

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 Laboratory Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Jct. of Laboratory Rd. (SR 1252) & South Fork Rd. (SR 1248) N/A not for publication

city or town Laboratory N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lincoln code 109 Zip code 28092

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.)

Jeffrey A. Crowe Signature of certifying official/Title

SHPO Date

10/16/03

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Edson W. Beall Signature

12/10/03 Date

Laboratory Historic District

Name of Property

Lincoln Co., NC

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)**Category of Property**
(Check only one box)**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	5	buildings
0	0	sites
2	8	structures
0	0	objects
9	13	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

INDUSTRY/waterworks

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

COMMERCE/professional

RECREATION/sports facility

LANDSCAPE/conservation area

VACANT

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Late Victorian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Wood

Metal

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION

Materials

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Stone

Roof: Asphalt

Narrative Description

The Laboratory Historic District is a small rural district located in a picturesque setting about two miles south of Lincolnton. The district's nearly twenty-two acres are positioned on the southwest side of a bend in the South Fork River and extend southwestward to include the wooded hilltop properties on the west side of Laboratory Road (SR 1252) and the south side of South Fork Road (SR 1248) where the roads intersect to form a sharp "V" that echoes the river bend. The district is distinguished from its surroundings in that the boundaries include the surviving contiguous historic resources associated with the Laboratory Cotton Mill and its founder and owner, Daniel E. Rhyne. Beyond the boundaries, the historic resources once associated with the mill village have either been destroyed or have been moved and remodeled at new locations. Outside the district boundaries are also several other buildings associated with the Laboratory Cotton Mill and the Rhyne family, but these post-date the district's second period of significance, ca. 1887-1953. (The first period of significance is ca. 1844-1861.)

The focal point of the district is the 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill, located in the lowland at the edge of the river but integrally tied with the river through its dam and water race system. Set back from the road on the hills overlooking the mill and the river are the district's three other primary resources: the ca. 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir and the 1894 Daniel E. Rhyne House to the west across Laboratory Road and the ca. 1844 Hoke-Rhyne House to the south across South Fork Road. The two houses are accompanied by a variety of secondary resources—small outbuildings and structures, mostly post-dating the district's second period of significance—while in addition to the dam and water race system, a boiler room/shop and the brick foundation ruins of what may have been the 1863 Confederate pharmaceutical laboratory are associated with the mill property. In all, the district contains twenty-two resources—four primary and eighteen secondary. Of these, nine (seven buildings, two structures) or forty-one percent contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district, while thirteen (five buildings, eight structures) or fifty-nine percent are non-contributing resources. Although more than half of the district's resources do not contribute to its historic and architectural character, this figure is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 2

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

deceiving. In actuality, the district's small number of primary—and contributing—resources dominate the physical character of the district, while the larger number of non-contributing resources are typically located behind their associated primary resources and are either out of view from the roadways or have little impact on the overall composition of the district.

Although the district contains only four primary resources, these four, individually, are all excellent examples of their building types and styles within the context of Lincoln County's architectural history. The oldest building in the district is the Hoke-Rhyne House, built ca. 1844. The two-story, Flemish-bond brick house represents the stylistic transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles in the county. In its form, chimneys, facade elevation, and windows, the exterior of the house reflects the influence of some of the large brick houses built by the county's wealthiest citizens during the early nineteenth century. On the other hand, the roof and the interior detailing express the Greek Revival style popular during the mid-nineteenth century. The house also exhibits popular turn-of-the-twentieth-century detailing in the one-over-one sash windows and front and rear doors and sidelights, alterations made by Daniel Rhyne when he acquired the house in 1900. The other house in the district, the 1894 Daniel E. Rhyne House, is a traditional, two-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling of the late nineteenth century. Its decorative front porch, however, with its turned and sawnwork ornamentation, is one of the best examples of late-Victorian-period architectural stylishness in Lincoln County. The liveliness of the porch is continued in the stair, mantels, and other details of the interior. The 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill is representative of the brick textile mills erected in the county in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It expresses typical mill construction in its pilastered brick walls, large windows (now typically bricked up), low-pitched roofs, two-story tower, and wide-open interior spaces with, at most, a row of heavy timber support posts down the center. Of particular interest are the surviving belfry, monitor roof, and hip-roofed tower on the southwest wing of the mill. The ca. 1887 rectangular mill reservoir, a massive stone structure with walls that are approximately three-and-a-half feet thick, is a rare surviving example of this structural form in the county. It is located across Laboratory Road and uphill from the mill.

Prior to the mid-twentieth century, the Laboratory Cotton Mill and the two houses associated with Daniel E. Rhyne were accompanied (outside the boundaries of the district) by an entire mill village that included a mill store and two rows of mill houses, one of which ran southward from the mill along the east side of the Hoke-Rhyne House. Roads at that time remained unpaved. Although the larger Laboratory community remains south and southwest of the district, the concentrated historic mill village survives only in the mill, reservoir, two houses, associated resources, and physical setting. Beginning in 1953 and continuing for around a decade, the mill store and mill houses were either demolished or moved elsewhere in the community.

The primary buildings and their setting that form the Laboratory Historic District remain largely intact and very well preserved, so that they still proudly convey the environment within which industrialist Daniel Rhyne lived and worked during his residence of nearly half a century in Lincoln County. As a result, the district retains a high degree of historic integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 3

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

workmanship, feeling, and association.

Inventory List

The following inventory list provides basic information on all properties in the Laboratory Historic District, including each property's name, location, date of construction, contributing or non-contributing status, and summary of its physical character and history. Resources—buildings, sites, structures, or objects—that were built during the district's periods of significance (ca. 1844-1861; 1887-1953) and retain sufficient integrity, contribute to the significance of the district. Those resources which post-date the periods of significance or have been significantly altered are non-contributing resources.

Information given in the inventory is based primarily on a combination of the on-site survey conducted by the author in March and September, 2002, survey file materials, and research with a variety of primary and secondary sources. Sources that were particularly useful are listed in abbreviated form in parentheses at the end of each inventory entry. Full citations are given in the nomination bibliography.

Laboratory Cotton Mill

NE side Laboratory Road and South Fork Road
1887

Contributing building

During the second half of 1887, Daniel Efird Rhyne and his brother-in-law, James Alonzo Abernethy Sr., acquired several tracts of land on the South Fork River (south fork of the Catawba River) at a place called Laboratory, located about two miles south of Lincolnton. Rhyne and Abernethy moved there from neighboring Gaston County with the intent of building a new cotton mill. Rhyne had already been associated with several mills in Gaston County, and Abernethy had worked in the store of one of those mills. Attracted by the water power of the South Fork River, they chose the former site of the Lincoln Cotton Factory, which had been built in 1823 by Michael Schenck, John Hoke, and James Bivings. That mill had burned in 1861, and in 1863 the site became home to a laboratory—one of only twelve in the Southern states—erected by the Confederate government to produce medicines for the army. No above-ground evidence of the laboratory remains, except, potentially, for the corner ruin of a brick foundation. Rhyne and Abernethy called their new mill the Laboratory Cotton Mills. Its establishment was significant because it re-introduced cotton manufacturing to the economy of Lincoln County at a time when the local economy urgently needed an economic boost. Thus, Rhyne and Abernethy became the first in a new group of industrialists who revived Lincoln County's textile industry in the late-nineteenth century.

When built, the Laboratory Cotton Mill had a capacity of 2,000 spindles, but by 1909 this had been

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 4

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

increased to 5,050 spindles. Approximately 125 workers were employed at the mill in 1909, producing two-two-four-ply yarn from long cotton staple. In 1893 Rhyne purchased Abernethy's share of the business, and from then until his death in 1933, he remained sole owner and manager of the mill. In the settlement of Rhyne's estate, the mill property was sold to D. E. Rhyne Mills, Inc., whose chief stockholder was Paul C. Rhyne Sr., Daniel Rhyne's nephew. Over the next two decades, the Laboratory Cotton Mill continued to produce high quality cotton carded yarns—two-ply forties, fifties, and sixties, as the yarn was called. During this time, all machinery in the mill was operated on a direct belt drive, in which two fourteen-feet-in-diameter underwater wheels powered a belt that was eighteen inches wide and one inch thick. A large vertical pipe, still enclosed within a small frame structure on the river side of the mill, was part of the system that carried water from the river to the reservoir on the hill above the mill.

In 1953 Johnathan Rhyne Sr., great nephew of D. E. Rhyne and son of Paul C. Rhyne Sr., returned to Laboratory from his work in Belmont to run the mill. Within a few years, the mill shifted to a new direction. The production of fine cotton yarns was replaced with the production of synthetics—rayon, polyester, acrylic, and other special types such as poly 5. The mill continued to operate until closing in the late 1990s.

The Laboratory Cotton Mill is located on the southwest bank of the South Fork River, nestled downhill from the "V" formed by the junction of Laboratory Road (SR 1252) and South Fork Road (SR 1848). It conforms to the topography of the land, with the two-story section standing on the lowest land next to the river and the one-story section slightly uphill and closer to the roads. The placement of the sections of the mill in this way results in the major wings of the mill appearing to be of a single height and with the whole appearing to have been built into the hillside. Sanborn maps from the 1920s show that there have been few changes to the overall physical character of the mill since that time. An early-twentieth-century photograph shows the mill with two primary wings—one one-story and the other two stories—built of common-bond brick with tall sash windows, brick pilasters between the windows, and low-pitched roofs. The one-story wing extending southwestward away from the river is distinguished by a monitor roof; a belfry with louvered vents, bracketed eaves, and a bell-cast roof with a tall finial; and, on the southeast elevation, a two-story tower with a hipped roof with bracketed eaves and gable-roofed louvered vents. Unlike many mill towers, this one is unusual in retaining its original roof with its decorative details. The early-twentieth-century photograph also shows that a large, decorative, painted sign proclaiming "D. E. Rhyne, Prop'r of the Laboratory Cotton Mills" was located over the door at the southwest end of the wing.

Sanborn maps from the 1920s flesh out this picture. The mill was formed by a series of rectangular

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 5

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

blocks joined in various ways. Closest to the river is the northwest-southeast wing used for carding and spinning. On the northeast elevation was a two-story water closet and the wheel house projecting out over the mill race. An elevator projected from the southwest corner of the wing. Attached to the southeast end was the picker room and the opening room. Southeast of the opening room was the row of four cotton warehouses, originally detached but later joined to the main body of the mill. The northeast-southwest wing housed the twisting, reeling, winding, and shipping processes. Attached to it were a small one-story room on the northwest side and the office and machine shop on the southeast side in and adjacent to the tower.

Today the form of the mill remains mostly the same, although a variety of moderate changes have been made, consistent with the development over time of most textile mills. Primary changes include: an addition to the southwest end of the mill that continues beyond the original mill to the northwest, an addition along the southeast elevation, the addition of an elevator on the northwest end of the mill, the removal of most of the wheel house on the northeast elevation, and the infilling with brick of most of the original windows. A large metal addition attached to the northwest elevation during the second half of the twentieth century has been removed. Even with these exterior changes, the original mill is still discernable on the exterior in the general form of the building, composed of multiple wings, and in such features as the tower, the monitor roof, and the belfry.

The interior of the mill remains largely intact, exhibiting typical mill construction. The northwest-southeast wing along the river has large wood support posts with collars running down the center and supporting the heavy timbers of the slightly pitched wood ceiling. The northeast-southwest wing has a wide-open interior space and a heavy timber truss system supporting the shallow pitched roof and the central monitor projecting upward from it. At the junction of these two primary wings is a row of heavy timber brackets supporting a shaped wooden valley or trough for carrying off rain water. The mill's smaller rooms continue the use of common mill construction (Deeds, Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interviews, Hill, Cauble, Brown and York, *Lincoln County News*, Sanborn Maps, Pictures).

Dam and Race System
ca. 1887; ca. 1950

Contributing structure

The mill was powered by water from the South Fork River via the dam and race. The largely intact concrete and rock mill dam extends approximately 300 feet across the South Fork River north of the mill. Built on a stone foundation, the dam is around four-to-five feet thick and has a drop of about eight feet from the upper level of the water to the lower level beneath the dam. Although the mill apparently did not have a formal head race, the curve of the dam guided the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 6

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

water approximately 100 feet to the mill. The tail race, measuring around 100 feet in length, guided the water from the mill back to the river. At the river's edge is a ca. 1950 concrete motorized gate that allowed more control over the water flow.

Boiler Room/Shop

Contributing building

First quarter twentieth century; ca. 1950

Sanborn Maps from 1921 and 1929 show that this was the location of the mill's boiler room. In the mid-twentieth century, the building was enlarged and converted to shop space. A plain brick wall forms the south elevation and wraps around one third of the east end; the rest of the building is sheathed in sheet metal. A loading dock is on the east end.

Brick Ruin

Non-contributing structure

ca. 1863 ?

Just southwest of the mill are the remains of a brick building foundation shown on the 1921 Sanborn Map as a storage building. It was torn down in the 1950s. Local tradition, via Johnathan Rhyne Sr., claims that the ruin also constitutes a surviving remnant of the Confederate pharmaceutical laboratory that operated here during the Civil War between 1863 and 1865.

Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir

Contributing structure

2754 Laboratory Road

ca. 1887

Uphill from the mill and just north of the Daniel E. Rhyne House is the reservoir, probably built around the same time as the mill. It is a large, rectangular, rubble stone structure with walls that measure more than three-and-a-half feet thick. The exterior of the reservoir measures approximately twenty-two feet wide by thirty-six feet long by sixteen feet high, while the interior measures approximately fourteen by twenty-eight by fourteen feet. For additional stability, an iron strap wraps around the perimeter of the reservoir exterior near its top. On the interior, two iron bars once ran down the length of the building and three ran across it, but only one of these remains. The brick lining of the interior is still exposed, although the south wall has been thickened near the bottom and covered by cement. A few shelves have been added, but the interior remains largely intact. Originally the reservoir was roofless, but during conversion to its present use as an art studio, a low and unobtrusive hipped roof was added. Its heavy timber beams remain exposed on the interior. The roof is barely visible on the exterior because it is largely covered with ivy, as are much of the wall surfaces. Additionally, when the reservoir was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 7

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

converted to an art studio, a door was cut through the north wall to provide an entrance to the interior, although the structure was left windowless. A frame shed was also built to the rear (west side) of the reservoir. An article in the July 6, 1894, issue of the *Lincoln Courier* mentions the "reservoir containing 12,000 gallons of water which is connected by a pipe that has three outlets in the factory building and will be used in case of an outbreak of fire." Sanborn maps from the 1920s show an eight-inch water pipe running from the reservoir to the mill and then encircling the mill with a six-inch water pipe. In describing the fire protection system at the mill, the 1929 Sanborn Map says, "wet system supplied from 75,000 gal. reservoir, which is supplied from river." According to Johnathan Rhyne Sr., the reservoir remained in use until 1963, when the mill's insurance company determined that it did not supply enough water (*Lincoln Courier*, Sanborn Maps, Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interviews; Paul Rhyne Interview).

Daniel E. Rhyne House
2800 Laboratory Road
1894

Contributing building

Where Daniel Rhyne lived initially when he moved to Laboratory from Gaston County in 1887 to build the Laboratory Cotton Mill is not known. However, in 1894 he built a stylish two-story frame house on a hill overlooking the mill. On March 23, 1894, the *Lincoln Courier* reported, "Mr. D. E. Rhyne is about completing a handsome residence at the Laboratory Cotton Mills." On July 6, referring to the just completed residence, the paper stated, "In its appointments the residence is the most complete and handsome in the county. A ram supplies every room with cool and refreshing water from a spring nearby. As Mr. Rhyne believes that 'cleanliness is next to godliness,' he has added a well equipped bathroom where those of an aquatic nature can revel in a warm or cold bath." The paper also noted that the mill's reservoir was located a few yards from the residence.

The Rhyne House is a traditional, two-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling, three bays wide and one-room deep, with a center hall and a rear ell. Primarily before 1930, several small additions were built to either side of the one-story rear ell, and the front half of the ell was raised to two stories. These changes, however, do not detract from the house's overall character. The gable roof of the house has overhanging eaves with decorative sawnwork brackets and wood-shingled gable ends with decorative diamond-shaped louvered ventilators on the side gables and a pointed arched ventilator on the rear. Windows are four-over-four sash with louvered shutters. The decorative focal point of the exterior is the front porch, whose detailing provides one of the strongest expressions of late-Victorian period styling in Lincoln County. Carrying across the facade, the one-story porch has turned balusters, turned posts with sawnwork brackets, and bracketed roof eaves. Above the center bay is a balcony porch with the same turned balusters and posts, as well as a wood-shingled skirt, a narrow spindled frieze, a wood-shingled

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 8

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

gable, and an elaborate king post, pendant, and sawnwork sunburst in the peak of the overhanging roof eaves. The round-headed glass-and-wood-paneled front door with sidelights and transom provides entrance to the interior, where decorative detailing continues. Of particular note is the open-string stair with its square newel, turned balusters, and finely molded wainscot. Pendants hang from the corners of the ceiling where it opens for the rising stair. The parlor mantel has late Victorian turned posts with incised floral carvings, while the mantel of the first-floor room on the north side of the hall is Neo-Classical with Tuscan columns and a mirrored overmantel. Doors and windows have molded surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks.

When Daniel Rhyne moved to the nearby Hoke-Rhyne House in 1900, his brother, Laban, moved into Rhyne's 1894 frame house. Earlier, Daniel Rhyne had hired Laban to run the company store at the mill across the road. In 1916 Paul Conrad Rhyne, son of Laban and Ellen Lentz Rhyne, moved with his bride, Agnes Mundy, into the house. (By this time, Laban was living part time in the homes of his several children.) Paul was employed by his uncle Daniel Rhyne, and after Daniel's death in 1933, he became vice-president and later president of Rhyne Mills. Around 1934, Paul and Agnes Rhyne and their family moved to the Hoke-Rhyne House, after which the Daniel E. Rhyne House was used as the mill superintendent's house. In 1954, one of Paul and Agnes's three sons, Joseph, and his wife, Martha, moved into the Rhyne House and lived there for several decades. In 1996 the house was sold to the present owners, the first outside the Rhyne family.

The Daniel E. Rhyne House stands on a wooded hill above Laboratory Road and across from the Laboratory Cotton Mill. It is surrounded by a landscaped house yard marked by hedges and fences, and beyond the yard the rolling land continues on to the west and south. The house is accompanied by seven outbuildings (*Lincoln Courier*, Brown and York, *Lincoln County Heritage*,).

Well House
Early twentieth century

Contributing building

According to the current property owners, this diminutive outbuilding was originally a well house. Although it does not appear in the earliest photographs of the house, it was likely built during the first quarter of the twentieth century. The one-story frame building has weatherboard siding, a front-gable roof, a five-panel door, and sash windows with wood louvered shutters.

Dog House
Late 1990s

Non-contributing structure

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 9

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

Located west of the house behind a shielding fence and shrubbery, a small frame dog house with weatherboard siding and a gable roof stands on a cement slab.

Rabbit/Pheasant Cage

Non-contributing structure

Late 1990s

Originally used as a rabbit hutch but currently serving as a pheasant house, this outbuilding is raised high on stilts with a wood frame wrapped with chicken wire and a metal-sheathed shed roof. It is located southwest of the house, in line with the dog house.

Chicken House

Non-contributing structure

Late 1990s

Located south of the house behind a row of holly trees, the chicken house is a small board-and-batten frame structure with a shed roof and a chicken wire-enclosed yard on the south side, all on a cement slab.

Pump House

Non-contributing structure

Last quarter twentieth century

East of the chicken house and behind the same row of holly trees, all to the south of the house, is the small brick pump house with shed roof and opening on the south side.

Stable

Contributing building

ca. 1950

The stable is located back from the other outbuildings west of the house. It is a rectangular one-story frame building with vertical-board siding. Its broad, low, gable roof encompasses an open shed along the east side of the horse stalls.

Corn Crib

Contributing building

ca. 1940

Located on a slight hill beyond a pasture south of the house, the corn crib is a weatherboarded frame building with a broad gable roof and an enclosed shed along the northwest side.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 7 Page 10

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

Hoke-Rhyne House
2831 Laboratory Road
ca. 1844; ca. 1900; ca. 1968

Contributing building

One of the finest surviving ante-bellum structures in Lincoln County, the Hoke-Rhyne House is located on a hilltop setting overlooking the Laboratory Cotton Mill and the picturesque countryside along the South Fork River. Accompanying the historic house on its tract of more than six acres are eight non-historic resources. The birth of the Hoke-Rhyne House remains vague, relying on local tradition and supposition based on documentary records and circumstantial evidence. Local tradition claims that John Hoke built the house ca. 1844, and since it was occupied in the late nineteenth century by his son, Francis E. Hoke, it has been supposed that he built it for Francis. However, this is unlikely, since Francis was only twelve years old in 1844 and did not marry until 1854. Stylistically, the house reflects transitional Federal-Greek Revival style characteristics and appears to have been built by the mid-1840s at the latest. On the exterior, it is more reflective of the earlier nineteenth-century Federal style than it is of the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival, but even here there are suggestions of the Greek Revival, while the interior is strongly Greek Revival in character.

The two-story Flemish-bond brick house is five bays wide and two rooms deep over a full raised basement. A molded brick cornice runs across the front and rear elevations. The side-gable roof has overhanging eaves and, across the front and rear of the house, the eaves flare outward—an unusual feature. A pair of interior chimneys rise from each gable end. The windows have flat-arched lintels—those on the second story stuccoed—and louvered wood shutters. The front entrance is flanked by sidelights, and the whole is headed by a broad fanlight transom bordered by a wide brick arch. A late-nineteenth-century photograph of the house shows no front porch. Except for its fanlighted entrance and the broader pitch, overhang, and flare of the roof, the exterior of the house is closely akin to several Lincoln County houses built from the 1820s to the 1840s, particularly Shadow Lawn (NR 1972) and the A. A. McLean House (demolished), both on West Main Street in Lincolnton.

On the interior, the center hall features an unusual open-string stair with delicate sawnwork spandrel brackets, newel, handrail, and balusters, inset at the rear of the hall on the west side. Only one of the eight original mantels survives in the house, in the parlor; it is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style with fluted side pilasters and frieze, bull's-eye corner blocks, and a low pedimented backband. Narrow built-in cupboards remain in three of the rooms; the one in the parlor has a ten-light upper door whose glass is scored and comb-painted to look like etched glass. One of the panels utilizes colored paint for decorative accents. Six-panel doors in the house have fluted surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. The basement, which has a large cooking fireplace, could originally be reached only by an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 11

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

exterior door on the front of the house. (Although this entrance remains, an interior stair added in the second quarter of the twentieth century also provides access to the basement).

The date of construction of the Hoke-Rhyne House is complicated by several factors. John Hoke (1778-1845), along with James Bivings and Michael Schenck, had built the Lincoln Cotton Factory on the river below the house site in 1823. (Most accounts say 1819, but these men did not purchase the land until 1823.) In 1835, Hoke bought out his two partners, thereby becoming the sole owner of the mill and the acreage around it. However, John Hoke was also a wealthy merchant and land owner, and he lived in a mansion on the northeast corner of the Court Square in Lincolnton. It is unlikely that he would have built such a fine house in the country at this point in his life; in fact, on in years, he drew up his will on March 17, 1843; his wife, Barbara, died on May 21, 1844; and Hoke, himself, followed her in death on June 9, 1845. In his will, John Hoke left a tract of land on the South Fork of the Catawba River to his daughter, Nancy. It is not clear, however, whether this was the tract on which the brick house was built. Shortly after John Hoke wrote his will, Nancy married Lysander D. Childs in June of 1843. He was a manufacturer from Massachusetts who joined John Hoke in operating the Lincoln Cotton Mill and, after Hoke's death, took it over as owner and manager. Hoke most likely built the house for his daughter and new son-in-law.

In the 1850 and 1860 census records, the Childses are listed as living in Laboratory. Also in Laboratory at that time were clerks, a carpenter, a wheelwright, several machinists, two blacksmiths, a wool carder, and other operatives—probably assembled by Childs for the skilled operation of the mill—who, for the most part, had been born in the northeast—Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and New York. L. D. Childs continued to manage the mill until it burned in 1861. Thereafter, he and Nancy moved to Columbia, South Carolina, where Childs became associated with other industrial pursuits. It was the Childses' sons who sold the mill property at Laboratory to Daniel Rhyne in 1887.

By the late nineteenth century, the house was known as the home of Francis E. Hoke and his family. When Francis began to occupy the house and how he obtained formal ownership is not known. However, in 1900 the heirs of Francis E. Hoke sold the house to Daniel E. Rhyne for \$1,450. Rhyne then moved from his frame house on a nearby hill overlooking his Laboratory Cotton Mill from the west to the Hoke House, which stood on a higher hill overlooking the mill from the south.

Daniel Rhyne made several changes to the house. The most notable were the additions of a one-story porch that encircled the house and a belvedere that rose from the attic in the center of the roof. The belvedere had a hipped roof and hinged windows and benches on all four sides, providing an excellent vantage point for observing the mill and the surrounding picturesque countryside. Rhyne also updated

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 12

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

the house by replacing the original nine-over-six sash windows with one-over-one sash, the front and rear wood-paneled doors with turn-of-the-century glass and wood-paneled doors, and the original multi-light sidelights with etched-glass single sidelights over wood panels.

Daniel Rhyne, a bachelor, continued to occupy the brick house for the rest of his life. After his death in 1933, Daniel Rhyne's nephew, Paul C. Rhyne Sr., and his wife, Agnes, moved from the 1894 Daniel E. Rhyne House to the brick house. Paul Rhyne was an executive with Rhyne Mills. Agnes, a nurse trained at Crowell Hospital in Lincolnton, helped provide care for ill neighbors in the Laboratory community. She also operated a branch library in the 1940s and 1950s in Daniel Rhyne's old mill office.

In 1953, Johnathan Rhyne Sr., one of Paul and Agnes's three sons, returned to Laboratory from his work in Belmont to take over the operation of the two Rhyne mills, Laboratory Cotton Mill across the road and Lincoln Cotton Mill down South Fork Road. He and his wife, Marian, lived in the Hoke-Rhyne House for several years, left, and then returned around 1968. A variety of changes were made to the house at that time: Daniel Rhyne's wraparound porch and belvedere were removed in an effort to return the exterior of the house to its original appearance; frame additions were built to both sides and rear of the house; and, on the interior, all but the mantel in the parlor were removed, crown molding was added, and the floorplan was revised while maintaining its basic center-hall character. After more than a century, the house remains in Rhyne family ownership and occupancy, now the home of Johnathan L. Rhyne Jr. and his wife, Martha (Hill, Brown and York, Deeds, Wills, *Lincoln County News*, Inverness, Dellingler, *Lincoln Times*, Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interviews, Sanborn Maps, *Lincoln County Heritage*).

Garage
ca. 2000

Non-contributing building

Southwest of the house stands the three-bay garage, a one-story, weatherboarded frame building with a side-gable roof.

Dog Pen
1990s

Non-contributing structure

Behind the garage is the dog pen—a chain-link-fence-enclosed area with several small dog houses sheltered by an open shed.

Shed

Non-contributing building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 13

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

1970s

Southeast of the dog pen stands a frame shed that is sheathed with vertical boards and has a gable roof with a widely overhanging north gable end.

Shelter

Non-contributing structure

1970s

East of the shed are the surviving concrete floor and south wall of what was once a shelter associated with the tennis court.

Tennis Court

Non-contributing structure

ca. 1970

South of the house stands a concrete tennis court surrounded by a tall chain-link fence.

Barn

Non-contributing building

1970s

Southeast of the house, near the south border of the property, is a two-level frame barn. Sheathed with vertical boards, it has a shallow gable roof and an open shed along the east side.

Sheep Shed

Non-contributing building

1970s

Just north of the barn is the sheep shed, a building smaller than the barn and sheathed with vertical boards.

Pump House

Non-contributing building

ca. 1970s

The pump house is located northeast of and just downhill from the house. It is a small brick building with a gable roof and a door at the south-gable end.

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.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or 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)

Industry

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1844-1861

1887-1953

Significant Dates

ca. 1844

1887

1894

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Rhyne, Daniel E.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 14

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina**SIGNIFICANCE****Significant Dates**

1900

Summary

The Laboratory Historic District is located in a dramatically picturesque setting along the South Fork River approximately two miles south of the town of Lincolnton in North Carolina's western Piedmont. The district is composed primarily of the ca. 1844 Hoke-Rhyne House, the 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill, the ca. 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir, and the 1894 Daniel E. Rhyne House, contiguous properties united both by their association with a significant textile manufacturing site in Lincoln County from the 1820s through 1861 and again, after 1887, and with late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century textile manufacturer and philanthropist Daniel E. Rhyne (1852-1933). In 1823 Michael Schenck, John Hoke, and James Bivings purchased land on the south fork of the Catawba River about two miles south of Lincolnton, on which they built the Lincoln Cotton Factory. In 1835 John Hoke became sole owner of the factory, and ca. 1844 he built a substantial and stylish brick house on a hill overlooking the mill that became the home of his daughter, Nancy, and her husband, Lysander D. Childs, whom Hoke had brought into the operation of the factory. After the Lincoln Cotton Factory burned in 1861, its site became home from 1863 to the close of the Civil War to a Confederate pharmaceutical laboratory that provided medicines for the Southern army. In establishing the Laboratory Cotton Mill on the same site in 1887, Daniel Rhyne began his leadership role in revitalizing Lincoln County's moribund textile industry—the industry that became central to the county's economy for the next century. In addition to the Laboratory Cotton Mill, Rhyne played an essential role in numerous other textile mills in both Lincoln and Gaston counties. Rhyne used the considerable wealth generated by his manufacturing endeavors to provide generously for the construction of many churches in the Piedmont—particularly Lutheran churches—and to assist Lenoir College in Hickory, which, out of gratitude, changed its name to Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1924. Because of its associations with the development of Lincoln County's textile industry and with Daniel Rhyne, the Laboratory Historic District fulfills Criteria A and B for listing in the National Register.

The district also meets Criterion C for its architectural significance in Lincoln County. The ca. 1844 Hoke-Rhyne House—built by John Hoke, occupied from ca. 1844 to 1861 by Lysander D. and Nancy Hoke Childs, and occupied by Daniel Rhyne from 1900 until his death—is one of the finest antebellum houses in the county, exhibiting the transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival architectural

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 15

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

styles, and is among the rare surviving examples of the use of brick construction for houses in Lincoln County prior to the twentieth century. The 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill provides a good example of late-nineteenth-century standard textile mill construction that featured one- and two-story sections with brick walls, numerous large windows, low gabled roofs, and wide-open interior spaces or spaces supported only by a row of heavy timber support posts running down the center of the room. The mill is particularly notable for its monitor roof, decorative belfry, and two-story tower that retains its hipped roof with bracketed eaves and gabled ventilators. The ca. 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir is a massive, rectangular, stone structure that survives as an unusual and probably unique building type in the county. The frame house that Daniel Rhyne built for himself in 1894 is traditional in its two-story, three-bay-wide, one-room-deep-with-rear-ell form, but it is the best example in Lincoln County of the use of late-Victorian period ornamentation, focused primarily on its front porch.

The locally significant Laboratory Historic District has two periods of significance. The first spans the years from ca. 1844 to 1861, when the Hoke-Rhyne House, through its builder and occupants, was associated with the Lincoln Cotton Factory. The house is the sole surviving physical resource associated with the site from that period. The second period of significance runs from 1887 to 1953. It includes the 1887 construction of the Laboratory Cotton Mill and Reservoir; the 1894 construction of the Daniel E. Rhyne House; Rhyne's move in 1900 to the Hoke-Rhyne House, which he remodeled and continued to occupy until his death in 1933; and the subsequent years to 1953, when the Laboratory Cotton Mill began its shift in direction from the production of high quality cotton yarns to synthetics and when the mill houses and store (outside of the district) that for years were essential parts of the Laboratory village began to be dismantled.

Historical Background and Industry and Architecture Contexts

A special supplement to the *Lincoln County News* on October 8, 1909, gives a concise summary of the history of the site of the Laboratory Historic District.

In 1813 [1814] a small 72 spindle mill was built on a little stream near Lincolnton, the site being generally known at the present day as McDaniel's Spring. It was built by Michael Schenck, a native of Lancaster, PA. The mill was prosperous and John Hoke and James Bivings bought shares in 1819. The firm then erected a larger mill of 3000 spindles which was called the Lincoln Cotton Factory. This was located about two miles from Lincolnton on the south fork of the Catawba River. It was run very successfully. People came from great distances to trade for "Factory spun yarn," besides finding profitable employment. The mill continued in operation until 1863 [more likely 1861]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 16

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

when it was burned down by an incendiary. On the same site the Confederate government erected a laboratory for the manufacture of medicines. Many years after this was abandoned, another cotton mill was built which is still in operation as the Laboratory Mill and owned by Daniel E. Rhyne.

Documentary evidence shows this summary to be generally correct, with slight variations in some of the dating. According to David Schenck's 1884 *Historical Sketch of the Schenck and Bevens Families* and the Michael Schenck Papers, Michael Schenck established the first cotton mill of any permanence in North Carolina. He began his mill in 1814 by ordering spindle machinery from Providence, Rhode Island, and having the gears and shafting made in a local iron forge by his son-in-law Absolom Warlick and Michael Beam, skilled iron workers in the community. When the first mill dam was swept away by a flood of 1816, the mill was moved downstream and reopened. With increasing prosperity, the mill attracted additional investors, and in 1819 John Hoke and Dr. James Bivings [Bivins, Bevens] joined with Schenck in the enterprise. Their capital enabled the purchase of new machinery and the construction of a new building two miles south of Lincolnton on the south fork of the Catawba River, also known as the South Fork River (Standard and Griffin, 23-24). The two-hundred-acre site purchased by Schenck, Hoke, and Bivings at a sheriff's sale in 1823 included the Rattling Shoals of the South Fork of the Catawba River, and had been used by previous owner John Petrie [Petrey] since around 1819 as a fulling mill and then as an oil [linseed or cotton seed] mill (Deed Book 29, pp. 210, 212; Deed Book 31, pp. 115-117). The new cotton mill built on the site was called the Lincoln Cotton Factory and produced coarse yarn with machinery variously estimated at between 1,284 and 3,000 spindles (Standard and Griffin, 23). An advertisement in the April 27, 1842, issue of the *Lincoln Republican* newspaper proclaimed that the mill had a new wool carding machine and a blacksmith shop, while at the same time offering for sale flaxseed and cottonseed oil and cloth as well as yarn. In 1835 John Hoke purchased the interests of Schenck and Bivings in the business, becoming the sole owner of the Lincoln Cotton Factory. The sale included not only the land and the factory, but also machinery, smith tools, house and kitchen furniture, wagons, dray, carts and gears, horses, cattle, hog, five Negroes, and eighty boxes of machinery (most still in transit) purchased from Patterson, New Jersey (Deed Book 36, pp. 346-349). By mid century, a community had sprung up around the mill, including a store, a blacksmith shop, a brass foundry, a cotton gin, and a shingle factory (Standard and Griffin, 24).

John Hoke (1778-1845) was a wealthy merchant, industrialist, and landowner who lived with his family in an 1815 three-story brick mansion (no longer standing) on the northeast corner of the court square in Lincolnton. Around 1840 Hoke brought Massachusetts native Lysander D. Childs (1813-1879) into the operation of the Lincoln Cotton Factory, and even after Hoke's death, the business directory column of the *Lincoln Courier* for several years listed "Cotton Factory, John Hoke and L. D.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 17

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

Childs, 2 miles south of Lincolnton." In 1843 Childs married Hoke's daughter, Nancy (1823-1873). Around 1844, according to local belief, Hoke built a two-story brick house on a hill overlooking the Lincoln Cotton Factory. In his will, drawn up on March 17, 1843—two years before his death—there is no mention of the house, although there are extensive listings of other real property, including his own house in Lincolnton and other houses that he had already deeded to several of his older children. Why Hoke would have built such a fine house in Laboratory at this point in his life is not clear. He certainly did not need it for himself. Most likely, he built the house for his daughter and new son-in-law, Nancy and L. D. Childs, who were listed in the 1850 and 1860 census records as living in the Laboratory area. Later in the century, the house came into the possession of Hoke's youngest son, Francis E. (1832-1895), who was a farmer (Hill, 1-2, 4-5, 17; *Lincoln Courier*, 1846-1847, various issues; Will Book 2, pp. 241-245; Census, 1850 and 1860; *Lincoln Times*, October 1944; Deed Book 81, pp. 391-393).

The house that John Hoke built is the sole surviving physical resource from the ante-bellum textile industry at this location and is one of the finest surviving antebellum structures in Lincoln County. Stylistically, it exhibits the transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles—the old and the new. In its two-story form over a full raised basement, two rooms deep with a five-bay facade, and with its use of Flemish-bond brickwork, molded-brick cornice, and flat brick arches over sash windows, it is closely aligned with several of the most outstanding Federal-style houses in the county from earlier in the nineteenth century—most notably Magnolia Grove (1824; NR 1972) and Shadow Lawn (1826; NR 1972). However, its interior—including its center-hall plan, surviving mantel, and fluted door surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks—clearly reflects the Greek Revival style. The earliest Greek Revival houses in the county, the Lincolnton home of Michael Hoke, son of John Hoke, and the rural home of Jacob Ramsour, both date from the 1830s. The final flowering of the style in Lincoln County came in the 1850s with such refined examples as the Henderson-Cansler-Harrill, Elisha Barrett, William H. Alexander, Hoover-Seagle, and Jacob Lantz houses. Along with the Jacob Ramsour House, the Hoke-Rhyne House is a rare example of Greek Revival-style houses of brick construction in the county. The other houses of this period were of frame construction (Brown and York, 7-19). After John Hoke's death, L. D. Childs continued to operate the Lincoln Cotton Mill, bringing in skilled workmen from the Northeast who lived together in the same household or in separate households with their families in Laboratory. In 1861 the mill burned. Thereafter, L. D. and Nancy Hoke Childs moved to Columbia, South Carolina, where Childs began anew with another cotton mill (Census, 1850 and 1860; Hill, 2, 5, 17).

The former site of the Lincoln Cotton Mill did not long stand idle. In 1863 a laboratory for the production of medicines for the Confederate army was constructed on the site. On April 13, 1863, S. P. Moore, the Surgeon General of the Confederacy, wrote to Dr. A. Snowden Piggott, "The Secretary of War has sanctioned the establishment of a chemical laboratory." In another letter that April, the Surgeon

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 18

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

General directed Dr. Piggott:

to visit Columbia, S. C. in order to complete the necessary arrangements for the erection of the laboratory near Lincolnton. Should it be necessary to visit any other points in Virginia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, or Georgia to carry out the instructions of this Department in reference to the manufacture of medicines for the use of the Army, you will do so without further orders.

Dr. Piggott, who set up and operated the laboratory in Lincoln County, had been a resident of Baltimore who was strongly sympathetic to the Southern cause. In 1862 he moved to Norfolk, and on July 19 of that year he was appointed a surgeon in the Confederate service. George Finch, an architect and builder from Norfolk, supervised the construction of the laboratory. Throughout April and May of 1863, Piggott placed orders for a variety of tools and equipment to be used in conjunction with the laboratory. Finally, toward the end of August, Piggott wrote a letter whose heading read, "C. S. Med. Laboratory near Lincolnton, N.C." suggesting that the laboratory was finally in operation. Indigenous plants from western North Carolina, particularly from the mountains, were collected and delivered to the laboratory for use in manufacturing medicine. In the early 1930s, older residents of the area spoke of large poppy and sorghum fields in the vicinity that were also used in the creation of the drugs. The laboratory was in the process of expanding when the Civil War ended. After the war, Dr. Piggott returned home to Baltimore. The laboratory building stood until around 1886, when most of it was demolished to make way for the construction of a cotton mill, which fittingly took its name from the Confederate use of the site, as did the surrounding community that grew up around the new mill (*Lincoln Courier*, June 27, 1890; Chandler; Crowell, 343-344).

Despite the fact that Lincoln County's textile industry got off to a rousing start when Michael Schenck's ca. 1814 mill became the first successful cotton factory in the state, the promise of the industry's expansion to additional mills in the county proceeded at a snail's pace. Census records show that in 1840 there were twenty-five cotton mills in the state located in twelve, mostly Piedmont, counties. Only one of these mills was listed in Lincoln County. It was, doubtless, the Lincoln Cotton Factory, the successor to Schenck's mill, which, at that time, was owned by John Hoke. By 1860 there were thirty-nine cotton mills in North Carolina, but only two were recorded in Lincoln County in 1850 and 1860. Like the Lincoln Cotton Factory, many of the state's cotton mills during the mid-nineteenth century were accompanied by other small-scale manufacturing enterprises and/or a store. While the Piedmont region, including Lincoln County, had ample resources of climate, water power, raw materials, and cheap labor, the development of manufacturing was hindered by a scarcity of capital, inadequate transportation, and a poor home market. Thus, textile production simply did not become a major

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 19

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

economic force in Lincoln County until the closing decades of the nineteenth century (Brown and York, 46, 255, 256; Lefler and Newsome, 317-318, 399).

The 1880s were marked by rapid industrialization in North Carolina. The state's larger newspapers began to proclaim the gospel of manufacturing in both editorials and special "industrial" editions, while weekly papers carried the message to the small towns and rural communities. In the Piedmont, especially, there was a cotton-mill campaign that extolled the merits of bringing cotton mills to the cotton fields. Neighboring Gaston County was emerging as a textile center, and by the 1880s, Lincoln County was poised for new industrial development (Lefler and Newsome, 506-507; Brown and York, 266).

After 1880 more local or, at least, Southern capital was available for investment in North Carolina's textile industry, and the state's successes in this area began to attract Northern capital as well. Between 1880 and 1900, an average of six new cotton mills was built in the state each year, and by the turn of the century, North Carolina boasted 177 cotton mills. Approximately ninety percent of these were located in the Piedmont, and Lincoln County had its share, beginning with the Laboratory Cotton Mill (Lefler and Newsome, 508).

On July 5, 1887, Daniel Efird Rhyne (1852-1933) arrived in the Laboratory community and proceeded to play a leading role in changing the face of Lincoln County's industrial landscape. On August 3, 1887, Rhyne purchased from the heirs of L. D. and Nancy Hoke Childs the primary tract of 118 1/2 acres that would become the site of the Laboratory Cotton Mill. From August through November, individually or with his brother-in-law James A. Abernethy, Rhyne purchased several additional tracts adjacent to or near the mill site (*Lincoln County News*, April 18, 1927; Deed Book 60, pp. 100, 107, 192, 215).

When Daniel Rhyne came to Laboratory, he arrived with experience that would serve him well in his future pursuits. The son of Moses H. and Margaret E. Hoffman Rhyne, he grew up in Gaston County near present-day Mt. Holly in a family that exposed him to the value of manual labor, the importance of frugality, a love for the Lutheran church, and through his father, in particular, training in how to manage a well-run farm, operate a general store, and run a cotton factory. In 1873, at the age of twenty-one and, coincidentally, at the beginning of North Carolina's industrial revolution, Daniel Rhyne launched his business career. Initially, he helped manage the general merchandise and supply store associated with the Woodlawn Cotton Factory, which his father had helped organize in 1852 and which, by 1873, his other brother, Abel Peterson Rhyne, owned. During this time he was also able to familiarize himself with the operation of a cotton mill. Toward the end of 1873, Daniel and his brother, A. P., and A. P.'s father-in-law, Ambrose Costner, joined together in planning the erection of a cotton mill at a site near what is now the town of Mt. Holly. The mill at Mt. Holly was completed in 1874, and the business was conducted under the name of A. P. Rhyne and Company. The Rhyne brothers and Costner moved the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 20

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

Woodlawn Cotton Mill store to serve the new mill at Mt. Holly. The Rhynes' brother-in-law, James Alonzo Abernethy, was associated with them in operating the store. Daniel Rhyne remained with the Mt. Holly mill until 1883, when he sold his interest to Ambrose Costner. Then he, A. P. Rhyne, and T. A. Davis built a larger mill about two miles down the Catawba River at Tuckaseege Ford. Their mill, called the Tuckaseege Manufacturing Company, proved to be very profitable. Nevertheless, four years later, in 1887, Daniel Rhyne sold his interest in the mill and moved to neighboring Lincoln County. There, with James Alonzo Abernethy, he determined to build yet another cotton mill, taking advantage of the strong water power available at the site of the former Confederate pharmaceutical laboratory and the former Lincoln Cotton Factory on the South Fork River (Cauble, 12-14, 18-24; *Lincoln County News*, February 27, 1933).

Rhyne and Abernethy's Laboratory Cotton Mill followed the typical mill construction of the late-nineteenth century. An early-twentieth-century photograph provides a good image of the early appearance of the mill before post-1950 additions. The photograph shows two primary wings—one that is one story in height and the other two stories—built of common-bond brick with tall, multi-light sash windows, plain brick pilasters between the windows, and low-pitched gable roofs. The one-story wing extending southwestward from the river has a distinctive monitor roof running along the roof ridge with a belfry at the southwest end. The belfry features louvered vents and a bell-cast roof with bracketed eaves and a tall, shaped, wooden finial at its peak. A two-story tower with a hipped roof with bracketed eaves and gable-roofed louvered vents projects from the southeast elevation of this wing. Inside, the mill also exhibits typical mill construction. The wing with the monitor roof has a wide-open space with a heavy-timber wood truss system supporting the shallow roof with its central monitor. The two-story wing paralleling the river has a row of large wooden support posts with shaped wooden collars running down the center of the room and supporting the heavy timbers of the slightly pitched wood ceiling. The mill's smaller rooms continue the use of common mill construction. The form of mill construction used at Laboratory Cotton Mill was repeated countless times in later textile mills built in Lincoln County. Among the best remaining examples are the former Elm Grove Cotton Mill (ca. 1890), the former Lincoln/Southside Cotton Mill (ca. 1893), the former Rhodes Manufacturing Company/Massapoag Mill (1907), and the former Eureka Manufacturing Company (ca. 1910) (Brown and York, 46-47, 142, 183-184).

Knowledge of the early decades of operation at the Laboratory Cotton Mill is limited. In August of 1893, Abernethy sold his interest in the mill and associated properties to Rhyne, so that, subsequently, Daniel Rhyne was the sole owner and operator of the mill until his death in 1933 (Deed Book 73, p. 57).

An 1894 article in the *Lincoln Courier* speaks of improvements at the mill, mentioning roads and walks that had been created and the construction of a residence (Daniel E. Rhyne House) and a storehouse. It also mentions the reservoir that stood adjacent to the residence. The reservoir (now converted to an art

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 21

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

studio) was a large, rectangular, rubble-stone structure with walls several feet thick with a brick inner lining. The 1894 article states that it contained twelve thousand gallons of water and was connected by a pipe with three outlets in the mill to be used in the case of fire. According to Johnathan Rhyne Sr., the water was pumped from the river through pipes up to the reservoir. When the water was needed to put out a fire, gravity pulled it from the reservoir back downhill to the mill. Sanborn maps from the 1920s show the route of a six-inch water pipe around the mill with hose houses at various points. The Sanborn maps from 1921 and 1929 also show that by that time there were automatic sprinklers in the mill and the reservoir had an enlarged capacity of seventy-five thousand gallons of water. The reservoir continued to be used until 1963, when the mill's insurance company declared it no longer adequate for the mill. Its reservoir use was then abandoned and a new tank was erected nearby. However, reservoir survives as an unusual and probably unique water reservoir structure in the county (*Lincoln Courier*, July 6, 1894; Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interview, September 19, 2002; Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929).

A special supplement to the *Lincoln County News* in 1909 had this to say about the Laboratory Cotton Mill:

The original capacity of this mill was 2000 spindles when it started in 1888, but this has been increased to 5,050 besides a thorough equipment of new machinery. It is situated on the south fork of the Catawba River about two miles from Lincolnton and is run by water power from that stream. Long staple cotton is manufactured into two two four ply yarn, and about 125 people are employed. The mill has been uniformly prosperous and well managed, and a healthy and contented little community has been built up in that locality (*Lincoln County News*, October 8, 1909).

Sanborn maps from the 1920s show that, although there have been subsequent additions, the basic structure of the mill has remained largely intact. The descriptive information accompanying the visuals on the Sanborn maps, along with the recollections of Johnathan Rhyne Sr, provide an understanding of the basic organization of the mill processes within the various mill spaces. At the southeastern end of the mill complex, the one-story warehouses stored the arriving raw cotton. Moving northwest, the cotton was first taken to the opening room, where the bales were opened. Continuing to the northwest, the cotton next went to the picker room, where the seeds and other impurities were removed. Then, in the lower floor of the northwest-southeast wing, the cotton was carded to untangle it. From there, it went upstairs to the roving and spinning room. Next, the yarn was transferred to the northeast-southwest wing, where it underwent the twisting, reeling, and winding processes. Finally, it was prepared for shipping. At some point, Daniel Rhyne gave two miles of right-of-way to the Carolina and Northwestern Railway for the building of a railroad spur along the opposite side of the South Fork

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 22

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

River, increasing his ability to easily ship the mill's products (Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929; Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interview, September 19, 2002; Brown and York, 311).

Where Daniel Rhyne lived when he first moved to Laboratory is not known. However, with his mill exhibiting success, Rhyne built a house for himself on the hill above the mill to the northwest. From this location, he could maintain a good view of his mill even when he was not at work. On March 23, 1894, the *Lincoln Courier* noted that, "Mr. D. E. Rhyne is about completing a handsome residence at the Laboratory Cotton Mills." The July 6, 1894 issue continued:

In its appointments the residence is the most complete and handsome in the county. A ram supplies every room with cool and refreshing water from a spring nearby. As Mr. Rhyne believes that 'cleanliness is next to godliness,' he has added a well equipped bathroom where those of an aquatic nature can revel in a warm or cold bath.

Photographs of the house taken ca. 1900 show that it remains largely unchanged, except for several small additions built mostly before 1930 on either side of the one-story rear ell and raising the front half of the rear ell to two stories (*Lincoln Courier*, March 23 and July 6, 1894; Harpe, 40).

In its two-story, symmetrical, three-bay-wide and one-room-deep form with gable roof, center-hall plan, and rear ell, the weatherboarded frame Rhyne House is very traditional—like countless others built in Lincoln County and in Piedmont North Carolina during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. However, with its ornate front porch and gable ends, it is the best example in the county of the use of late-Victorian period decorative motifs to enliven an otherwise staid house. Based on surviving examples, Lincoln County's late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century domestic architecture was largely conservative, and well-developed examples of the Queen Anne style or earlier Italianate and Gothic Revival styles are almost completely absent from the residential landscape. Some houses of the period do exhibit the transition from the traditional, symmetrical forms to the non-traditional, asymmetrical forms, but even these are generally conservative in their use of decorative detailing. Other houses, of which the Daniel E. Rhyne House is the prime example, but also including such houses as the William A. Graham Jr. House and the Heavner-Wyant House, retain the traditional house form but adopt an overlay of at least some stylish late-Victorian decoration (Brown and York, 24-25). At the Rhyne House, the front porch is the focal point of the decorative detailing. Running across the facade, the one-story porch features turned balusters, turned posts with sawnwork brackets, and bracketed roof eaves. A second-story balcony porch rises above the center bay. It has the same turned balusters and posts as the primary porch, as well as a wood-shingled skirt, a narrow spindled frieze, a wood-shingled gable, and an elaborate king post, pendant, and sawnwork sunburst in the peak of the overhanging gable eaves. The decoration of the front porch is complemented by the decorative sawnwork brackets of the main roof

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 23

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

eaves of the house and the wood-shingled gable ends with diamond-shaped or pointed-arched louvered vents.

In addition to building his cotton mill and home, Daniel Rhyne also built the requisite mill village. He built approximately thirty one-, one-and-a-half-, and two-story frame houses for the mill workers stretching along roads running south from the mill. One of the rows ran just east of the Hoke-Rhyne House. The houses had gable roofs and front porches. Rhyne also built a company store, an essential component of the mill village, just southwest of the mill along the main road. It was a two-story frame building with a small one-story room attached to the northeast side that Rhyne used for his office. Around 1898, Daniel Rhyne's brother, Laban Johnathan Rhyne, moved with his family to Laboratory, where he became manager of the mill store. (The store no longer survives, and the houses have either been torn down or moved, thus accounting for their lack of inclusion in this nomination.) The village also soon had a school and a Methodist church, although Rhyne did not build them. (The church survives, but its location is not contiguous to the district.) Prior to 1898, Daniel Rhyne also made arrangements to have a telephone line run to Laboratory from Lincolnton, where there was only very limited service at that time, so that he could maintain rapid communication with Charlotte and other cotton markets (Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1929; Cauble, 26-28; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 312, 326; Brown and York, 186-187).

Despite the fact that Daniel Rhyne had occupied his handsome frame house on the hill west of and overlooking the Laboratory Cotton Mill for only six years, his eye turned to the substantial, brick, ca. 1844 Hoke House on the hill overlooking the mill from the south. On July 16, 1900, the heirs of Francis E. Hoke sold the brick house to Rhyne for \$1,450. Rhyne proceeded to make several changes to the house. The most notable were the additions of a one-story porch that encircled the house and a belvedere that rose from the attic in the center of the roof. With hinged windows and benches on all four sides, the belvedere provided an excellent place to observe the mill and the surrounding picturesque countryside that Rhyne loved so much. He also replaced the original nine-over-six sash windows with one-over-one sash, the front and rear wood-paneled doors with turn-of-the-century glass and wood-paneled doors, and the original multi-light sidelights with etched-glass single sidelights over wood panels. Daniel Rhyne continued to occupy this house until his death in 1933. After Rhyne moved to the brick house, his brother, Laban Rhyne, and his family moved to Daniel Rhyne's former frame house (Deed Book 81, pp. 391-395; Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interview, March 28, 2002; Cauble, 27).

Although Daniel Rhyne lived in Laboratory and owned and managed the Laboratory Cotton Mill, his activities and influence were not confined to that location. Indeed, his hand extended throughout much of the Piedmont and touched other textile mills, banking, farming, real estate, mining, and miscellaneous businesses. While he became wealthy in these pursuits, he also gave generously of his wealth, as did other major North Carolina industrialists of the day. Rhyne's philanthropy was a boon to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 24

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

numerous churches in the Piedmont and to Lenoir-Rhyne College.

While Daniel Rhyne and J. A. Abernethy dissolved their partnership at the Laboratory Cotton Mill in 1893, their working relationship was not discontinued, for they then worked together to erect the Lincoln Cotton Mill at South Side, a half-mile below the Laboratory mill on the South Fork River. Around 1895, Abernethy sold his interest in the new mill to Robert Love, and soon thereafter Rhyne purchased the entire property, thus becoming the sole owner of both the Laboratory and the Lincoln cotton mills (Cauble, 26).

Around 1898, Rhyne joined with his nephews, Ed and Robert Love, and A. M. Price to build the Daniel Cotton Mill in Lincolnton. The goal of this mill was to spin fine yarn from combed sea-island cotton, a process that, at the time, was very unusual in the Southern textile industry. Most cotton mills in North Carolina produced only coarse yarn. The Daniel Cotton Mill attracted widespread attention, for it was one of the first to use combers. Rhyne sold his interest in the mill to his partners in 1904, but when they were unable to operate at a profit, Rhyne purchased the whole business. With good management, he soon paid off the mill's debt and had it earning dividends. Somewhat the same situation occurred at the Avon Mill in Gastonia. When that mill experienced great financial difficulties, the owners sought help from Daniel Rhyne. He bought stock in the mill, took charge of its management, and soon reversed the downward spiral in earnings, making a good profit the first year the mill was under his management. He then sold his stock at a great profit and returned the mill to its owners in good financial condition. Efforts such as these helped Rhyne gain a reputation as a genius in cotton mill management. Other mills in Lincoln County with which Daniel Rhyne was involved included the Wampum and Indian Creek mills, for which he worked with J. A. Abernethy in starting, and the Rhodes-Rhyne Weaving Company, in which he held an interest (Cauble, 28-29). In addition to the mills with which Daniel Rhyne had an involvement, there were others operating in Lincoln County during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. Among these were the Elm Grove Mill, the Dellma Cotton and Woolen Mill, the Mariposa Mill, the Long Shoals Mill, the Saxony Mill, the Eureka Mill, and the Boger-Crawford Mill (Brown and York, 271; Sherrill, 443).

In the Gaston County town of Belmont, Daniel Rhyne was vice-president and a large stockholder in the Chronicle Cotton Mill (1901), the Imperial Yarn Mills (1906), the Majestic Manufacturing Company (1907), the National Yarn Mills (1914), and the Climax Spinning Company (1916). He was also a large stockholder in the Acme Spinning Company, the Crescent Spinning Company, and the Southfork Manufacturing Company, while also owning stock in the Belmont Hosiery Mills. In Cherryville, also in Gaston County, Rhyne was a large investor in four cotton mills: the Cherryville Manufacturing Company, the Howell Manufacturing Company, the Wildan Manufacturing Company, and the Rhyne-Houser Manufacturing Company. At Henry River, near Hickory in Catawba County, he was a stockholder in the Henry River Cotton Mill. Although not all of these companies weathered the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 25

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

Depression, Daniel Rhyne, nevertheless, was considered to be at the top of his field in cotton mill management (*Lincoln County News*, February 27, 1933; Cauble, 31-34).

Among Daniel Rhyne's business interests outside the textile industry, banking consumed much of his time, and through his associations with banks in Lincolnton, Cherryville, Charlotte, and Gastonia, he was widely regarded as a capable financier. In 1903, he helped organize the First National Bank of Lincolnton and then served as its president and as a director for nearly thirty years. In Cherryville, he was president and director of the Cherryville National Bank. He was a director and a stockholder of the Commercial National Bank and of the Merchants and Farmers National Bank, both in Charlotte. Rhyne also owned stock in the Citizens National Bank of Gastonia (Cauble, 35).

Although he was primarily an industrialist, Daniel Rhyne never lost his interest in farming, and during his life in Laboratory, he owned six farms totaling more than 11,000 acres. Tenant farmers and their families who lived on these farms came to the mill store at Laboratory to purchase their home and farm supplies. In addition to his farms, Rhyne owned other tracts of land, with an estimated total—when combined with his farms—of around 15,000 acres in Lincoln, Gaston, Catawba, McDowell, and Rutherford counties. Also under his ownership were town lots, houses, store buildings, and warehouses. Late in life, he owned Lithia Springs, a summer resort near Lincolnton where the water was supposed to have curative powers (Cauble, 36-37).

North Carolina's mineral resources were of particular interest to Daniel Rhyne, and over the years he owned a tin mine, a mica mine, and a gold mine. Unfortunately, although he invested large sums of money in these mining operations, they never demonstrated the profitability he had experienced in so many of his other ventures. The tin mine was located south of Lincolnton on 650 acres. Called the Consolidated Tin Mines, it was operated with the intent of becoming the first commercial tin mine in North America. Unfortunately, ore was never found in commercial quantities, and the mine was abandoned. The mica mine, located at Spruce Pine, fared no better. The Long Creek Gold Mine, located on 634 acres, produced a small amount of gold, but not enough to be profitable (Cauble, 37).

Transportation was another area of interest for Daniel Rhyne. From the 1910s until his death, he owned most of the stock of the Piedmont Wagon Company, one of Hickory's oldest industries, which produced farm wagons. While Rhyne supported this traditional form of transportation, he bought an automobile in 1899 for his personal use, although he never drove it himself. The *Lincoln Journal* claimed it was the first in the state. Rhyne could foresee the widespread use of automobiles and invested heavily in two companies organized to assemble them. One of these, the Anderson Motor Company in Rock Hill, South Carolina, started in 1916, but declared bankruptcy in 1925. The other, the Wizard Automobile Company, was organized in Charlotte in 1920. However, like the Anderson Motor Company, it was unsuccessful (Cauble, 27, 38).

During World War I, North Carolina's cotton mills were highly profitable, and Daniel Rhyne's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 26

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

wealth increased significantly. At the height of his prosperity, his assets were estimated at nearly six million dollars. Around this time, he began to share his wealth, primarily with Lutheran churches in the Piedmont and with what was then known as Lenoir College. Rhyne liked to make his donations in the form of challenge gifts to spur giving by others. Lutheran churches that benefitted from Rhyne's largesse were located in Gaston, Catawba, Lincoln, Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Guilford counties and included: Emmanuel Church in Lincolnton, \$20,000; Lutheran Chapel Church in Gastonia, \$26,500; St. John's Church in Statesville, \$10,000 and an organ; St. Paul's Church in Startown, \$5,000; St. Timothy's Church in Conover, \$5,000; Beth-Eden Church in Newton, \$5,000; Holy Trinity Church in Charlotte, \$5,000 and an organ; St. Paul's Church in Hardin, \$5,000; Holy Comforter Church in Belmont, \$5,000; Emmanuel Church in High Point, \$18,000; and Holy Trinity Church in Gastonia, bricks valued at \$10,000. In addition to his gifts to Lutheran churches, Rhyne also gave amounts ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 to churches of other denominations (*Lincoln County News*, February 27, 1933; Cauble, 40-41).

Prior to 1919, Rhyne began making bequests to what was then known as Lenoir College in Hickory. His first large gift, of \$100,000 in war savings stamps, was made in 1919, but apparently prior to that time, Rhyne had paid off several debts owed by the college. The \$100,000 gift was made contingent on the college raising \$200,000 to match it—another example of the challenge gifts Rhyne favored. Three years later, he offered another challenge gift of \$300,000. In 1923, he made another substantial gift to the college. Out of gratitude, in 1924 the school changed its name to Lenoir-Rhyne College. In 1927, a fire destroyed the school's main building, but again Daniel Rhyne came to the rescue, contributing funds for the construction of a new Administration Building on the campus (Cauble, 45-48; *Lincoln County News*, February 27, 1933).

Daniel Efird Rhyne died on February 25, 1933, at the age of eighty-one. His funeral service was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Lincolnton, with one of the largest crowds ever to attend a funeral in that town present. More than three times as many people as those who were seated in the church stood outside. As a testament to Rhyne's stature, both Dr. H. B. Schaeffer, president of Lenoir-Rhyne College, and Dr. J. L. Morgan, president of the North Carolina Lutheran Synod, participated in the service. After the service in Lincolnton, Rhyne was buried in the family plot at Lutheran Chapel Church in East Gastonia (*Lincoln County News*, February 27, 1933). With Rhyne's passing, North Carolina lost an important industrial leader, financier, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

After Daniel Rhyne's death, it took several years to settle his estate. Finally, in late 1937, the Laboratory Cotton Mill property was sold to D. E. Rhyne Mills, Inc., whose primary stockholder was Daniel Rhyne's nephew, Paul C. Rhyne Sr. The deed conveyed two tracts of land. The first was for the Laboratory Cotton Mill property, 221 acres that included land on both sides of the South Fork River and the C&NW Railway track and all the buildings and improvements on the land. These consisted of:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 27

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

the Laboratory [sic] Mill Dam and water rights, the brick residence of the late D. E. Rhyne, the store building, the entire Laboratory [sic] tenant village of 29 houses, several warehouses and the brick manufacturing plant known as the Laboratory [sic] Mill, together with all of the machinery, equipment, apparatus and supplies located in and used in connection with said mill, the same consisting of 5,184 spindles, and cards, twisters, warp machines, spoolers, reels, winders and other equipment and machinery located in said mill.

The second tract was for the 230-acre Lincoln Cotton Mill property (Deed Book 201, pp. 38-40; Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interview, September 19, 2002).

During the next two decades, the Laboratory Cotton Mill continued much as it had prior to Daniel Rhyne's death, producing high quality cotton carded yarns. However, a watershed year came in 1953, when Johnathan Rhyne Sr.—great nephew of Daniel Rhyne and son of Paul C. Rhyne Sr.—returned to Laboratory from his work in Belmont to take over operation of the two mills. Within a few years, significant changes took place at the Laboratory Cotton Mill and mill village. Responding to new technology in the textile industry, and in order to remain competitive, the mill's production of fine cotton yarns was replaced with the production of synthetics, including rayon, polyester, acrylic, and other specialty types. In the village, the rows of mill houses disappeared between 1958 and 1964. By this time, the mill could no longer maintain them, and many people were building their own houses. Three of the houses were moved to other locations in the village, but one-by-one, the rest were demolished. The company store was also torn down during this period (Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interview, September 19, 2002).

Changes also occurred with other properties in the historic district after Daniel Rhyne's death. In 1934, Paul and Agnes Rhyne moved from the Daniel E. Rhyne House, where they had been living since 1916, to the Hoke-Rhyne House and remained there for the next several decades. Their three sons, who grew up in the house, were Paul Jr., Johnathan, and Joseph. Paul C. Rhyne Sr. was an executive with Rhyne Mills, and Agnes, who was a nurse, helped provide care for the neighboring Laboratory Mill workers. During the 1940s and 1950s, Agnes also operated a branch library in Daniel Rhyne's old mill office. In the late 1960s, after Paul Sr.'s death, Johnathan Rhyne Sr., then the head of Rhyne Mills, Inc., and his wife, Marian, moved to the Hoke-Rhyne House. In an effort to return the house to its original appearance, they removed the wraparound porch and belvedere that had been added by Daniel Rhyne. They also added one-story frame additions to both sides and rear of the house. After Paul and Agnes Rhyne moved to the Hoke-Rhyne House, the Daniel E. Rhyne House was used as the mill superintendent's residence. In 1954, Joseph Rhyne, youngest son of Paul and Agnes Rhyne, and his

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 28

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

wife, Martha, moved to the Rhyne House and remained there for several decades. Just north of the house, the Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir also underwent change. Sometime after its use as a reservoir ceased in 1963, the structure was converted to an art studio by Paul C. Rhyne, Jr. (Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interviews, March 28 and September 19, 2002; *Lincoln County Heritage*, 186-187; Brown and York, 185).

In the late 1990s, after more than a century of operation, the Laboratory Cotton Mill closed. Today the mill stands idle but is maintained by current owner Legacy Shares, Inc., which includes members of the Rhyne family. Other recent changes within the historic district are minor, consisting primarily of changes in ownership. Since 1993, the Hoke-Rhyne House has been owned and occupied by Johnathan L. Rhyne Jr. and his wife, Martha, and their family. In 1996, the Daniel E. Rhyne House was sold out of the Rhyne family to Scott and Marni Carpenter. However, protective covenants were placed on the deed to ensure the preservation of the current character of the property. The Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir remains in Rhyne family ownership (Johnathan Rhyne Sr. Interview, September 19, 2002; Deed Book 851, p. 621; Deed Book 933, p. 376; Deed Book 936, p. 566; Deed Book 1115, p. 806).

Under the continued stewardship of various members of the Rhyne family, the Laboratory Historic District—encompassing the 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill, the ca. 1887 Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir, the 1894 Daniel E. Rhyne House, and the ca. 1844 Hoke-Rhyne House—remains well preserved. It continues to convey a sense of the place that North Carolina textile manufacturer and philanthropist Daniel Rhyne created and loved—the place that was the realization of his first independent vision in the field of industry. To help retain the important character of the area's natural environment, South Fork Holdings, Inc., a company composed of Rhyne family members, has given the Catawba Lands Conservancy a conservation easement protecting approximately 185 acres along a two-mile stretch on either side of the South Fork River (*Outlook*; Paul and Agnes Rhyne Conservation Preserve Map).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 29

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 30

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 31

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

(January 1957): 15-35.

United States Census, Lincoln County, North Carolina. 1850, 1860.

Laboratory Historic District

Name of Property

Lincoln Co., NC

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Approx. 21.5**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 7 6 7 2 0	3 9 2 1 8 4 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	1 7	4 7 6 9 5 0	3 9 2 1 7 5 0

3	1 7	4 7 6 7 0 0	3 9 2 1 2 3 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	1 7	4 7 6 4 7 0	3 9 2 1 6 4 0

 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 Byname/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historianorganization N/A date November 5, 2002street & number 637 N. Spring St. telephone 336/727-1968City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple Owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

City or town _____ state _____ Zip code _____

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 Page 32

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Laboratory Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying district map, based on Lincoln County Tax Map 362204, and drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Laboratory Historic District is drawn to encompass the Laboratory Cotton Mill, its dam and other related resources, the Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir, the Daniel E. Rhyne House and outbuildings, and the Hoke-Rhyne House and outbuildings. These resources, along with their natural setting, form a cohesive group of well-preserved properties distinguished from their surroundings and historically associated with the life and industrial pursuits of Daniel E. Rhyne in the Laboratory community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number Photos Page 33

Laboratory Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

PHOTOGRAPHS

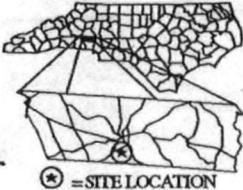
The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs except where otherwise noted:

- 1) Laboratory Historic District
- 2) Laboratory, Lincoln County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) March, 2002, except for J and L, which were photographed in September, 2002
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: Overall of Laboratory Cotton Mill, view to NE
B: Laboratory Cotton Mill from South Fork Road, view to NW
C: Laboratory Cotton Mill tower and SE elevation, view to N
D: Laboratory Cotton Mill NW wing, main floor interior
E: Laboratory Cotton Mill SW wing, interior view of monitor roof
F: Laboratory Cotton Mill dam, view to N
G: Laboratory Cotton Mill Reservoir, E elevation, view to SW
H: Daniel E. Rhyne House, overall view to NW
I: Daniel E. Rhyne House, center hall, view to E
J: Hoke-Rhyne House, overview view to SE
K: Hoke-Rhyne House, parlor, view to SE
L: Hoke-Rhyne House, barn, view to NE
M: District environmental context, view to NW

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR

NORTH CAROLINA



Plot from the Land Records/Geographic Information System (GIS) Division
Based on the North Carolina State Plane Coordinate System 1983 NAD

LINCOLN COUNTY AND ITS MAPPING CONTRACTORS ASSUME NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR LAND CONVEYANCE.
Permanent Drainage Easements (PDE) added as of 01/01/2001 forward. Only shown if metes
and bounds described on recorded plat. Not all Rights-of-Way/Easements are shown.

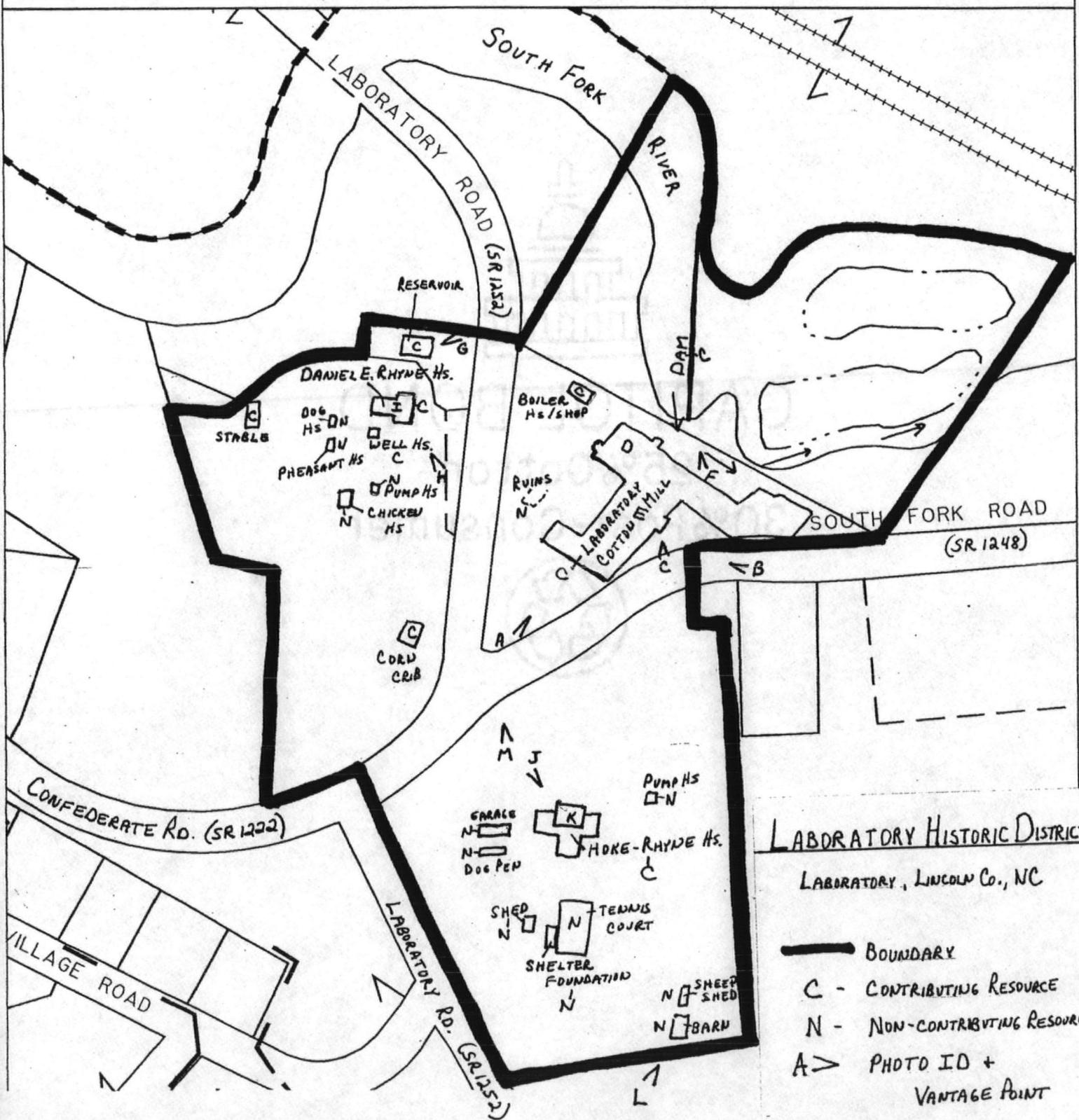
NORTH

SHADED PIN#1: - - - and PID# 20836

PLOT FROM MAP(S) # 362204

SCALE: 1" = 200' DATE: 13 Sep 02 12:50:40 Friday

Prepared for:



LABORATORY HISTORIC DISTRICT

LABORATORY, LINCOLN CO., NC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Laboratory Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH CAROLINA, Lincoln

DATE RECEIVED: 10/27/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/05/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001273

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/10/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



N. 2003. 3.76
Laboratory A.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
A



N. 2003. 3. 110

Laboratory H. D.
Lincoln Co., NC

B



N. 2003.3. 118

Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
C



N. 2003. 3. 133

Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
D



N. 2003.3.131

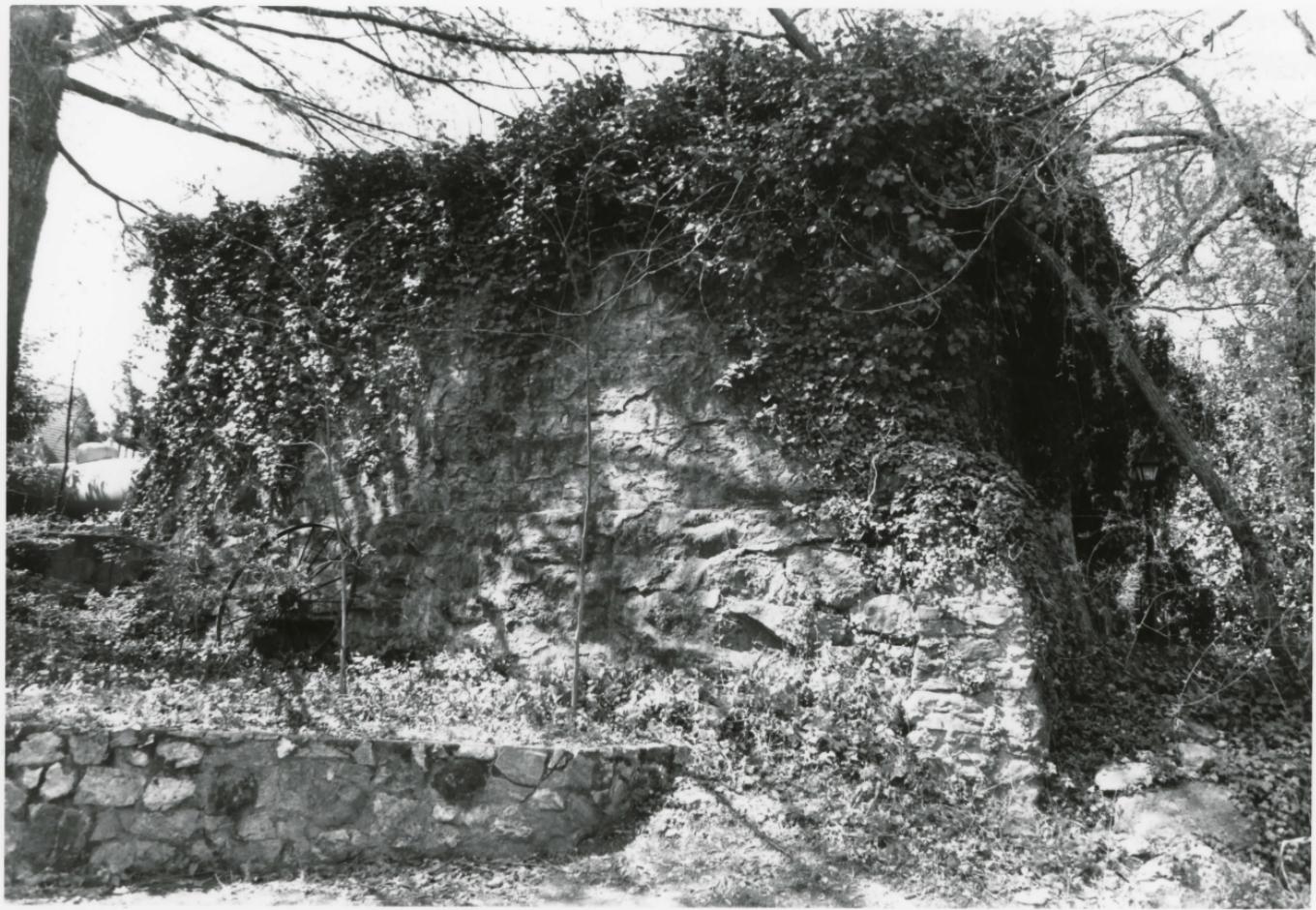
Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
E



N. 2003.3.100

Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC

F



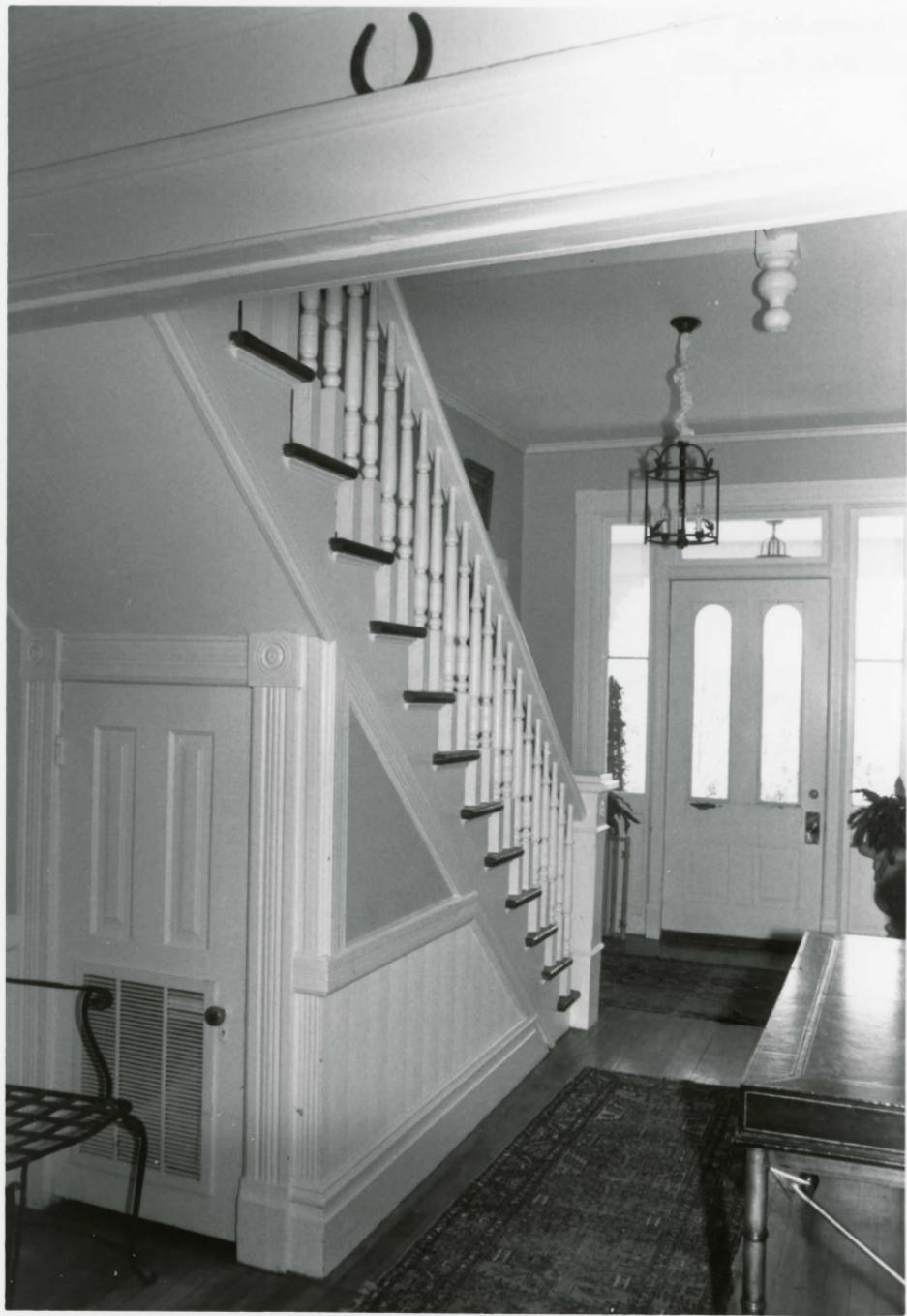
N. 2003.3.154

Laboratory A.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
G



N. 2003.3. 160

Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
H



N. 2003.3. 181

Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC

I



N. 2003.3.294

Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
J



N. 2003.3.212
Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
K



N. 2003. 3. 240

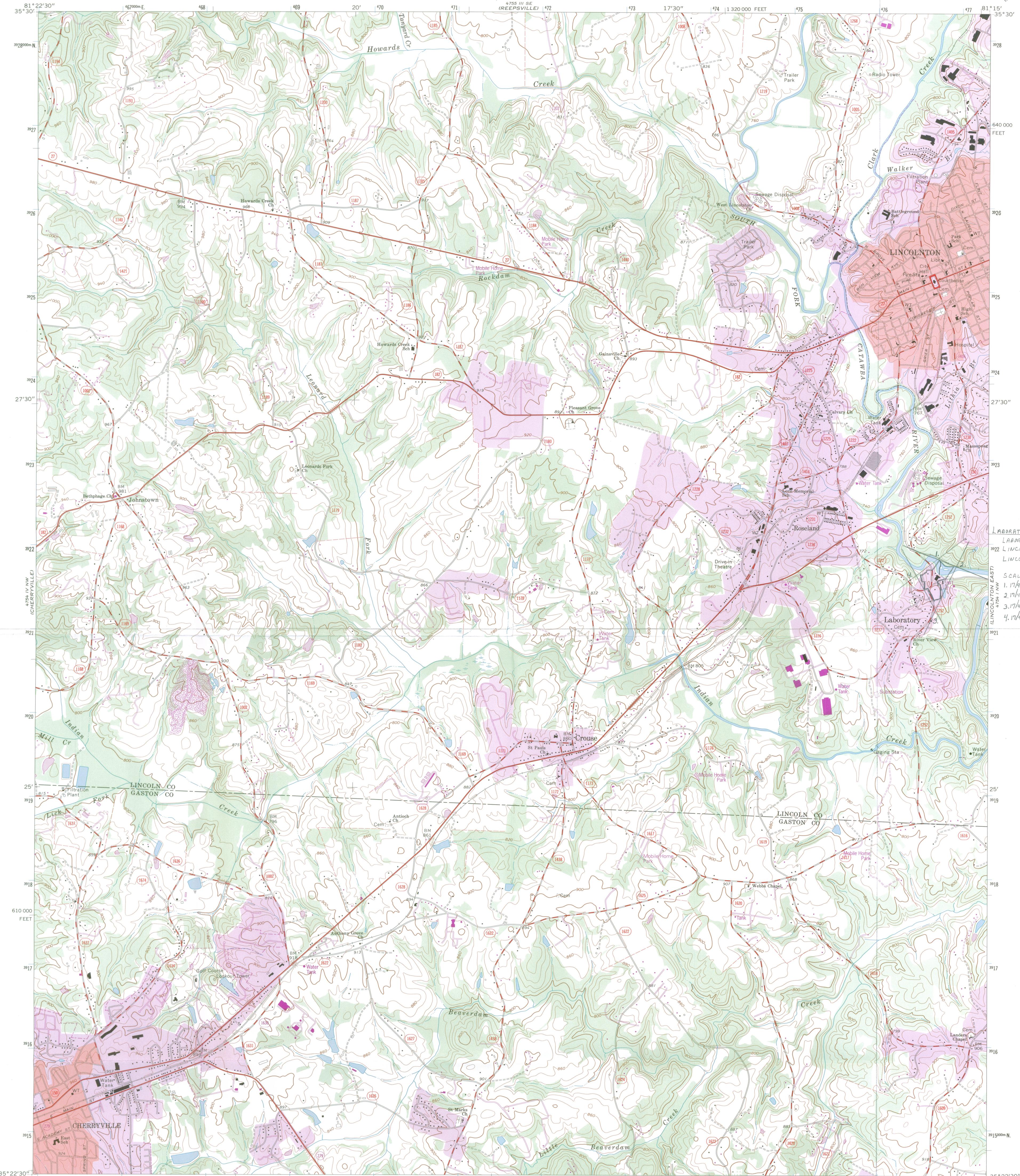
Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC
L



N. 2003. 3. 220

Laboratory H.D.
Lincoln Co., NC

M



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1973
Field checked 1973

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
10,000-foot ticks: North Carolina coordinate system
(Lambert conformal conic)

Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 17
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geographic
Survey NADCON software

UTM GRID and 1996 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

MN
GN
107 MILS
0°11' 3 MILS

SCALE 1:24 000
1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
0 1 MILE
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

N.C.

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route

LINCOLNTON WEST, NC
35081-D3-TF-024
1993

DMA 4754 IV NE-SERIES V842

6780607622670

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and
Natural Resources from imagery dated 1993 and other sources
Map edited 1996

Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content
standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours