

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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received

date entered 11-25-80

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form

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

## 1. Name

historic Textile Hall

and/or common Old Textile Hall (preferred)

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 322 West Washington Street not for publication

city, town Greenville vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state South Carolina code 045 county Greenville code 045

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Old Textile Hall, Inc. (see continuation sheet)

street &amp; number 322 West Washington Street

city, town Greenville vicinity of state South Carolina 29601

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenville County Courthouse

street &amp; number RMC Office, Room 200, East North Street

city, town Greenville state South Carolina 29601

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

this Inventory of Historic Places in S. C. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  nodate 1973(update) federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Situated on the north side of West Washington Street near the intersection of Academy Street in downtown Greenville, South Carolina, Old Textile Hall is a large exposition facility constructed in 1917. The building was constructed for the Southern Textile Exposition, Inc., to house textile machinery shows on a regular basis. J. E. Sirrine and Company, Engineers, a prominent Greenville firm specializing in textile mills and industrial plants, designed the building. The construction was carried out by the Fiske-Carter Construction Company of Spartanburg, South Carolina. (Both companies remain in business today.)

Exterior: Rectangular in plan (approximately 101' by 235'), Old Textile Hall is constructed of load bearing brick perimeter walls that incorporate horizontal reinforced concrete and granolithic bond beams. The facade is symmetrical in design and comprises a five-story section at the southern end of the building approximately 31' deep in plan and includes projecting rectangular corner pavilions. The facade is delineated by eight bays.

Each corner pavilion incorporates a recessed entranceway, one large window located between granolithic bond beams overhead and a smaller window under the projecting cornice. The wall surface between the pavilions includes twenty-two windows delineated by three sets of paired bays and a wide central doorway. An additional four windows are located under an ornate bracketed cornice supporting a green colored pantile roof. All windows are of a multipane stationary and/or pivoting steel casement type.

The roofed cornice, three horizontal granolithic bond beams and a high brick parapet are featured on all three sides of the southern section of the building. The parapet on the facade wall surface between the pavilions is arched and features an arched decorative limestone nameplate. Also incorporated on the southern section are brick panels delineated by raised brick courses, and chamfered granolithic door lintels and window sills.

The west elevation is comprised of six window bays delineated vertically by brick piers and into three horizontal levels by reinforced concrete bond beams. The east elevation is identical on the upper two levels with the exception of two independent brick shafts. The rear (north) elevation is constructed of wood frame and weatherboarding with a composition covering. The rear elevation includes one single leaf, one sliding and two double doors, and seven wood sash frame windows. The barrel shaped roof is constructed of heavy timber frame components and supported by a crescent truss system visible from the interior of the building in the auditorium. The roof covering consists of built up asbestos.

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Two one-story annexes were constructed adjacent to the east elevation of Old Textile Hall to provide additional exhibit space and are included in the nomination. In 1926 a steel frame and clad structure was built adjacent to the northeast corner. The second annex was built in 1952 alongside and connecting with Old Textile Hall and the original annex.

Interior: The interior of Old Textile Hall can be described in three basic components; that is, a five-story southern section, ground floor and auditorium. Load bearing brick perimeter walls enclose a yellow pine post and beam heavy timber construction on the interior.

The 31' deep southern section comprises the front of the building and includes two projecting corner pavilions, each containing a wood interior staircase. An outside entrance provides access to each staircase. A central lobby provides access to two flanking offices and ground floor section behind. The second, fourth and fifth floors served multifunctional purposes including exhibit space for textile fabrics and products, conference rooms, hospitality rooms, etc. Toilet facilities are located on the third floor. The fifth floor also contained a projection booth for the auditorium.

The ground level first floor section includes an exposed chamfered post and beam timber structural system that supports the auditorium above. The floor consists of a concrete center aisle and maple flooring. This level was designed for heavy and running textile machinery exhibits, receiving and shipping, and storage space.

The auditorium section on the second level features a stage area at the north end, and balcony cantilevered 13' on the west and east side and supported by posts 29' on the southern end. The floor of the auditorium is a non-sloping tongue and groove maple designed to accommodate light and running textile machinery. The balcony and auditorium floors included movable tiered seating for different kinds of performances and events. Maximum seating capacity was about 3,000 people.

A freight elevator is located in the northeast corner of the building to service the auditorium stage and balcony in addition to the ground and auditorium floors.

The original heating and ventilating system is comprised of two subterranean concrete ducts extending from the furnace and blower unit in the northwest corner to a series of brick piers along the front and side perimeter walls. The ducts and piers are divided to include return air. Exposed knob and tube wiring remains in much of the building.

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With the exception of the addition of two annexes, Old Textile Hall has undergone few alterations and retains its basic integrity. Exterior alterations included replacement of the original steel casement windows on side elevations with smaller windows in the 1950's. This alteration entailed brick infill within most of each original window space. The original marquees have been removed from each of the three front entrances. Interior alterations have been minimal and included recent rewiring, leaving much of the original exposed knob and tube wiring and fixtures intact. An auxiliary heating system was also recently installed in the auditorium and some interior partitions constructed on the fifth floor of the building's front section.

Surroundings: Old Textile Hall is located adjacent to a church and commercial properties in the western section of the central business district.

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Owners of Old Textile Hall, Inc., 322 W. Washington Street

Mr. James S. McVay  
P. O. Box 5542  
Greenville, SC 29606

Mr. Larry A. Allen  
210 King George Road  
Greenville, SC 29615

Mr. Arthur H. Brewer  
107 Spring Street  
Easley, SC 29640

Mr. Odell C. Zachary, Jr.  
306 Long View Terrace  
Easley, SC 29640

### 3. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1917/annexes 1926, 52 Builder/Architect Fiske-Carter Const. Co./J. E. Surrine and Co., Engineers

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in the western section of the central business district in Greenville, South Carolina, Old Textile Hall was built in 1917 for the Southern Textile Exposition, Inc. The building is significant as the first exposition facility for textile machinery and products in the Southeast, for its use as Greenville's early civic auditorium and for its physical presence as a major city landmark. Expositions were held on a regular basis in Old Textile Hall from 1917 until 1962 and played a pivotal role in the promotion and growth of the textile industry in the upstate region to a position of national and eventual world leadership.

The location of a textile exposition in Greenville was the result of a coordinated major effort by local members of the Southern Textile Association, area civic and textile leaders, and industrial related machinery and supply people. The first Greenville exposition was planned to coincide with the fall 1915 meeting of the Southern Textile Association, also held in Greenville. This exposition was held November 2-6, 1915, at the Piedmont and Northern Warehouse (destroyed by fire in 1969) located on West Washington Street on a site opposite the future location of Old Textile Hall. The show, which included 169 exhibitors of textile machinery, was viewed by an estimated 40,000 people during Exposition Week. This first show was considered successful enough by its sponsors to spawn the formation of the Southern Textile Exhibitors Association, Inc., in September 1916 for the purpose of creating a permanent exposition in Greenville. A subscription effort of capital stock was initiated for the purpose of financing construction of a permanent exposition facility.

J. E. Surrine and Company, Engineers, was selected by the Exhibitors Association to design the new facility. The company's founder and president, J. E. Surrine, was also actively involved in organizing the first exposition. The building was designed as a dual purpose facility to serve as a municipal auditorium in addition to a textile exposition hall. Old Textile Hall was strategically located in a most desirable location near the corner of West Washington Street and Academy Street in close proximity to downtown hotels and railroad facilities. Construction was begun in the spring of 1917 and completed several months later at a cost of about \$130,000 in time for the opening of the second exposition held December 10-15, 1917. This exposition included 189 exhibitors and 29,250 square feet of space.

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Subsequent expositions were held in 1919 and from 1920 until 1962 on a biennial basis, with some interruptions. An independent Textile Products Show was planned to alternate each year with the regular machinery expositions, beginning with a show held October 6-12, 1921. Ultimately, however, they were not successful.

In 1923 the Board of Directors decided to relinquish the business charter of the Southern Textile Exposition, Inc., and to reorganize as an eleemosynary corporation. The new state charter authorized the corporation to hold expositions "for the encouragement and development of spinning, weaving and the invention and manufacture of machines and devices related thereto; to accumulate and disseminate information relative to the textile industry; to advance and encourage the cause of religion, literature, science and art."<sup>1</sup>

In addition to textile-related exhibitions, Old Textile Hall served an important function as an auditorium facility for the city. The building was the scene of various kinds of tradeshows, including automobile, furniture, home, etc., and a multitude of events such as concerts, plays, conventions, religious revivals, small circuses, school commencements and basketball games.

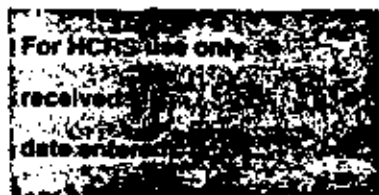
During one show in 1919, a fully erected modular house was exhibited on stage. The building also facilitated the development of local events such as the Thousand Voice Choir and Singing Christmas Tree. The latter event, still held in Greenville, consisted of a chorus arranged in the shape of a Christmas Tree pyramiding from the stage floor to the ceiling.

Old Textile Hall eventually became obsolete for its traditional functions in a deteriorating section of town. The building ceased to be used as a municipal auditorium when a new facility, the Memorial Auditorium was opened in 1958. The last textile exposition was held there in 1962. By that time the exposition had grown to such an extent that nine annexes were needed to accommodate the numerous exhibitors. Textile Hall Corporation subsequently constructed a new exposition building in Greenville to replace the old building. Old Textile Hall remained vacant for several years until purchased for use by a modular housing company in November, 1978. The building was subsequently purchased by Old Textile Hall, Inc., in May, 1980. The present owners are developing plans to rehabilitate the building for adaptive use.

<sup>1</sup>Yancey S. Gilkerson, "Textile Hall's First Sixty Years," Compiled from the records of Textile Hall Corporation, January 1975, p. 5. (Typewritten)

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Architecturally, Old Textile Hall is a significant Greenville landmark, physically embodying the city's position of statewide prominence in the textile industry. The building, which also served as a municipal auditorium, is symbolic of civic pride as well. The building's site, the scale of the masonry construction, and the proportions of the corner pavilions and of the massive bracketed cornice establish Old Textile Hall as a visual, as well as a social and industrial landmark. The major exhibition hall, with its exposed roof trusses and its gallery, is appropriately scaled to the exterior, and reinforces the sense of industrial predominance inherent in Old Textile Hall.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.35

Quadrangle name Greenville, SC 1957

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	7	3	7	1	7	4	0	3	8	5	7	3	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Old Textile Hall nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Greenville County South Carolina: Greenville County Planning Commission, Sheet No. 19-A-2" and drawn at a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes all significant buildings and structures.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

name title Mark Schader, Reda Ward

organization S. C. Appalachian Council of Governments date August 4, 1980

street & number P. O. Drawer 6668 telephone (803) 242-9733

city or town Greenville state South Carolina

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lep

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 9/25/80

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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- "Exhibition Will Be an Asset to South." Greenville Daily News, 7 May 1919, p. 3.
- "The Exhibition Will Be Incorporated..." Greenville Daily News, 30 October 1915, p. 5.
- "The Exposition and the Northern Capitalist." Greenville Daily News, 9 December 1917, p. 8.
- Floyd, Carl. Untitled typewritten description and history of Old Textile Hall. April 1979, pp. 2-3.
- Gilkerson, Yancey S. "Textile Hall's First Sixty Years." Compiled from the records of Textile Hall Corporation, January 1975. (Typewritten)
- "Greenville Has Been Host to Textile Shows Since 1915." Greenville News, 100th Anniversary Edition, p. 2-6.
- "Greenville Has Made Progress In Two Years." Greenville Daily News, 9 December 1917, p. 8.
- "Greenville - The Exposition City." Cotton magazine, November 1917.
- "Housing Firm Purchases Old Textile Hall." Greenville News, 24 November 1978, p. 6-D.
- Huntington, Roger S. "Textile Products Show." Greenville Civic and Commercial Journal, September 1921, pp. 1, 6.
- "I Am Proud to Be a Stockholder.'" Greenville Daily News, 9 December 1917, p. 23.
- Marsh, Kenneth, Frederick and Blanche. The New South, Greenville, S. C. Columbia: R. L. Bryan Co., 1965.

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- McPherson, J. A. "Fifth Southern Textile Exposition." Greenville Civic and Commercial Journal, September 1922, pp. 1, 14.
- Mills, A. L. "What the Southern Exposition Means to the City of Greenville." Cotton magazine, November 1917.
- "Mill Man's Idea Bring \$25,000." Greenville Daily News, 17 December 1917, p. 4.
- "Old Textile Hall Bought By Group." Greenville News, 13 May 1980, p. 1-8.
- "Plan to Make Greenville Permanent Home of Textile Exhibition." Greenville Daily News, 5 November 1915, p. 1.
- Reid, Alfred S., ed. The Arts In Greenville: 1800-1960. Greenville, SC: Furman University, 1960.
- "Second Southern Textile Exposition, One of Finest Show Buildings in Country." Greenville Daily News, 9 December 1917.
- Sirrinc, J. E. and Company, Engineers. "Exposition Building." Architectural plans and specifications dated 29 March 1917.
- "Southern Association is Meeting Here Now." Greenville Daily News, 5 November 1915, p. 1.
- "Southern Textile Association ..., Exposition Grew Out of a Need Expressed by the Association." Greenville News, 9 December 1917.
- "Textile Products Show." Promotional or souvenir paper for 6-12 October 1921 show. Included is an article entitled "Greenville, South Carolina, 'The Textile Center of the South.'"



Old Textile Mill  
17/371740/3.57370

GREENVILLE

Mauldin

Woodfields

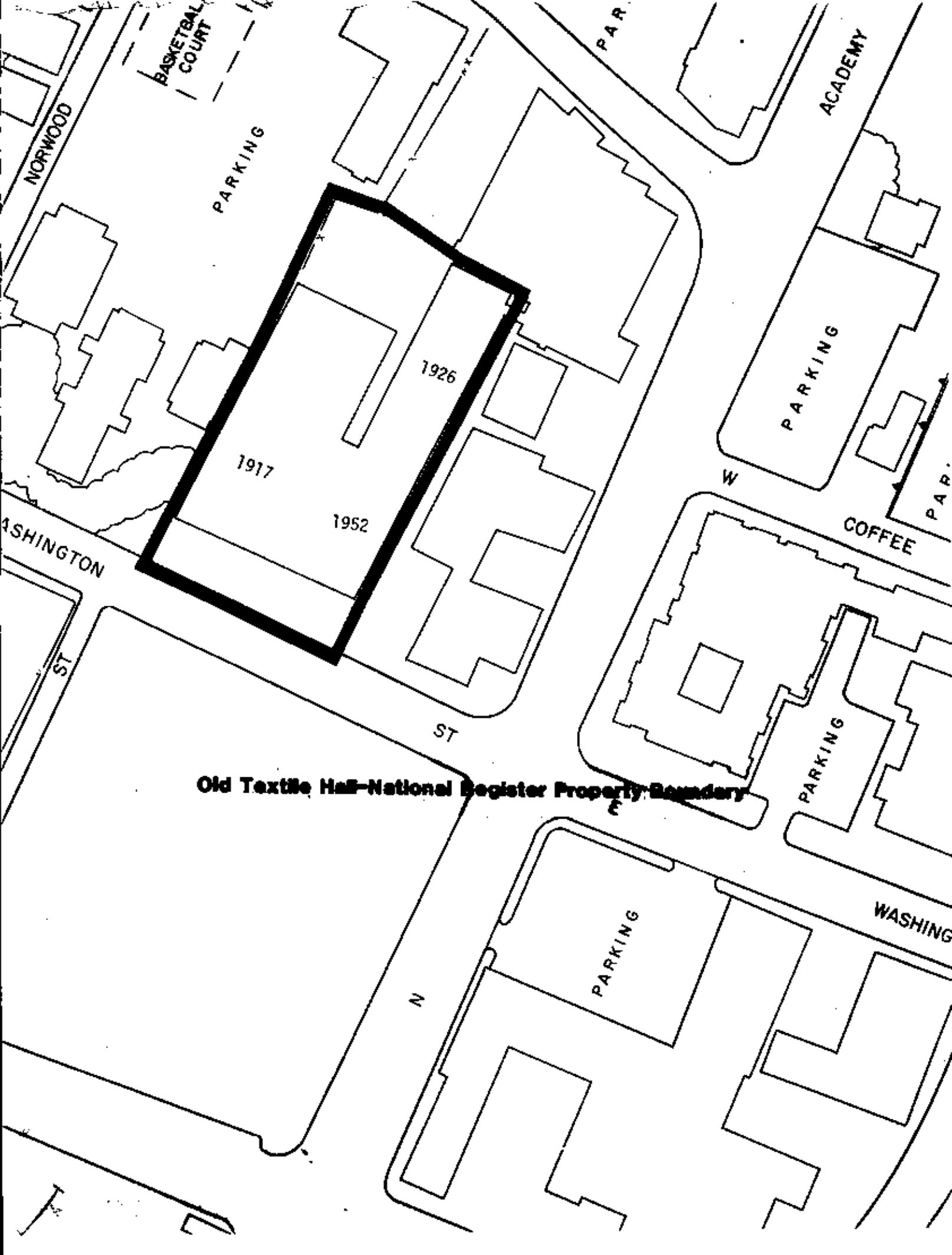
East Gate

Conestee

Gilder

New Hope

Lake Tare



1917  
1926  
1952

**Old Textile Hall-National Register Property Boundary**

BASKETBALL COURT

NORWOOD

PARKING

PAR.

ACADEMY

PARKING

W

COFFEE

PAR.

WASHINGTON

ST

ST

PARKING

**Old Textile Hall-National Register Property Boundary**

PARKING

N

WASHING