

*John H. ...*

108-78

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Listed  
VLR 7/20/1982

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Riverside Cotton Mill <sup>or</sup>

*Dan River Mills*

and/or common Riverside Division of Dan River, Incorporated

*Dan River, Inc.*

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Danville

vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

state Virginia

code

county Pittsylvania

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dan River, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 261

city, town Danville

vicinity of

state Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Danville City Hall

street & number

city, town

state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Dan River Basin Cultural Resources <sup>Study</sup> has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981, Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington, NC  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Now one of the largest textile companies in the United States, Dan River, Incorporated, began almost one century ago in a small waterpowered cotton mill in downtown Danville, Virginia. Originally named Riverside Cotton Mills, the business rapidly expanded along both banks of the Dan River until today is red brick and white reinforced concrete buildings dominate central Danville and its riverfront. Now named the Riverside Division of Dan River, Inc. the complex consists largely of mills and outbuildings built between the early 1880's and the early 1920's. These structures begin with the brick venacular mills built in the nineteenth century by Thomas Benton Fitzgerald and culminate in the massive, reinforced concrete structures built in the 1920's modernist style. In addition to the mills and various support buildings, the Riverside Division still contains several of its early hydraulic structures, such as dams and a power canal (originally a navigational canal).

In the course of nearly a century of continuous operation, some of the buildings have received alterations and additions, and some, such as the Morotock Mill, were demolished decades ago. The standing structures retain significant features of their original designs, however, and a strong possibility exists that archaeological remains of some of the vanished buildings are still present underneath deep landfill on the riverbanks. For a more detailed description and inventory of the historic structures and sites at the Riverside Division, see pages one through fifty of the accompanying report.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1882 to present **Builder/Architect** T.B. Fitzgerald, Lockwood-Greene, et al

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Riverside Division of Dan River, Incorporated, which was first chartered in 1882 as Riverside Cotton Mills, is important for its historic associations with the century of development in the Southern textile industry following reconstruction, for its association with the history of Danville, Virginia, and for its examples of changing American industrial techniques, technology and energy sources. It fulfills at least three of the National Register's standards for significance. The major part played by Riverside and the textile industry in Southern history are unmistakably "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." In Riverside's range of nineteenth and twentieth century industrial structures, such as mills, warehouses, dams and canals, it definitely "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction," and for students of industrial or regional history, the complex is "likely to yield information important in . . . history."

For a more detailed statement of Riverside's significance, see pages fifty-one through fifty-nine of the accompanying report.



5157 III NE  
(BLAIRS)

8 MI 5157 III NW (MOUNT HERMON) 1 730 000 FEET (VA.) 25' 42 43 SWANSONVILLE 14 MI. LYNCHBURG 61 MI. CHATHAM 14 MI. 79° 22' 30" 36° 37' 30"



100 000 FEET  
(VA.)

Dan River Inc.  
Riverside Division  
Historic District  
Danville, Va.

- UTM REF.S (zone 17):
1. E643640N4051150
  2. E644340N4050490
  3. E644320N4050190
  4. E644130N4050140
  5. E643600N4050370
  6. E643280N4050680
  7. E643410N4050990

4950  
35'