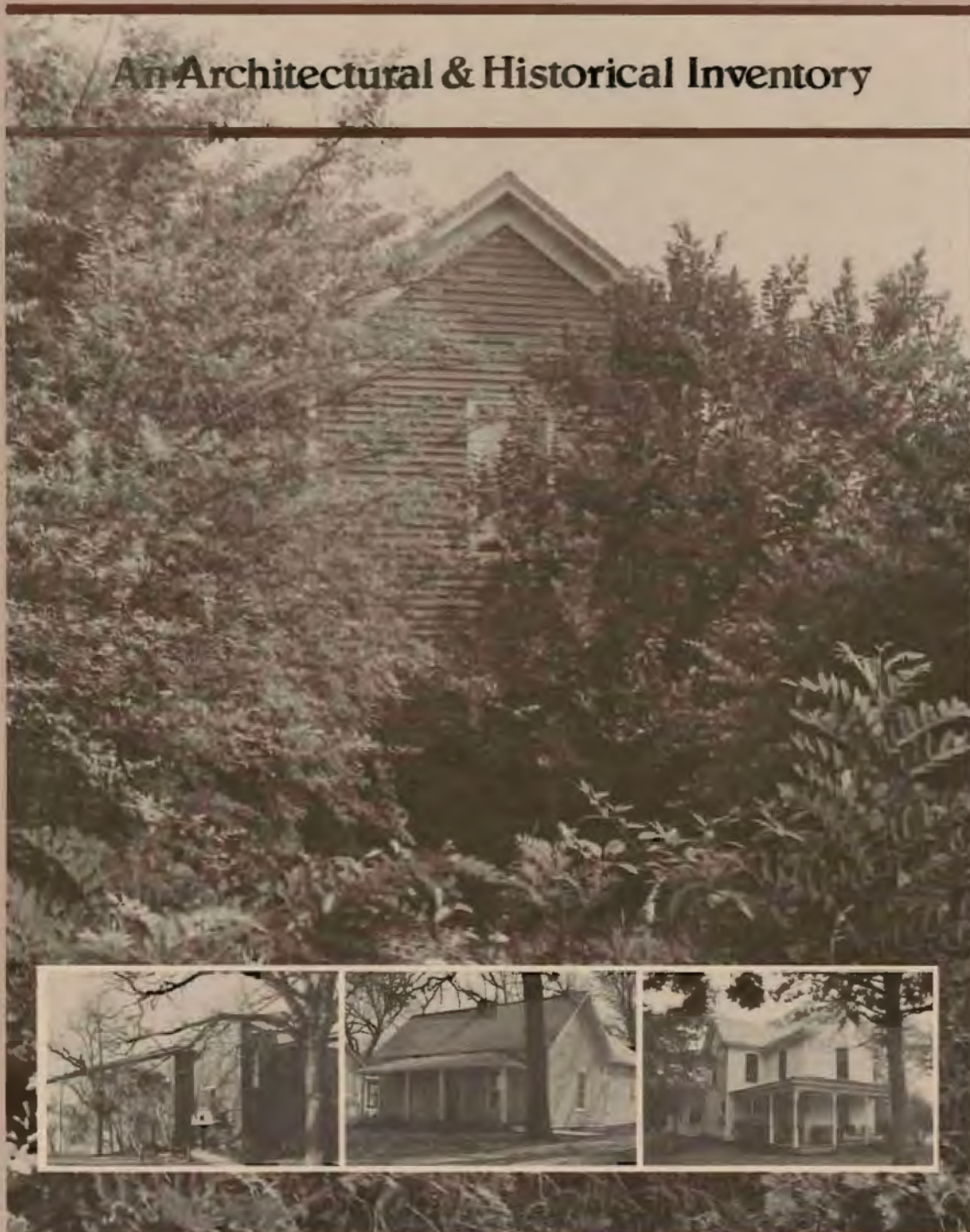


An Architectural & Historical Inventory



corbelled cornices and pyramidal roofs. All of these early additions continued the original identifying feature of the evenly spaced multi-paned windows topped with fixed transoms.

For three decades, Carrboro's two textile mills remained the focus of the community's life. In the mid-1910s, however, the demand for cotton hosiery abated in response to the rising popularity of silk stockings. With the advent of the Great Depression, Durham Hosiery Mills declined, and in 1930 the company closed its Mill No. 4. The building stood idle until early in 1945 when Pacific Mills purchased it for its new branch, Carrboro Woolen Mills. To modernize the facilities, Pacific Mills immediately tore down the surrounding frame ancillary buildings and enlarged the mill with the plain two-story brick warehouse, known as the east wing, joined to the mill with knuckle jointing on its southeast corner. A two-story infill addition also was built between the two towers on the south elevation. When air conditioning was installed around 1950, most of the windows were filled in with brick. About this time, the pyramidal roofs were removed from the towers. After Pacific Mills left Carrboro in the mid-1950s, the mill served as a warehouse for several years.

In 1976, the abandoned and dilapidated brick mill and its eight-acre tract were rehabilitated as Carr Mill under the Tax Reform Act of 1976, which provided handsome tax incentives for renovations that preserve the original character of historic buildings. The redevelopment by EDY Corporation, based in Chapel Hill, and Southern Real Estate of Charlotte included the adaptive reuse of the mill as shops and offices as well as new construction in the area to the north formerly occupied by mill houses. Many of the bricked-in windows were re-opened and on the interior most of the masonry walls, heavy timbers and maple floors were left exposed. According to a U. S. Department of the Interior case study of this project, "... the architectural character of the mill lent itself to easy adaption: the heavy structural system provided ample support for the new

uses, high ceilings allowed adequate space for installation of mechanical equipment, and the large open floor areas minimized the need for interior demolition..." The redeveloped property has contributed to the revitalization of Carrboro's formerly depressed business district, and once again the Alberta Cotton Mill/Durham Hosiery Mill No. 4 stands as a major focal point of central Carrboro.

12. House

302 Weaver Street

This structure exemplifies one of the variations of the larger one-story, one-room-deep frame houses built by investors to be sold or rented to Carrboro mill workers. This house and the almost identical West House (built next door and moved to 209-A Oak Avenue in 1981) were constructed by Brodie Lloyd for rental, either direct or through the mill, to the mill workers in his cousin Thomas F. Lloyd's Alberta Cotton Mill. At 302 Weaver Street, a triple-A roof-line and an exterior chimney with a corbelled cap in each gable end characterize the house. The original exterior materials have been covered with aluminum siding. The raised seam tin covering the roof may have replaced original split shake shingles. The front yard filled with mature foliage and hardwoods is marked by a low dry-laid stone wall which lends individuality to the prototypical mill house form.

13. House

201 Weaver Street

Another house type popular in Carrboro throughout the first quarter of the 20th century is represented by this one-story, two-room-deep house with a tall hipped roof and center hall plan. Each of the two principal rooms on either side of the center hall has a fireplace, and each pair of fireplaces is served by a single interior chimney. The decorative front gable with split shake shingles lends some individuality to the form. Slender turned posts support the hip-roofed front porch. A kitchen ell is attached to the rear of the house. At the time of its construction, behind the house there was a



13. 302 Weaver Street



14. 203 Weaver Street



15. 205 Weaver Street

community grove with a barbecue pit and a softball field maintained by the Durham Hosiery Mills. The house was occupied for many years by A. J. Blackwood, who came to Carrboro from Burlington, N.C., in 1914 to be a superintendent in the No. 4 mill of the Durham Hosiery Mills, owner of the house. Later, the Thrift family lived here. In 1980, the house was rescued from its abandoned and dilapidated condition by a local investor who converted it to offices. This adaptive re-use successfully preserved the integrity of this house.

14. House

203 Weaver Street

This house also was the target of a restorative adaptive re-use by the same businessman who rehabilitated the house next door at 201 Weaver Street. In this case, the house is typical of the smaller, one-room-deep type built by Thomas F. Lloyd for rental to his Alberta Cotton Mill workers. In spite of the decorative front gable in which scalloped, sawtooth and split shake shingles are combined, overall the house is very simply detailed, with plain cornices and exposed rafter ends rather than molded box cornices. Several bands of molding encircle the rather squat turned porch posts. The rear ell has been enlarged to a wing across the entire rear elevation.

15. House

205 Weaver Street

Built by carpenter Thomas Clark in the first decade of this century, this house is typical of one of the varieties of the smallest one-story, one-room-deep houses built for one of the Lloyds as speculative rental housing for Alberta Cotton Mill laborers. Surviving virtually intact on the exterior, this particular house type exhibits a single, central entrance on the main facade that opens to a foyer from which the two principal rooms may be entered. Separating these rooms, behind the foyer, is a wall containing a central chimney with a fireplace serving each room. Characteristic of other Carrboro mill houses, the porch along the rear ell has been enclosed. When the house was converted to offices in 1981, a restoration of the exterior preserved the patterned pressed tin roof.