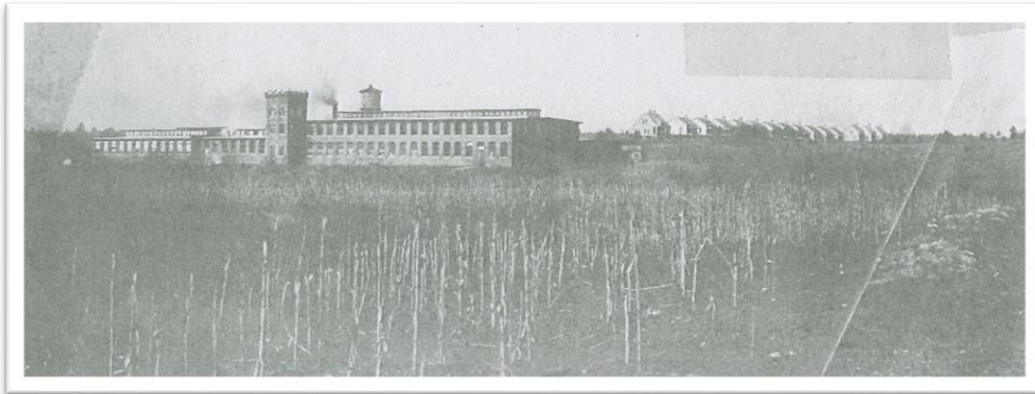


Union Bleachery  
Greenville, South Carolina  
**Support for Request for Textile Mill Site Certification**



*Union Bleachery circa 1909*



*2021 Aerial Image of the Former Union Bleachery*

**January 20, 2022**

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## Timeline of Mill Ownership and Uses

- **1902** – Mill founded and textile operations begin under name “Union Bleaching and Finishing” to provide a local bleaching and finishing service to southern cotton mills.
- **1909** – Mill increased its capacity by fifty percent by purchasing starch room and calendar room machinery and erected a 160 foot tall brick smoke stack and invited more than 500 people to the ceremonial laying of the first brick. A three-room schoolhouse and a union church for Methodists and Baptists were constructed. The company established a boarding house on Stephenson Street for unmarried workers and visitors, where office staff and managers could conveniently buy lunch and dinner (dinner cost forty five cents). A company-owned farm producing cotton and corn bordered the village: it also provided pasture land for worker's cows, pens for their pigs, and garden plots for the many former farmers who joined the work force.
- **1922** – Mill renamed Union Bleachery (“Union Bleachery Mill”) and had a capacity of 40 million yards of fabric a year, a workforce of 350 people, and 22 new houses (with 16 more added by 1926). A huge new settling pond was dug out on the hill northeast of their community, and a million gallons of water was pumped daily into it from the Reedy River. When the plant was running at full production, it used three million gallons a day. Ownership made improvements to the village by grading streets, had 115 houses painted, built a playground and Ice house, and installed sanitary drinking fountains and toilets in the mill. At about the same time, sewer lines and interior plumbing replaced the need for village privies and street lights were provided using power generated by the plant.
- **1923** – Owners commissioned Rudolph E. Lee, head of Clemson University's architecture department, to design a community building, complete with gymnasium, meeting rooms, and modern kitchen, where movies were shown on Saturday nights at a cost of fifteen cents.
- **1925** - A new brown-shingled graded school enrolled 150 students in grades one through seven. Ownership supported the establishment of the Parker School District and Parker High School in the mid 1920's. Bleachery superintendent Richard Arrington became secretary of the school board. Around this time a baseball field was constructed with dugout, back-stop, and bleachers across Buncombe Road. In addition, a nine hole golf course was constructed southwest of the mill for the workers to have additional recreational options. Sometime in the 1920's a fish pond was also added.
- **1947** – Union Bleachery Mill acquired by Aspinook Corporation.
- **1952** – Union Bleachery Mill acquired by Cone Mills Company. By this time the property had grown to 400 acres and 900 people were employed. Cone Mills instituted retirement and better health programs, built a new reservoir on the site of the old pasture and filled in the fish pond.
- **1959** – Mill instituted a program to sell the 119 mill village homes to the employees living in them.

- **1983** – Mill acquired by American Fast Print and was operated under the name “U.S. Finishing.”
- **2003** – Mill closed after a fire.

**Location**

The Union Bleacher textile mill site (“Textile Mill Site”) is located on several parcels of land near the intersection of Old Buncombe Road and West Blue Ridge Drive (State Road 253). The southwestern portion of the Textile Mill Site runs along the Reedy River. The address for the Union Bleachery is 3555 Buncombe Road.

**Evidence of Mill Closure and Details on Operations over the Last 1+ Years**

Although the Union Bleachery Mill changed hands several times in its history, it was in continuous operation from 1902 until November 7, 2003, when a fire on the site forced it to close for good.



Nov 7, 2003 Fire as Union Bleachery, Courtesy Owen Riley, Jr.

On February 02, 2017, another fire started by vagrants further destroyed what was left of the major mill buildings. Regrettably, the structural instability caused by the fire required these magnificent historical structures to be demolished.



*February 2, 2017 Fire at Former Plant, Courtesy WYFF NBC Affiliate  
<https://www.wyff4.com/article/wyff-4-investigates-upstate-mill-site-still-contaminated-owner-out-of-business/8667502#>*

### **Confirmation Mill Has Not Previously Received Textile Mill Credits**

No textile mill credits have previously been received or claimed with respect to the Union Bleachery Mill.

### **Geographic Area of Textile Mill Site**

The Textile Mill Site is located on seven parcels in a distressed area of Greenville County, South Carolina, as designated by the Appalachian Council of Governments. See **Exhibit A**. Therefore, the Textile Mill Site includes the textile mill structures, together with all land and improvements which were used directly for textile manufacturing operations or for ancillary uses, or were located on the same or a contiguous parcel within one thousand feet of any textile mill structures or within one thousand feet of any ancillary uses. The term “contiguous” in this context means any separate tax parcel sharing a common boundary with an adjacent parcel or separated only by a public road. S.C. Code Ann. § 12-65-20(4). “Ancillary uses” in this context are uses related to the textile manufacturing, dyeing, or finishing operations on a textile mill site consisting of sales, distribution, storage, water runoff, wastewater treatment and detention, pollution control, landfill, personnel offices, security offices, employee parking, dining, and recreation areas, and internal roadways or driveways directly associated with such uses. S.C. Code Ann. § 12-65-20(2).

The northwestern portion of parcel 0160000100100 and the northern portion of parcel 0160000100101 featured ponds used for the mill’s water needs. Parcels 0160000100109, 0160000100106, and 0160000100201 housed the main Union Bleachery Mill structures (the “Textile Mill Structures”). In addition, the area extending west/northwest of parcel 0160000100201 (this area now features multiple single family homes around an oval shaped Woodcourt Circle) was originally a large parking lot for mill employees. The northeastern portion of 0160000100100 is across Old Buncombe and features School Road, which was an internal roadway constructed and owned by the mill that was directly associated with the textile mill structures and the ancillary uses as it provided a means of transportation for the mill’s employees through the property and allowed better access to the recreational areas and employee parking lot. In addition, Langston Creek, which was used in the mill’s operations, traverses several parcels, including parcel 0157000200200. Throughout the history of the Textile Mill Site, recreational facilities were maintained including athletic fields (located just west of the northern portion of parcel 0160000100101), a miniature golf course (across old buncombe road from the employee parking area that is now Woodcourt Circle), and a nine hole golf course (portions of which were located on parcels 0160000100100 and 0160000100102). Consequently, all seven parcels are either the same parcel or a contiguous parcel within one thousand feet of any textile mill structure or the ancillary uses described above. Consequently, each of the seven parcels qualifies as a textile mill site under South Carolina law. See maps provided in **Exhibit B**.



Cone Mills Acquisition Group, LLC  
c/o Richard L. Few, Jr.  
Parker Poe  
110 East Court Street  
Suite 200  
Greenville, SC 29601

July 30, 2021

Dear Richard,

Amendments to the South Carolina Textiles Communities Revitalization Act provide the opportunity for tax credits for certain activities pertaining to a property that is located in a distressed area, as designated by the applicable council of governments. At their regular meeting on October 26, 2018, the Appalachian Council of Governments Board of Directors made these designations for Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties.

Through this correspondence, I am certifying that Greenville County tax parcels 0160000100100, 0160000100101, 0160000100102, 0160000100106, 0160000100109, 0160000100201, and 0157000200200 are in a distressed area of the State of South Carolina as designated by the Board of Directors of the Appalachian Council of Governments.

If we may provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With regards,

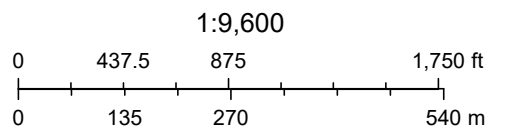
E. Brooke Ferguson  
Economic Development Director



# Greenville County, SC



January 20, 2022



Greenville County GIS Division, Greenville, South Carolina., Greenville County GIS Division, Greenville, South Carolina, Greenville County, South Carolina GIS Division







**MILL SITE  
1963**

UNION BLEACHERIES  
COMMUNITY CEMETARY

UNION BLEACHERIES  
30 MILLION GAL RESERVOIR

ARRINGTON MEMORIAL  
METH. CHURCH

ATHLETIC FIELD

SCHOOL

MINIATURE GOLF

PLAYGROUND

ST. JOHN  
METHODIST

POND

BAPTIST  
CHURCH

COMMUNITY HO.

FINISHED PRODUCT W. HO.

COAGULATION BASIN

UNION BLEACHERY

9-HOLE GOLF COURSE

COAGULATION BASIN

CORDUROY BLDG

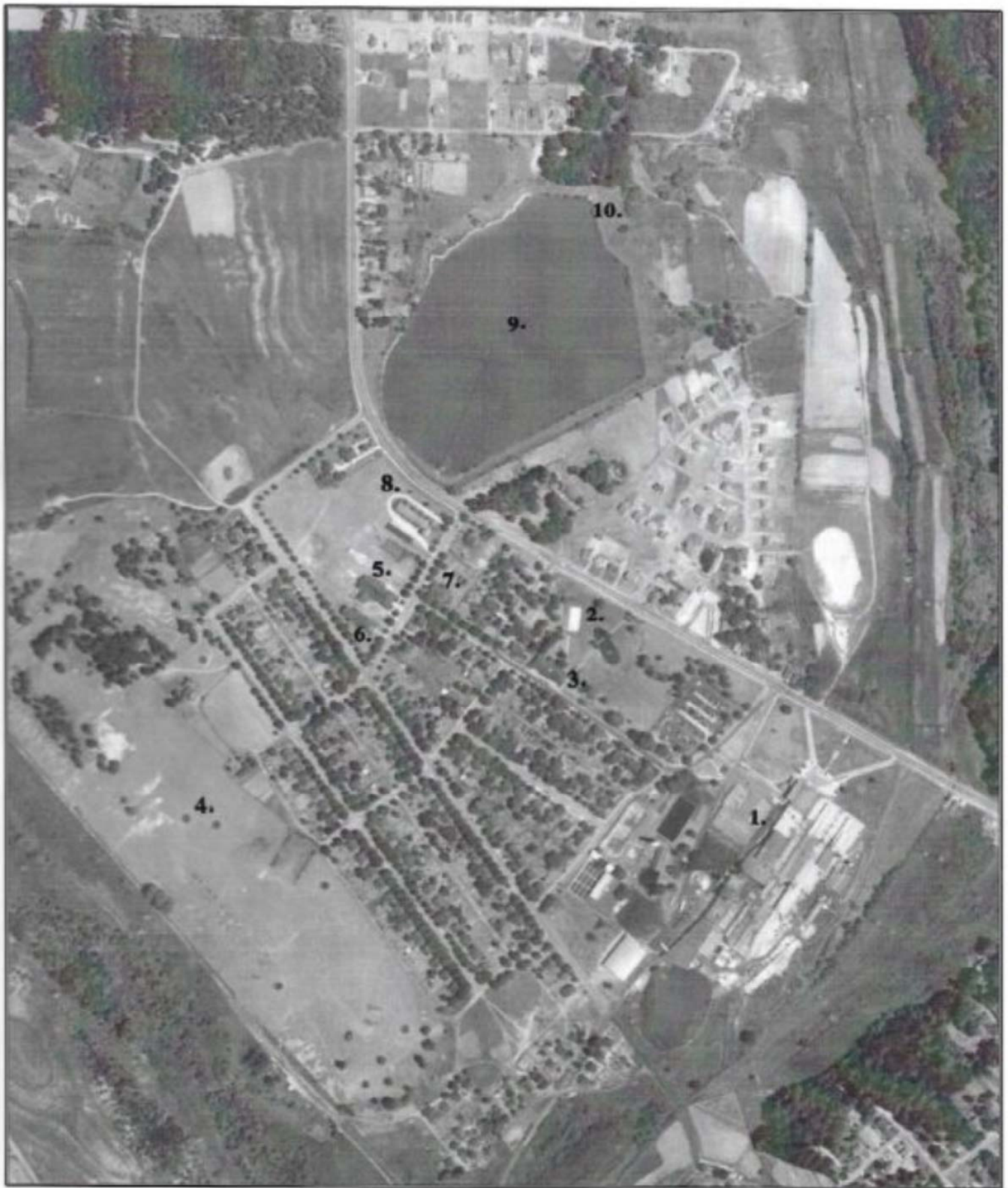
LAUSTIC TANKS

RAILWAY

POND







1. Union Bleachery Finishing Company
2. Playground
3. Community Center
4. Golf Course
5. Union Bleachery Elementary School

## Union Bleachery Community 1952

6. Union Bleachery Baptist Church
7. Arrington Memorial United Methodist Church
8. Company Apartment House
9. Company Reservoir
10. Union Bleachery Community Cemetery