

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED ON:
VLR 06/18/2009
NRHP 09/14/2009

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 Hylton Hall
other names/site number VDHR# 108-5065-0082

2. Location

street & number 700 Lanier Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Danville (Independent City) vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county N/A code 590 zip code 24541

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Huser Signature of certifying official
July 31, 2009 Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- 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): _____

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
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (2, 0), sites (0, 0), structures (0, 0), objects (0, 0), Total (2, 0).

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC EDUCATION Sub: Multiple dwelling Education-related- dormitory

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL - Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof ASPHALT; OTHER
walls BRICK; STUCCO
other N/A

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

- 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.
- 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
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance 1918-1948

Significant Dates 1918; c. 1928; 1931

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Heard, Cardwell & Craighill

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.4 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	640802E	2			3			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 Sarah McPhail & Marcus Pollard
 organization Commonwealth Preservation Group, LLC date April 2009
 street & number 139 N Main Street telephone 757.923.9991
 city or town Suffolk state VA zip code 23434

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 Hylton Hall Partners, LLC
 street & number 230 E. Bank Street telephone (804) 677-5728
 city or town Petersburg state VA zip code 23803

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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**Hylton Hall
Danville, VA**

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Architectural Description

Summary Description:

Hylton Hall is an irregularly planned, "H-shaped" Classical Revival building located in the Schoolfield area of Danville, Virginia. The c. 1918 building fronts Lanier Avenue and features a full-height entry portico supported by classical columns. The building is a 5-bay, 6-story, brick and wood frame structure with its roof having various shapes and pitches. The wood-frame windows vary in style but are primarily 6/1 on the upper floors with Diocletian windows across the first floor façade. The interior of the building features a foyer, former offices/classrooms, a central stair case which provides access to all of the main floors, secondary staircases on the wings which provide access to the former dorm rooms and lavatories. The basements of the building contain various utility rooms, a former gymnasium, storage areas, and former offices/classrooms. There are hardwood floors throughout. South of the building is a c.1928 one-story shop building formerly used by the occupants of Hylton Hall.

Narrative Description

Hylton Hall is located along Lanier Avenue in an urban setting in the Schoolfield area of Danville, Virginia on a 3.4 acre site between Baltimore and Hilton Avenues. The site is surrounded by wooded lots to the south, east, and west and by a large retaining wall along Lanier Avenue. Hylton Hall was designed by architects Heard, Cardwell & Craighill of Danville and constructed c.1918. Approximately half of the building is below grade and the side and rear portion of the site has been paved with asphalt. The main building is a 5-bay, 6-story, brick and wood frame, Classical Revival building with an "h-shaped" plan, and a central rear projection that was added c.1928. The proposed date of construction for the rear projection as well as the shop building is c.1928 according to evidence on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Danville, Virginia. The original portion of the building features a cornice with deep boxed eaves with modillions, and a full-height entry portico supported by 20th-century classical style columns. The walls and foundation are finished with brick and brick parged with stucco. The two interior chimneys are of brick construction. The roof is complex due to the footprint of the building; the pedimented gable intersects with a side gabled roof over the central portion of the building. The side gabled roof intersects with two hipped roofs located on the wings. The hipped roof and dormers are clad with asphalt shingles. The dormers on the main elevation have splayed sides and deep eaves on their cornices. These are slightly stylized in Arts and Crafts form- there was a cross pollination between Classical Revival and Arts & Crafts at the period of construction. The rear addition has a flat roof form with parapet. The roofing material on the rear addition is a combination of rubber membrane and rolled asphalt. The windows are of the 2/2, 4/1, 6/1, and 6/6 double hung wood frame variety. There is a large Palladian window in the pediment gable. Some of the windows at the rear (south) of the building have been enclosed with brick. There are both historic and modern exterior doors on the building. The façade features a pair of metal-frame commercial-style doors with transom as the central entrance and two additional entrances which are each comprised of a single door with 15-divided lights and a 3-light transom flanked by two 4/1 windows. The central entrance opens into a vestibule which leads to a large hallway which is the main central corridor of the building.

The central corridor runs the length of the building in an east-west direction. A central staircase provides access to all 6 floors comprising the central portion of the building. Each floor within the wings is one half of a flight above the central core of the building. The only way to gain access to the wings is via the stairs at either end of the central corridor; there are also two small elevator shafts at the ends of the corridors which served both the main and wing levels. All of the staircases feature decorative newel posts and caps in classical revival style.

As mentioned earlier, the building rests on a three-story of basement, and each basement level features rooms formerly used as classrooms and the offices. The first basement level (ground level) is utilitarian in nature with its narrow halls and small rooms. The electrical controls are located at this level as well as the former gymnasium, which was constructed in 1928 as an addition to the original building. The second level basement features former offices and classrooms flanking the central corridor. The first level basement features more of the same typical office/classroom spaces. None of the typical classrooms are outfitted with blackboards. Also found on each floor are several large open rooms in the west wing which served as multiple offices for certain departments within the Dan River Mills Inc. operation. The first floor of the main portion of the building features the same central corridor running the length of the building. The hallway is divided into three portions by open double doorways with 7-light

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transoms. There is architectural evidence that historically doors were located within these openings. The door frames and transoms are extant but the openings have been covered with plain wood panels and painted white.

The interior walls are plaster but some have been clad in vertical wood paneling; some modern partition walls which are finished in drywall are also present. There are several spaces throughout the building where former interior windows and doors have been enclosed and painted over to transform the building from Hylton Hall Dormitory for Young Women to Dan River Mills Hylton Hall Offices. The only outbuilding on the site is the former Dan River Mills Textile School building. This contributing secondary resource was constructed around the same time as the gymnasium addition was made to the rear of the Hylton Hall c.1928. The former textile school building is one-story tall and features vertical crimped metal cladding on its exterior walls, large paired 9/9 wood frame windows, and double wood doors with 6-panels in each door. The roof has a slight pitch. There are no architectural details which indicate a clearly distinguishable style.

As a whole, Hylton Hall is consistent with the style, massing, character, and materials of Classical Revival buildings constructed during the first half of the 20th-century. Evidence indicates that the outbuilding was constructed early in the history of the site to accommodate textile training. It is recommended eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and on the National Register of Historic Places for architecture and social history. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of an architect-designed Classical Revival building in Danville and much of southwest Virginia during the first quarter of the 20th-century.

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Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

Hylton Hall was originally constructed in 1918 as a hotel-style dormitory for single female workers of The Riverside & Dan River Cotton Mills, Incorporated (Dan River Mills) which began in 1882 and was one of the largest cotton mills in the country by the early twentieth century. Hylton Hall, a large, six-story Classical Revival building, served as a dormitory, dining facility, social hall, and recreation center. It fit well into the new concept of factory management which mill president H.R. Fitzgerald wanted to bring to Dan River Mills: Industrial Democracy. Hylton Hall continued as a residential facility until 1948 when it was converted to offices. Hylton Hall, located at 700 Lanier Avenue, is eligible for listing at the local level of significance in the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A (Social History) and Criterion C (Architecture). The building is representative of architect-designed Classical Revival style. The interior and exterior are intact and retain most of their original appearance and character. The building is closely associated with mill related welfare projects in Danville in the first quarter of the twentieth century and is indicative of the approach to housing and workforce development during the era that the building operated as a dormitory. The period of significance spans the period from the building's construction (1918) to its transition from residential to office use (1948).

Historical Background

Hylton Hall is located in the Schoolfield section of Danville, Virginia. Danville's roots date back to the early-to-mid 1800s with its beginnings as a small tobacco community along the Dan River. Danville was officially incorporated in 1793 and construction of Danville proper began in 1795. The first cotton mill was established in Danville in 1828 on a site later used by Dan River Mills, but this mill was washed away by a flood in 1850.¹ In 1882 six men in possession of water rights on the Morotock Canal, in the Dan River system, established The Riverside Cotton Mills: Thomas Benton Fitzgerald, Dr. H.W. Cole, B. F. Jefferson, and the three Schoolfield brothers: Robert A., John H., and James E. Schoolfield. Cole soon left the venture leaving five men to build the cotton mill business in Danville with T.B. Fitzgerald as president.² By 1883 The Riverside Cotton Mills were producing cloth and yarn and in 1890 it had purchased its main competitor in Danville: Morotock Mill. Expansion continued rapidly with a New York sales office in 1891 and a total of eight mills in operation by 1898. The five founders joined six more investors to create The Dan River Power & Manufacturing Company in 1895 for the purpose of future expansion and to capture the water power of the Dan River with the construction of a new dam. T.B. Fitzgerald was president of this company as well. This company began producing cloth in 1904 and had three mills by 1910. On August 12, 1909 the directors of both companies agreed to join the two companies into one large mill corporation: The Riverside & Dan River Cotton Mills Incorporated (The Dan River Mills), with R. Addison Schoolfield serving as president until 1918. A fourth mill was added in 1912 which President Schoolfield declared to be "most modern and substantial...We doubt if it will be equaled by any in the country."³

Several factors led to the rapid expansion of the village of Schoolfield along with the growth of The Dan River Mills. With so many jobs for the mills created in such a short time, there was a tremendous demand for housing which quickly outstripped the local supply of rental housing. H.R. Fitzgerald (son of the first president) also felt the mills "had about digested the supply [of labor] in our immediate community" so quality housing was needed to attract workers to the mills from outside the Danville area. Finally, both Schoolfield and Fitzgerald felt that workers were owed decent housing and a good community as a moral obligation of the company. Between 1903 and 1918 an entire town was constructed to serve the needs of the workers and to keep them geographically and psychologically focused on their jobs at the mills. Fire and police stations were established. A Y.W.C.A. was built in 1905 with a Y.M.C.A in 1914. A hospital was built in 1907, as was the first of several schools, and a welfare building was constructed in 1916. Entertainment and shopping were also provided in the form of a movie theater, bowling alley, pool room, barber shop, baths, and a company store which provided goods at only slightly more than cost. Electricity was run to almost every home by 1917. Several churches were also built, but these were privately supported as the company directors did not want to seem to favor any of the at least four different denominations active in Danville at that time.⁴

One of the last buildings constructed to serve the Schoolfield community was Hylton Hall in 1918. Constructed as a "'home away from home' for young women workers," this facility could house 225 women in 116 rooms and was named after Miss Hattie Hylton, the first superintendent of welfare for Schoolfield.⁵ The building was designed by architects Heard, Cardwell &

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Craighill of Danville and Lynchburg. J. Bryant Heard was the lead architect with a successful practice in the Southside and Piedmont regions of Virginia with offices in Danville and Lynchburg. Heard was in active practice from 1909-1949 and died in 1956.⁶

The goals of Dan River Mills for Hylton Hall were laid out clearly in a 1922 advertisement pamphlet: *A Pleasing Story of an Unusual Enterprise: Hylton Hall, a Commodious and Attractive Home for Young Women*. It promised comfortable rooms, good food, recreation and self improvement facilities, as well as opportunities for social life, all with other "charming women of high Christian ideals and character." Activities within the dorm included "home night" on Fridays where young ladies would welcome their young male friends in the assembly hall or gymnasium. Parlors were available on week nights from 7:30-10:00 each evening to entertain a male guest. There was also a library, reading and writing rooms, porches, sun parlors, and tennis/basketball courts. Each resident's room had a closet, at least one window, and a sink with a mirror. Finally, there were also classes offered in cooking, sewing, handwork, millinery, singing, dramatics, civics, and bible study. The pamphlet declared Hylton Hall to be at the heart of Schoolfield and near the City of Danville and several churches.⁷ While serving its purpose well, Hylton Hall struggled to break even financially throughout its existence.⁸ Miss Hattie Hylton became the first director of Hylton Hall after its completion.

Another comparable, but slightly later example to Hylton Hall in the state of Virginia was the Virginia Home (DHR # 044-5010 and # 044-5173-0002) which is individually listed as well as part of the Fieldale Historic District (044-5173). Fieldale was a company town similar to Schoolfield, but it was a little later with construction beginning in 1917 as construction at Schoolfield was coming to a close. Virginia Home was constructed in 1920 as a dormitory for single female workers like Hylton Hall. Also like Hylton Hall, it was opened to male workers in the late-1920s, representing the changing realities of women workers in American factories.

Women workers were originally brought into the labor force in growing numbers in the late 1800s as a source of less expensive labor.⁹ With the entrance of the United States into WWI in 1917, there was a significant jump in the demand for women workers as many men entered military service that spring and summer and this was certainly true at Dan River Mills as well.¹⁰ By late 1917 the management of Dan River Mills was claiming the wages of women to be "practically as good as the men," representing a strong message of not only attracting women workers but improving their working conditions.¹¹ This shortage of labor and desire to attract women workers was the impetus behind the construction of facilities such as Hylton Hall. At the same time the desire to protect women and require that they be of "high Christian ideals and character," represents the paternalistic treatment of women in both work and society and general which still prevailed at this time.¹² The Hylton Hall model for women workers certainly evolved from the example of the Lowell, Massachusetts cotton mills, but differed in several respects including the theory that the Dan River Mills female workers possessed less education and represented the "cheap labor" which eventually led to the failure of the Lowell Mills model.¹³ It is also a fact that the use of female workers in factory settings at the time of Hylton Hall was much more mainstream nationally than in the previous century. Also, Dan River Mills was not an entire factory focused on female labor like Lowell Mills, but rather Hylton Hall was a housing solution for single female workers who actually made up a small minority of total workers at the factory. Finally, with the continued integration of factory workspaces and housing, as seen by the integration of Hylton Hall and Fieldale's Virginia Home, the paternalistic nature of discrimination which women faced gave way to discrimination based purely upon wages and opportunities for promotion.

The active corporate support for not only the community in general, but all of the individual needs of its workers, led Dan River Mills towards a revolutionary development in factory relations between management and workers: Industrial Democracy. Perhaps the leading factor which pushed them in this radical direction was the decline in worker contentment and productivity in the years before 1918. This is documented most clearly in an August 22, 1917 letter from then head of the Welfare Department, Miss Hattie Hylton, to the then President of the mill, H.R. Fitzgerald, in which she itemizes the numerous grievances of the Dan River Mills employees. In a long letter she speaks of workers feeling "driven rather than led"; wages versus the cost of living believed worse than most other mills; no advancement possible for entry level workers; overseers/managers being profane, overbearing, unsympathetic, even discriminating; higher level managers always siding with overseers rather than workers; company houses in need of repairs for long periods, often longer than a year; garbage not collected regularly; and finally, a lack of trust in the local Schoolfield police force.¹⁴ There is no surviving response from President H.R. Fitzgerald, but within a year of receiving this letter, and likely similar information from other sources, Fitzgerald was introducing the concept of Industrial

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Democracy.

Community systems and welfare programs were fairly common in southern textile mills because of the often dire need for attracting and maintaining the labor force. But Dan River Mills was the first allowing employees to make their demands for improved wages or working conditions in the form of "legislation" within the framework of a factory government in which the workers had a direct stake. In other words, Dan River Mills was the first, at least conceptually, to allow workers to help guide the process of community building and social welfare, rather than having them delivered on company terms and a company schedule. The decision to implement this new system was solely that of H.R. Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was inspired by John Leitch's book, *Man to Man: The Story of Industrial Democracy*, which proposed a system for applying the Christian Golden Rule to industrial relations. The basic format consisted of creating a "federal government" along the lines of the United States government, with a president, cabinet, Senate, and House of Representatives. The speed with which Fitzgerald embraced this new system was due to the repeated attempts by the Loom Fixers Southern Association of America in 1918 and 1919 to establish a chapter at Dan River Mills. Fitzgerald did not oppose significant improvement to the lives of workers, but he wanted it done between the workers and management without the participation of outside unions.¹⁵ This attitude would weigh heavily in his decision making during the later 1930-31 strike at Dan River Mills.

Fitzgerald laid out his reasoning for Industrial Democracy in a 1920 speech to the Blue Ridge Industrial Conference. Fitzgerald stated that "...one of the great evils that grew out of [the prewar] system, was the tendency of those who employed labor to buy it just exactly as they would the machinery...to obtain it at the lowest possible price and get just as much out of it as they could..." Clearly Fitzgerald was of the mind to help the workers improve their situation, but on his terms and not under threat of a strike. Echoing points made by Hattie Hylton, Fitzgerald declared that "the old system is lacking...the overseers...sub-bosses...superintendent...are autocratic and overbearing; there has been no adequate method of recognizing or rewarding individual merit; no system of promotion; the operative has had no opportunity to express himself..." But Fitzgerald, countering some national criticisms of Industrial Democracy, declared that it was "not, as some have supposed, a paternalistic or socialistic theory...it is merely the application of true democratic principles to industry...operatives have a voice in all matters pertaining to their welfare."¹⁶

A constitution was drafted and adopted outlining the form of the new Dan River Mills industrial government and its goals. The *Constitution and By-laws for the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Cabinet: Employee Representative Plan of The Riverside & Dan River Cotton Mills, Incorporated* "endorsed and declared the following Principles to be fundamental...Justice...Co-operation...Economy...Energy...Service..." The Cabinet represented the executive officers and the Senate represented management and neither was elected. The House of Representatives was elected by the workers and chosen from their ranks. The requirements for nomination were "any white person, male or female, who is forty-one years of age, who has been continually in the employ of the company for twelve months and who has subscribed to the five Principles of Our Business Policy." The requirements demonstrated the progressive role of women in the mill, but the continued discrimination against African-Americans even within an "industrial democracy" in the early twentieth century.¹⁷ Very few African Americans were allowed to work in the mills at all and virtually none lived in Schoolfield. This segregation of Schoolfield would continue until Danville annexed the village in June 1951.¹⁸

The Dan River Mills "Constitution" represented the first John-Leitch-type business cultural system in Virginia, the first in all of the south, and one of the earliest in the entire United States.¹⁹ The Dan River Mills Congress each summer and met a total of twelve times, with the last meeting being July 1930. The first few months of Industrial Democracy in Danville (July 1919 to November 1920) seemed to be a great success with several bills passed improving worker efficiency and safety, and even some wage increases. But, in November 1920 the management presented "full facts and figures" to the House of Representatives which demonstrated the need to retract all wage increases and enact a further wage cut. President Fitzgerald also characterized wage increase legislation as "not constructive" thus pitting himself and the executive officers against the workers and against the results of Industrial Democracy. He instead touted the Economic Dividend system which gave workers a share of profits derived from greater efficiency and production.²⁰ The reduction in wages in 1920 came at the same time that Dan River Mills was posting record profits which severely deteriorated worker support for Industrial Democracy. Secretly President Fitzgerald voted himself a substantial wage increase and exempted management from the wage cuts faced by the mill workers. As wages and the size of the Economic Dividend decreased through the 1920s, the number of bills proposed by the House of

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Representatives declined dramatically as did the number of workers running for office and attending meetings of the Dan River Mills Congress. While Industrial Democracy was in decline in Danville, Dan River Mills portrayed continued economic success and worker participation in the system by issuing press releases to major business publications and national newspapers.²¹

Several factors from 1924 to 1931 doomed Industrial Democracy at the Dan River Mills. First, the depression in the textile industry accelerated resulting in lower company earnings, and thus lower wages and bonuses throughout the decade. Secondly, the increasing difficulty in workers being able to get any legislation passed in the "Congress" fueled frustration and disillusionment with the system. A brutal strike in 1930-31 and the death of H.R. Fitzgerald in 1931 finished off Industrial Democracy in Danville for good, and the movement failed nationally during this period as well.²²

The final meeting of the Industrial Democracy House of Representatives was on June 12, 1930. They were forced to accept another 10% cut in wages. Since 1929 several subsidiary unions of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) had been organizing the Dan River Mills. When faced with repeated denials regarding the believed unnecessary nature of wage cuts through much of the 1920s, and a refusal to discuss wage increases, the union struck on September 29, 1930 with overwhelming worker support.²³ The strike was the final blow to Industrial Democracy and was also the end of Schoolfield as a small, harmonious mill village. There were house bombings, extensive harassment, overturned cars, and death threats for many workers who crossed the picket lines. Finally, in November, 1930 the National Guard was sent to Schoolfield. The arrival of the National Guard ended the violence but the strike continued into 1931 and the animosity between residents continued for many years after.²⁴ Dan River Mills President Fitzgerald refused any compromise with the strikers, even at the behest of Governor Pollard. Fitzgerald also evicted any striking workers from company housing, further exacerbating the animosity of the strike. Even the church leaders of Danville's various denominations united to request that Fitzgerald compromise to help the poor and hungry workers, but he refused. The one quarter from which Fitzgerald received united and strong support was the mill owners of the south, one of whom declared that "We are all your debtors for the courageous fight which you have put up."²⁵ The strike finally ended January 1931 with Dan River Mills offering no compromise except to allow some workers to return to their jobs, which the union termed an acceptance by the mill of unionized workers.²⁶ Dan River Mills President H.R. Fitzgerald died of heart failure the next month, ending roughly half a century of Fitzgerald-Schoolfield leadership of the mill.

During the strike the National Guard soldiers were housed in Hylton Hall. By the late 1920s the building had been housing male workers and married couples as well because of the decline in positions offered to single women. This trend continued through the 1930s after the strike. In 1948, the building was converted to offices permanently ending its residential role. The Dan River Mills Textile School occupied the building southwest of Hylton Hall beginning in 1935.

Architecturally, Hylton Hall represents a rare large scale Classical Revival building in the City of Danville. It is six stories in total, with a three story façade. It retains its original Classical Revival features including a central full-height entry porch utilizing classical columns with Corinthian capitals in support of a pedimented roof; dentils accent the cornice in typical fashion. The façade is symmetrical and features two extended wings which mirror side and wing porches seen in residential examples of this style. The main construction system is brick masonry.

While there are numerous Classical Revival residences within Danville, there are only a few existing large Classical Revival buildings comparable in scale with Hylton Hall. The Danville Municipal Building (DHR # 108-0111-0071) was constructed in 1927 and designed by the firm of Heard & Chesterman; J. Bryant Heard was the lead architect as with Hylton Hall. The municipal building is a three story classical revival building but is faced in limestone, utilized pilasters, and does not have a full height entry porch representing distinct differences from Hylton Hall. The Main Post Office and Courthouse (DHR # 108-0070 and # 108-0111-0042) was constructed in 1932 and was again designed by J. Bryant Heard, this time under the nominal direction of Treasury Department architect James A. Wetmore. However this three story building, while echoing the Classical Revival elements of the municipal building, is also faced in limestone and has some Art Deco details as well. The final large scale Classical Revival building is the Keen Street Baptist Church (DHR # 108-0113-0451) constructed c1927. This building is only one story versus the three story facades of the other examples. It utilizes brick construction and the façade features a pedimented full-height portico with Tuscan columns. Hylton Hall is the most pure example of large scale Classical Revival architecture amongst these examples; it retains strong architectural integrity; it is designed by a prominent local architect, all of which makes it a strong candidate for individual listing.

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Several prominent buildings, including the Y.M.C.A., the Schoolfield Baptist Church, and some of the housing stock, have been demolished. Several years ago there was some discussion about developing a district nomination for Schoolfield, however it was dropped due to owner objection at the time, and has not come to fruition to date. Hylton Hall is being nominated individually because of its distinctive architectural and historic integrity and significant social history, which meet the threshold for individual designation.

Hylton Hall represents a strong candidate for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A (Social History) and Criterion C (Architecture). It has a high degree of architectural and historical integrity, retaining a majority of its interior and exterior historic features and character. It represents a rare large scale Classical Revival building in the City of Danville. The original site is also intact. The importance of Dan River Mills to the City of Danville is well documented, and the unique role of this notable building within the grand social experiment of Industrial Democracy is established.

Endnotes

1. Hagan, Jane Gray, The Story of Danville, 1950, p.57-58.
2. Cross, Malcolm A, Dan River Run Deep, 1982, p.240-41.
3. Cross, p.241-42.
4. Smith, Robert Sidney, Mill on the Dan, 1960, p.106-11.
5. Smith, p.253.
6. Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton, The Virginia Architects 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary, 1997, p.186.
7. *A Pleasing Story of an Unusual Enterprise: Hylton Hall, a Commodious and Attractive Home for Young Women*, 1922.
8. Smith, p.254-55.
9. Smith, p.7.
10. Smith, p.165.
11. Smith, p.171.
12. Smith, p.253.
13. Smith, p.254.
14. Smith, p.260-62.
15. Smith, p.262-63.
16. Smith, p.264-65
17. Smith, p.266-67.
18. Hoffman, David E. and Jack I. Hayes, Schoolfield: A 48 Year History, 1985, p.7
19. King, Robert Eugene, "A Cultural Innovation that Failed: The Rise and Fall of 'Industrial Democracy' at the Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mills, Danville, Virginia 1919-1930," 1978, p.389.
20. King, p.42-59.
21. King, p.60-84.
22. King, p.85-143.
23. Smith, p.294-310.
24. Hoffman, p.7.
25. Smith, p.315.
26. Smith, p.311-24.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of tax parcel #51587 are included on the attached tax map. The boundary is marked by Lanier Avenue to the North, single-family dwellings to the east and west and by a wooded lot to its south.

Boundary Justification

Hylton Hall encompasses 3.4 acres of land in the Schoolfield section on Danville. The set boundaries are defined by the boundaries of the parcel on the attached tax map. The set boundaries best represent the period of significance and retain the integrity of the site.

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Photographic Documentation

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of Property: Hylton Hall (VDHR #2009-005)

Location: Danville, Virginia

Photographer: Paige W. Pollard

Date of Photographs: December 22, 2008

Digital images of the photographs are stored in the archives department at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Photo Number	Description	Direction
0001	Hylton Hall Façade, oblique	looking east
0002	Hylton Hall, east elevation	looking west
0003	Hylton Hall, rear elevation	looking NW
0004	Hylton Hall, west elevation	looking north
0005	Shop building, façade	looking east
0006	Hylton Hall Interior, former gymnasium	looking west
0007	Hylton Hall Interior, central stair main level	looking south
0008	Hylton Hall interior, central hallway main level	looking west
0009	Hylton Hall interior, secondary stairway	looking east
0010	Hylton Hall interior, typical dormitory room	looking east