plant #2 was constructed in 1936 to provide a facility for the weaving of velvet cloth. It is a one-story brick building laid in stretcher bond on a concrete slab foundation with flat roof and sawtooth skylights. Industrial steel-frame windows extend along the sides. Interior finishes include concrete slab floor, painted brick walls and exposed structural systems. Plant #2 was built to incorporate a previous ca. 1930 bow-truss, concrete block building (Weave Room) to the north that already existed on the site. A post 1947 concrete block addition joins the bow truss building and Plant #2 to the 1920 Machine Shop (Supply Storage) Building along 11th Street. The ca. 1920 Machine Shop building, which is now part of Plant #2, appears to have been associated with the W.J. Loth Stove Company, whose plant was located to the north of the Crompton-Shenandoah property. The Machine Shop (Supply Storage) building is labeled on the 1925 and 1930 Sanborn maps as "pattern warehouse" and the ca. 1925 bow-truss Weave Room first appears on the 1930 Sanborn map as the "Vitreous Enameling Plant." This property was purchased by Crompton-Shenandoah in 1935 from General Electric, who had purchased the W.J. Loth Stove Company in 1930. These buildings at the north end of Plant #2 do not appear to have any specific construction of design characteristics that relate to the production of velvet cloth other than the fact that they existed as usable space on the site. Plant #2 survives in good condition with minor alterations.

Plant # 3, which is connected to Plant #2 at the south end, was constructed in 1936-1938. This one-story brick building is also laid in stretcher bond on a concrete slab foundation with flat roof supported by steel trusses. Sections of the roof feature sawtooth skylights and a monitor. The former "Passing Room" at the southwest corner features an exterior wall slanted to the north with large windows to allow natural light for inspecting the finished fabrics. The windows are industrial steel frame with multiple lights and a central pivot section. The single-leaf doors are modern, flush metal doors that are not original. Many of these doors have been added over the years as various tenants have occupied the buildings. Plant #3, as the other plant spaces, features an open floor plan and interior finishes are similar as well with concrete floor, painted brick walls and exposed structural systems. Plant #3 survives in relatively good condition with minor alterations.

Mechanical/Chemical Storage Building (Maintenance Building): 1939 Contributing

This two-story, free-standing building was constructed in 1939 of brick laid in the stretcher bond pattern and sits on a raised concrete basement with loading docks along the east and west sides. The flat roof features a parapet and bracketed eaves. The windows are industrial steel frame. Interior finishes include wood floors, painted brick walls, and an exposed structural system. The building is currently used as storage building with partitions. The building survives in good condition.

Office Building: 1940/1948 Contributing

The two-story Office Building is located on 12th Street outside the gated complex for public access with a semicircular drive at the front. The building, designed in a stripped modern style in 1940 by the Providence, Rhode Island, firm of Barker & Turoff and constructed by the Southeast Construction Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, was not completed until 1948 because of material shortages during World War II. The building has projecting central and end blocks and is constructed of concrete block with brick veneer on a concrete slab foundation with a flat roof with a parapet. A flat metal canopy protects the entrance with its modern, aluminum frame with plate-glass doors. The entrance has been modified to allow for a concrete handicap ramp. The original industrial steel-frame windows have been replaced with vinyl sash windows. The interior plan features a double-loaded corridor with a central entrance lobby and staircases towards each end. The building is currently used as a Health Services Building and, while the plan remains relatively intact, the interior finishes have been modernized with carpeted floors and dropped acoustical tile ceilings. The building survives in good condition.

Retail Store: 1947 with addition Contributing

The Retail Store is located on 12th Street outside the gated plant complex to allow for easy public access. This one-story brick veneer building is designed in the Colonial Revival style on a residential scale with a side-gable roof and dentils detailing the cornice and window hoods. A one-story, one-bay, gabled entry porch accents the entrance. The doors have been replaced with aluminum frame and plate-glass commercial doors. The original industrial steel-frame windows have been replaced with vinyl sash and fixed windows. An addition, similar to the original structure with a slightly higher roof peak, was added to the east end at some point. The interior features an open plan that has been subdivided with partitions. The building survives in good condition.

Print Shop (Laboratory Building) Pre-1948, altered for Lab Building in 1974 Contributing

This one-story building was constructed prior to 1948 of concrete block featuring brick veneer on the front (west) and north side elevations. The building has a flat roof and sits on a concrete slab foundation. The original industrial steel-frame windows were removed in 1974 and the openings partially infilled with concrete block and smaller vinyl sash windows. The doors are single-leaf, flush metal doors that are not original. The interior plan, which was originally open, has been divided into partition walls and dropped ceilings that are not original. The building remains in good, although altered, condition.

Gate House: 1948, ca. 1963 Personnel Office addition Contributing

This small, one-story building, constructed in 1948, extends into the drive with an overhanging canopy at the entrance to the plant complex. The building is hexagonal in plan to allow maximum visibility. Construction of concrete block with brick veneer sits on a concrete slab foundation. The original industrial steel-frame windows have been replaced with vinyl windows. The metal canopy appears to have been replaced due to damage from passing trucks. A one-story concrete block office building with flat roof

was added ca. 1963 to replace the original two-story Office Building (later Personnel Office) that was demolished.

Hose Houses 1926-1938 Contributing Structures (7)

There are a total of eight hose houses located throughout the site that were constructed between 1926 and 1938. The small brick buildings sit directly on the ground and feature a small door and a hip roof. The hose houses along the front (west) side of the complex have been painted to match the buildings while the hose houses on the rear (west) side remain unpainted. These structures survive in good condition.

Integrity Statement:
The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant retains a relatively high level of integrity with the majority of its historic buildings and structures intact with their character-defining features of masonry and steel construction, skylights and roof monitors, and large banks of industrial steel-frame windows. Although the machinery no longer exists, the open floor plans and connected spaces that were so critical to the placement and operation of the machinery still remain. The overall layout of buildings in relation to each other, the site, the river and the city beyond, retains its character and ability to illustrate the industrial process of the plants that produced corduroy, velveteen and velvet fabrics and the role of the company in the City of Waynesboro.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant, located on the South River in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, encompasses a 40-acre site with approximately 10 acres of buildings that range in date from 1926 through the 1970s. Crompton-Shenandoah was established in 1926 by The Crompton Company of Rhode Island, which was founded in 1807 and operated as one of the oldest textile firms at the time. The Waynesboro plant specialized in the cutting, dyeing and finishing of greige goods from the company's Highland Mill in Georgia to produce corduroy, velvet and velveteen fabrics. Crompton-Shenandoah served as a major employer in Waynesboro for over 50 years before closing its plant in 1982. At its peak in the late 1940s, Crompton-Shenandoah employed 1200 workers and the Crompton Company was the leading producer of corduroy and velveteen fabrics in the world. The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A as it represents the move towards regional manufacturing in the early 20th century when capital investment from the North combined with the expansion of the railroads to allow raw goods to be harvested and initially milled in one location before being transported to another location for finishing and then to markets. This approach also allowed for the specialization of textile plants in the various finishing methods such as knits, hosiery, corduroy and velveteen. Crompton-Shenandoah contributed greatly to the growth of Waynesboro as the first of several large industries that recognized the advantages of locating along the South River in Waynesboro in the 1920s and 1930s. The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant complex, with the first plant constructed in 1927 and Plants #2 and 3, constructed by the Southeast Construction Company between 1936 and1939, to allow for the production of velvets, represents the company's expansion and diversification during the years between World War I and II. The construction of the Office Building, designed by the Rhode Island firm of Barker & Turoff and built by Harry Graham Company, as well as the Gate House and other additions reflects the growth of the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant after World Ware II and its increasing importance within the larger Crompton Company.

The property is also eligible under Criterion C as a textile mill complex, with its many buildings and additions, that represents the utilitarian design of industrial architecture. The interconnected buildings relate closely to the manufacturing process, as do their large open spans, lit by saw tooth skylights and banks of industrial sash windows. The plant, which operated from 1927 to 1982, is eligible on the local level of significance in the areas of industry and architecture with a period of significance beginning in 1926 when construction began on Plant #1 and ending in 1961, fifty years ago at a time when the last large warehouse addition had been built.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion A:

The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant is eligible for listing under Criterion A with significance in industry as an example of a large-scale textile manufacturing plant that operated during the second and third quarters of the 20th century. As a subdivision of the Crompton Company of Rhode Island, the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant served as a finishing plant to produce corduroy, velvet and velveteen from the greige goods produced by their cotton mills in Georgia. This organization reflected the trend of northern manufacturers investing in the South after the Civil War as they recognized the advantages of cheap labor, abundant natural resources and accessibility as the railroads expanded and improved. Waynesboro, situated conveniently along the South River and near the crossroads of north-south and east-west rail and road routes, was an attractive location for this new regional approach to manufacturing and marketing. Several other large industries, including DuPont and General Electric, followed the Crompton Company in locating in Waynesboro during the 1920s and 1930s. The large complex of the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant, as it expanded to ten acres of buildings on a 40-acre site along the river, specialized in the production of corduroy, velvet and velveteen finished goods made from greige goods milled elsewhere. The complex, with its various plants and specialized machinery, was carefully laid out to maximize efficiency and quality. The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant, as it developed over a 50-year period, represents the height of the cotton industry in the years after the Industrial Revolution that allowed for mass production and transcontinental transportation, prior to

the dominance of synthetic materials in the apparel markets and the shift of the textile industry to overseas factories with cheaper labor forces.

In addition to its role in the history of the textile industry, the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant had a significant impact on the life and development of the town (and later city) of Waynesboro. As one of the area's largest employers, Crompton-Shenandoah had a strong presence within the town with its employees and their families attending the schools, churches, social and civic clubs and recreational activities. The payroll of the company helped to fuel the local economy. Crompton-Shenandoah was known as a "good place to work" and was supportive of its work force and their families as it sponsored annual Christmas parties and company picnics. The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant made a large contribution to the economic vitality and quality of life for Waynesboro and its citizens for over 50 years.

Criterion C:

The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, is eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good example of a large-scale textile manufacturing plant. The large complex of buildings ranging in date from 1926 to the 1970s are a direct representation of the manufacturing process for finishing greige goods into corduroy, velvets and velveteen fabrics, as each space in the building was built for a specific function or process and strategically located to efficiently coordinate within the overall manufacturing process. The buildings are utilitarian and industrial in their style and construction with little or no decorative elements. The buildings are mostly one story in height (with some exceptions) and constructed of "slow burning" materials such as brick or concrete with heavy timber or steel framing. Small hose houses located throughout the property also attest to the constant threat of fire when working with cotton. The floor plans of the buildings are open to allow for machinery and movement of large quantities of materials. The interiors are naturally lit by saw-tooth skylights, monitors and large banks of industrial steel-sash windows. In particular, the quality control rooms feature large banks of north-facing windows for the natural light needed to inspect the finished goods. Finally, the overall layout of the site, with the Office Building and the Retail Store outside the gated area allowing access by the public

while the secured plant operations could only be entered by passing the Gate House, reflects the relationship of the plant to its workers, customers and the town beyond.

Historical Background:

The Crompton Company started in 1807 in Rhode Island as the Providence Manufacturing Company, the sixth cotton mill built in New England.[3] By 1828, the area around the mill, known as "Stone Village," was renamed Crompton Mills in honor of Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule.[4] The company became Crompton Company, Inc., in 1850 with George M. Richmond as one of the original organizers. The Richmond family would remain involved in the company for more than 120 years with members of the family serving in key positions at Crompton-Shenandoah in Waynesboro. The company expanded in 1875, becoming the first plant in the United States to manufacture cotton corduroy and velveteen after Howard Richmond traveled to England to learn the process. By 1907, the company was producing three million yards of corduroy and velveteen a year with 775 employees.[5] In 1915, the Crompton-Richmond Company was established in New York City to promote the use of the Crompton products in the New York fashion and apparel industry.

With this growth of the company, its products and its markets, Crompton Company, Inc., began to look to the South to help supply cotton goods. The investment by northern companies in the South after the Civil War was a widespread trend, particularly in the textile industry. With the improvement and expansion of railroad systems, the cheap labor and abundant raw materials, the resources of the South became accessible and attractive to northern industrial companies. Although the textile industry had always been dominated by the New England region, the number of mills in the South increased dramatically during the Reconstruction period of the late 1800s. Between the years 1870-1874, the number of looms and spindles in Virginia nearly doubled.[6] The Crompton Company contributed to this growth with the establishment of the Highland

Mill in Griffin, Georgia, in 1925 to manufacture greige goods for cotton corduroy and velveteen. In response to a 1924 labor strike, in 1925 the Crompton Company changed the location of its headquarters from Providence to Crompton, Rhode Island. More importantly, the move established a new facility in the South allowing the company to change its method of management. In its effort to attract a skilled labor force, the company established a new democratic system of management. The plant was divided into twelve electoral districts to comprise a House of Representatives and a Senate made up of the heads of each department. These two representative bodies met regularly with representatives from the management, usually the treasurer and the agent of the plant. This system was immediately successful in avoiding a wage cut that affected other New England mills by working together to increase efficiency and quality to yield greater production and profits, thereby yielding higher wages instead of cuts.[7] This system would be duplicated as the Crompton Company continued to expand with new facilities in the South, and it would help to sustain the quality of its workforce and its products for many years while avoiding the establishment of unions.

The establishment of the Highland Mill in Griffin, Georgia, led directly to the construction of the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant in Waynesboro in 1926-1927. The Waynesboro plant would provide facilities to dye and finish the corduroy and velveteen greige goods from Georgia. Crompton-Shenandoah plant was originally planned to capture the automobile upholstery industry by finishing corduroy materials from Georgia and shipping them to the Willis Overland Company in Detroit.[8] Although the demand from the automobile industry did not fully materialize, the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant was successful as it expanded its production to baby carriages, caps, riding breeches and other products, as well as added the finishing of velveteen goods. The location of Waynesboro offered an abundant water supply, a skilled labor force and easy access to both north-south and east-west rail (the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway and the Norfolk & Western Railway) and trucking routes (U.S. Route 250 and, later, Interstates 64 and 81). The Town of Waynesboro provided additional incentives to the Crompton Company for building the facility by agreeing to connect the plant to the town's water supply free of charge with a guarantee of 2,000 gallons a day, to macadamize the road to the plant and to waive all taxes for the first ten years.[9]

Crompton-Shenandoah was originally established in 1926 on 28 acres on the west bank of the South River. The land (located to the south of the W.J. Loth Stove Co.) and overflow rights from the Loth Springs were purchased in July 1926 from Frances A. Loth for $15,000.[10] Plant #1 was constructed in 1926-1927 to provide dyeing and finishing facilities for the corduroy greige goods from the Highland Mills plant in Georgia. The one-story, brick building with saw tooth skylights and industrial sash windows was systematically laid out to coincide with the processing of the greige goods from initial delivery to the shipment of the finished product. The original drawings show the building contained the following areas: Grey Storage, Inspector's Room, Shipping Room, Box Room, Finishing Department, Machine Shop, Matting & Scouring Department, Dye Room, Stock Room and Bleach House. The Boiler House was also built at this time to furnish the steam power used to run the plant. By 1928, the plant began to dye and finish velveteen greige goods as well. In 1929 a local newspaper article described Crompton-Shenandoah as “Local Plant Outstanding Corduroy Mill in Country” as it exceeded its production goal of 100,000 yards of corduroy cloth per week. The article reported that the plant had increased its original employment from 50 to 185, with 85% of the workers coming from the Waynesboro area and a monthly payroll of $12,000.[11] Other articles that same year reported that four new dye jigs were added to the plant and that production had increased to 125,000 yards per week for a total of six million yards a year. The number of employees increased to 200 and the monthly payroll to $12,500.[12]

This immediate growth of the plant was typical of the textile industry across the nation as employment rates in the industry increased dramatically during the first three decades of the 20th century. In men’s clothing factories alone, the number of employees nationwide increased 286% between 1909 and 1929.[13] In Virginia, the Dan River Inc.’s Riverside Division in Danville, which was first established in the 1880s to finish and dye cotton cloth, expanded during this same period and reached record levels of production. Other milling operations in the state included the Fieldale Mills in Martinsville, established in 1916 by Marshall Field & Company to produce cotton towels,

and other numerous knitting mills in Martinsville that began operating during the first quarter of the 20th century.

The 1920s proved to be a period of great growth and expansion for the Town of Waynesboro with the establishment of several new industries and an increase in the population by 25%. Soon after the establishment of the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant, the E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company recognized the advantages Waynesboro had to offer for textile manufacturing. In 1929, DuPont built a six million dollar plant for the production of acetate, rayon and nylon materials directly across the South River from Crompton-Shenandoah.[14] By 1930, General Electric was attracted to the area and purchased the former W.J. Loth Stove Company to establish a new line of electric stoves.[15] By 1930, Waynesboro was a leading industrial center along the Shenandoah Valley.[16]

Soon after this "industrial boom" of the 1920s in Waynesboro came the economic slowdown of the Great Depression. During this period, the Crompton Company proved to be a strong supporter of the community as it established an Employee Emergency Fund to provide clothing and money to families in need. Crompton-Shenandoah maintained a steady production rate during the last two years and retained 170 employees during the period.[17] Although the Great Depression curtailed production to some extent at both Crompton-Shenandoah and at DuPont, and prompted General Electric to sell the W.J. Loth Stove Company property, these industries survived and emerged from the tough times ready to expand. In 1935, R.J. Clemmer, a former manager of the W. J. Loth Stove Company, purchased the stove company property from General Electric and started manufacturing stoves again as the Rife-Loth Stove Corporation.[18]

In spite of several damaging floods and storms in the late 1930s and the 1940s, Crompton-Shenandoah continued to prosper and expand. With the new developments in synthetic fabrics, including rayon velvets, and the increased competition from Japan in the velveteen market, the Crompton Company began to focus on the manufacture of grey velvets. In 1934, 24 new looms were installed in the Rhode Island plant for

weaving velvet. [19]In 1935, Crompton-Shenandoah began to expand its operations in Waynesboro with the purchase of a portion of the former W.J. Loth Stove Company property to the west of Plant #1 that General Electric had owned.[20]. This land included a ca. 1920 one-story concrete block building along 11th Street that was used by Loth and General Electric for pattern storage and a large ca. 1930 bow-truss building named the "Vitreous Enameling Plant" that would become a new weaving room.[21] In December 1936, *The News Virginian* announced that a contract had been awarded to the Southeast Construction Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, for the construction of Plant #3. The new plant was to be completed by May of the following year and would cost approximately $35,000. This expansion, which included $25,000 worth of new equipment and provided 50-100 new jobs, allowed for the dyeing and finishing of velvets.[22] By 1938, all velvet operations of the Crompton Company were relocated from Rhode Island to Waynesboro.[23] As competition increased in the corduroy and velveteen markets as well, Crompton-Shenandoah expanded Plant #1 with the addition of a new Cutting Room and Scouring Room in 1938 and a Dye House, Passing Room and Print Shop in 1939. The addition of the Print Shop with its associated machinery allowed Crompton-Shenandoah to begin printing their own corduroy fabrics rather than outsourcing this process. The Mechanical and Chemical Storage Building, a separate two-story building, was also built in 1939. The addition of the three-story Shipping Warehouse and Makeup Room at the north end of Plant #1 was also completed in 1940. Another indication of the Crompton Company shifting more of its operations and management to the South was the announcement of the construction of a new Office Building in 1940 with the design by Barker & Turoff of Providence, Rhode Island, and the construction by Harry Graham Company of Charlottesville.[24] Unfortunately, the war interrupted the construction and the Office Building was not completed until 1948. At this time, Gale Richmond served as president of Crompton-Shenandoah and Charles Merriman was the vice-president and treasurer – both of whom were great grandsons of George Richmond, one of the founders of the company.

By 1939, Crompton-Shenandoah operated three plants on the Waynesboro site and employed approximately 700 skilled workers. The plants provided complete dyeing and finishing services for corduroy and velveteen as well as the weaving, dyeing and

finishing of velvets. This type of growth was typical in the state as the number of textile plants increased by only 21 (from 124 to 145) in the period 1929 to 1939 while the number of employees increased by 75% from 19,175 to 33,560.[25] By 1935, 22% of wage earners in Virginia were employed in the textile industry.[26] In 1935, the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant in Waynesboro was one of only three dyeing and finishing plants in the state.

The economic and social impact on the town by the plants of Crompton-Shenandoah and DuPont was great. Between 1930 and 1940, the population of Waynesboro increased by 18.4% -- in large part due to the jobs made available by the new plants. The Jefferson Heights subdivision was built primarily for the work forces of these industries and their large payrolls fueled the business of local banks, stores and restaurants. The companies sponsored numerous athletic and social clubs, dances, parties and other community events. Workers participated in civic organizations, their families attended the local churches and their children filled the local schools. In addition, Crompton-Shenandoah sponsored educational scholarships for the children of its employees, granting one scholarship each year at each of its plants and corporate offices.

Prior to World War II, Crompton-Shenandoah had been providing the U.S. Navy with an "aviator cloth" for use by the Air Corps. The material, which later became known as "jungle cloth" during World War II, was like a heavy gabardine cloth that could be lined with a woolen fleece, and it was wind and water resistant. In 1941, the U.S. Navy adopted this Crompton fabric for use by its enlisted men in the North Atlantic. As World War II continued, the Navy ordered uniforms made of "jungle cloth" for all personnel of the Bureau of Shipping, the Bureau of Aeronautics, the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Yards and Docks.[27] Crompton-Shenandoah also produced much of the velvet linings for gun cases. DuPont also made a local contribution to the war effort as it made parachute fibers as well as dyes, cellophanes, neoprene rubber, and nitric acid for smokeless powder and TNT.[28]

After the war, Crompton continued to expand as it responded to pent up demands from the wartime shortages. A new Retail Store and Gate House were constructed in 1947 on Twelfth Street and the new office building, for which the foundation was laid in 1940 and construction delayed by the war, was finished in 1948. The executive offices, payroll and purchasing divisions, as well as the company switchboard, moved into this new building located on the south side of Twelfth Street. The former two-story office building attached to the Gate House became the personnel division before it was torn down and replaced with a new one-story building in the mid 1960s.[29] Plant #1 continued to expand with the addition of a Picker Stock Room at the south end and the construction of another Print Shop in 1948. The increase in shipping by truck instead of rail became evident with the several large additions made to the 1940s Shipping Warehouse at the north end of Plant #1 in 1959 and 1962.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Crompton Company began to aggressively expand their marketing and production efforts. In 1947, the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant was showcased in a tour organized by Crompton-Richmond Company of New York for members of the textile and fashion press. This tour was unprecedented in showing the marketing side of the textile and fashion design industries exactly how fabrics were made from start to finish.[30] Howard Richmond, vice-president of the Crompton-Richmond Company, followed this promotion by a trip in 1949 to France, Italy and England to promote the use of Crompton fabrics in the prestigious European couture collections. Afterwards, he began an annual Crompton European Fashion Show in the major American fashion centers of New York, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Dallas that featured the use of Crompton fabrics by the European designers.[31]

Beginning in 1948, the Crompton Company looked to expand to the mid-section of the country with the purchase of the Arkansas Cotton Mills in Morrilton, Arkansas. This mill produced corduroy greige goods. By the late 1940s, the Crompton Company, with its six plants in the United States and others worldwide, was the largest supplier in the world of cotton corduroy and velveteen.[32] In 1953, the company built the Frank E. Richmond Plant (later the Crompton-Osceola Plant) in Osceola, Arkansas, for the dyeing and finishing of velveteen. Other expansions included the purchase of the Pilot

Mills in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1967 for weaving velveteen greige goods and the purchase of the Crompton-Leesburg Mill in Alabama in 1972 for weaving velveteen.[33] The Compton-Shenandoah Plant continued to produce the highest quality finished goods of the company.[34]

The post-war boom for the textile industries in Waynesboro soon ended. A number of factors played into the eventual decline of the industry. By the early 1950s, the supplies of materials caught up with the post-war demand. The local industries also began to face competition from foreign markets with cheaper labor forces and lower product standards. Within the domestic market, new synthetic fabrics began to replace cotton. By 1955, the United States had reduced tariffs on imports and 80% of velvets were imported from Japan.[35] For the first time, the two textile factories in Waynesboro laid off workers--DuPont laying off 250 employees and Crompton-Shenandoah reducing its workforce by 40.[36]

In addition to the cheaper labor and lower quality controls, the foreign plants also had less stringent environmental regulations. As early as the 1940s, citizens had begun to suspect the industries, as well as the city sewage treatment system, of water pollution, but efforts to correct this were interrupted by the war. In the early 1960s, air pollution became an issue as well. Under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce, industry leaders, citizens and City Council worked together to improve air quality on a voluntary basis.[37] Following the disaster of Hurricane Camille in 1969 and another flood in 1970, both DuPont and Crompton-Shenandoah expanded their plants in the early 1970s and invested millions of dollars in state-of-the-art water treatment systems to meet (and exceed) new requirements by the Environmental Protection Agency.[38] It was during this period that the Crompton Company moved its headquarters to the Waynesboro facility. In spite of these investments, the competition from foreign markets and the environmental requirements continued to hamper Crompton-Shenandoah. After reaching a peak of one million dollars in sales for the first time in 1975, the Crompton Company discontinued the production of velvets at the Waynesboro plant in 1976. The company closed the spinning and weaving plant in Raleigh, North Carolina, in May 1982.[39]The following November, the company announced it would close the plant in

Waynesboro, laying off 460 workers.[40] The company's headquarters and information services offices, as well as the retail store, remained open in Waynesboro for several more years while the company consolidated plant operations to its three most productive facilities.

Endnotes

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[4] Sweeney, 4 and 8.
[5] Crompton-Richmond Co., 1957, 4.
[6] Henry Hilliard Earl, "The Growth of the Cotton Industry in the United States," *Fall River and its Industries,* New York: Atlantic Publishing and Engraving Co., 1877, 85.
[7] Sweeney, 22-23.
[8] *Ibid*, 24.
[9] George R. Hawke, *A History of Waynesboro, Virginia: 1900-1976.* Waynesboro, VA: Waynesboro Heritage Foundation, 2007, 90.
[10] City of Waynesboro Deed Book 226:374
[11] "Local Plant Outstanding Corduroy Mill in Country," *The News Virginian*, 1929.
[12] *Ibid.*
[13] Margaret W. Young, editor, *Textile Leaders of the South.* Anderson, SC: J.R. Young,1963, 556-557.
[14] Hawke, 89.
[15] *Ibid,* 169.
[16] *Ibid*, 169.
[17] *The News Virginian*, 03/12/1935
[18] J. Ellison Loth, "W.J. Loth: Pioneer 19th Century Waynesboro Industrialist," Rotary Talk, July 22, 1972, Archives Collection, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.
[19] Sweeney, 24.
[20] *The News Virginian* 11/9/1935
[21] Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Waynesboro, VA," Philadelphia: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1930.
[22] *The News Virginian*, 12/26/1935
[23] Sweeney, 26.
[24] *The News Virginian*, 01/15/1940
[25] Arthur M. Whitehall, Jr, *Textile and Apparel Industries in Virginia.* Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Bureau of Population and Economic Research, 1948, 2.
[26] *Young,:557.*
[27] Sweeney, 28.
[28] Hawke, 262.

[29] *Ibid, 300.*
[30] Crompton-Richmond Co., 1957.
[31] *Ibid.*
[32] Hawke, 90.
[33] Crompton-Richmond Co., 1957.
[34] J.B. Yount, interview by Alison Blanton, January 11, 2011.
[35] Hawke, 329 and 371.
[36] *Ibid.*
[37] *Ibid,* 388.
[38] *Ibid,* 446.
[39] *Ibid.*
[40] "Crompton Closes Plant Here," *The News Virginian,* November 10,1982.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of 40.885 acres owned by South River Incorporated and identified as parcel 55-2-A on the accompanying plat map dated June 3, 2009.

Boundary Justification

The boundary as described above and shown on the accompanying tax parcel map are the historic boundaries of the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant since 1948 and are the current boundaries of the property. The boundaries include all buildings and structures historically associated with the Crompton-Shenandoah Plant in Waynesboro, Virginia.

Photographs

Name of Property:	Crompton-Shenandoah Plant
City:	Waynesboro
State:	Virginia
DHR File Number:	136-5056
Photographer:	Alison Blanton / Hill Studio
Date Photographed:	May 2009
Images stored at:	Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

The above information applies to all photographs

Entrance with retail store and office building, looking NE
1 of 10

Entrance with Gate House and Plant #1, looking east
2 of 10

Plant complex with Plant #1 on right, looking north
3 of 10

Mechanical & Chemical Storage Building, looking SE
4 of 10

Plant #1, interior
5 of 10

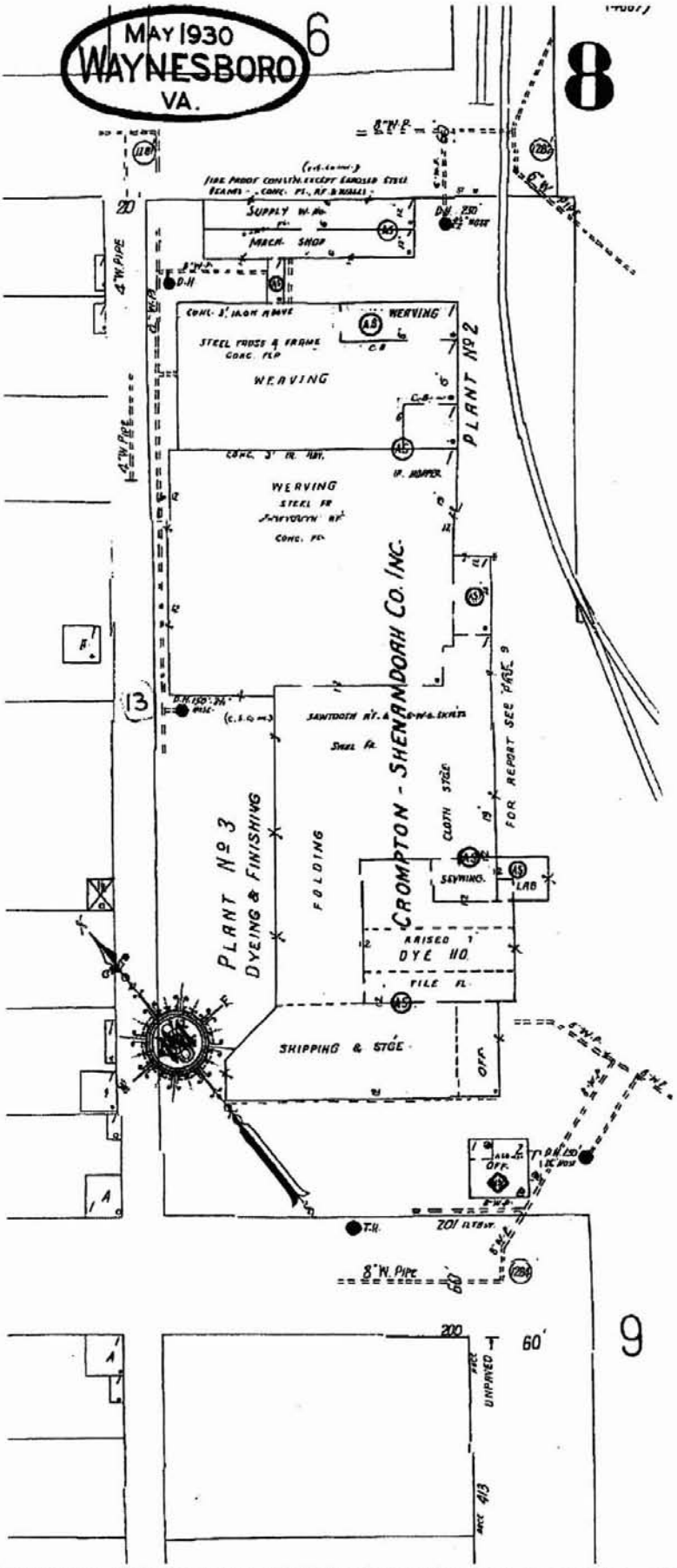
Boiler House, looking NE
6 of 10

Plant #2 & 3, looking NW
7 of 10

Plant #2 & 3, looking NE
8 of 10

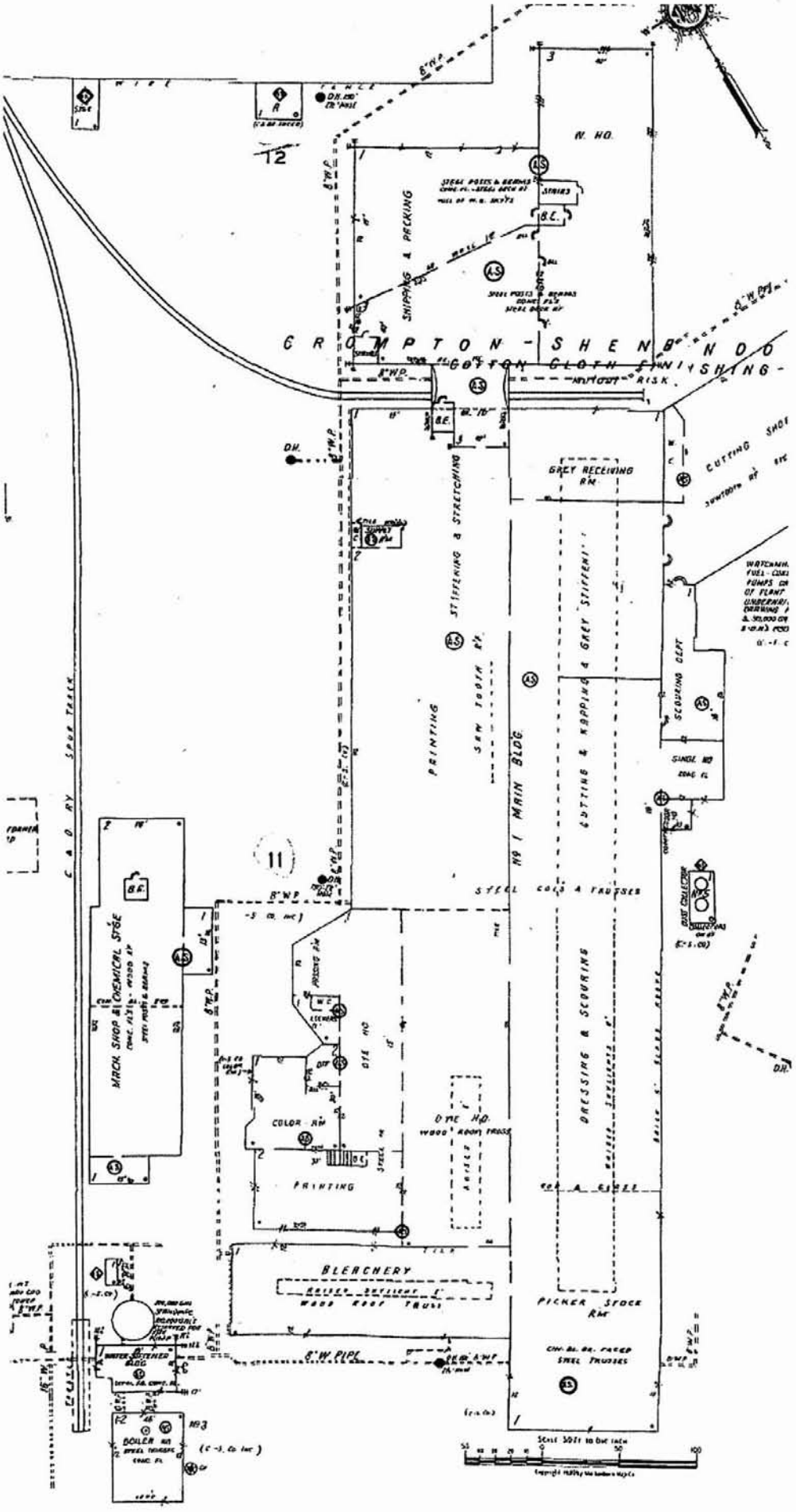
Plant #2 interior
9 of 10

Office Building, looking SE
10 of 10



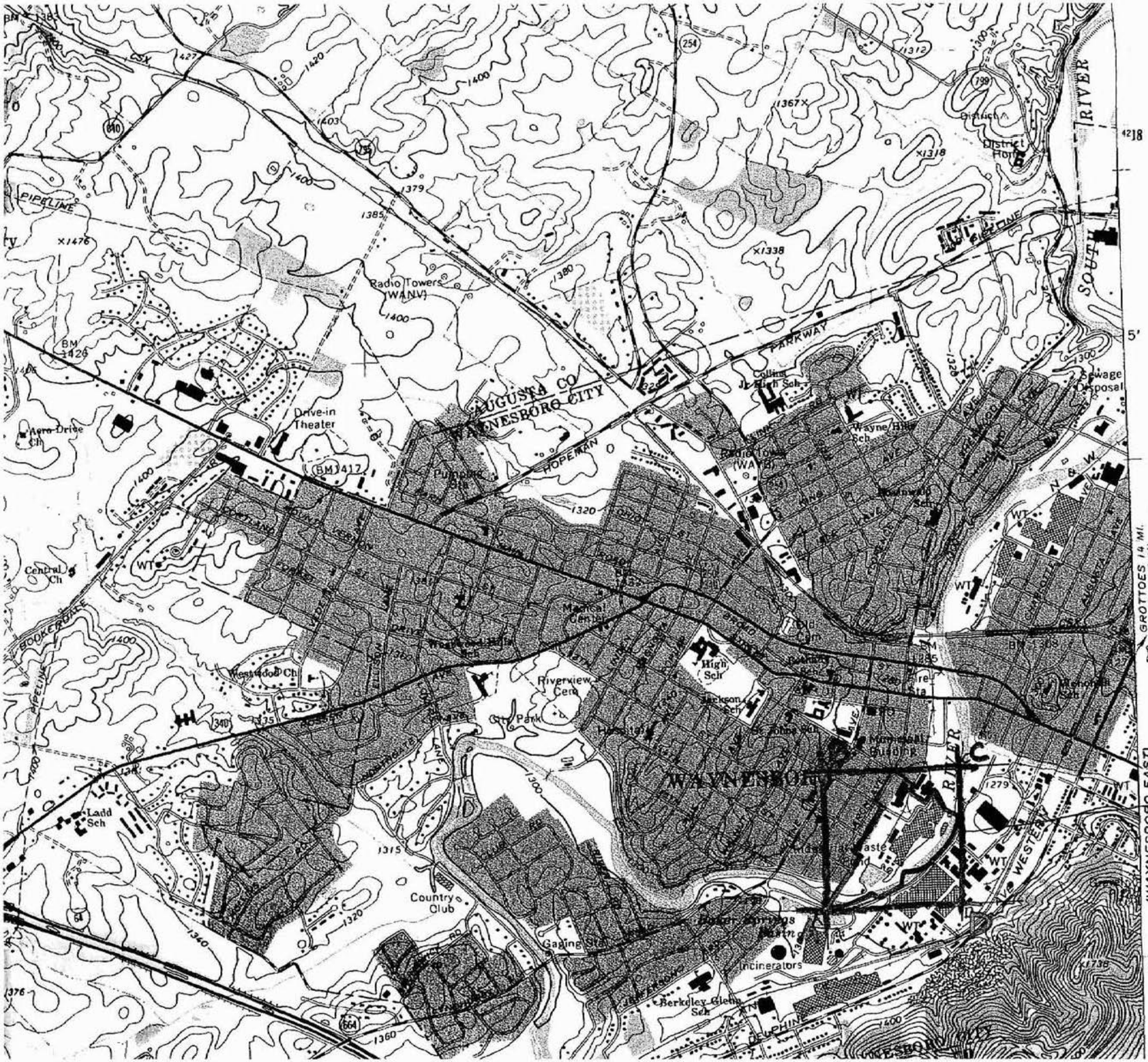
Plants #2 & 3 from 1930-1947 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, page 8.
Crompton-Shenandoah Plant, Waynesboro, VA (VDHR#136-5056)

A DOCUMENTATION



Plant #1 from 1930-1947 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, page 9.
Crompton-Shenandoah Plant, Waynesboro, VA (VDHR#136-5056)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION



Crompton-
Shenandoah
Plant
Waynesboro, VA
VDHR # 136-5056
Waynesboro West
NAD 1983
A: 17 684910
4214290
B: 17 684900
4214950
C: 17 685590
4214990
D: 17 685560
4214310