

4. Hoskins Mill



Mills operating in Mecklenburg County at the start of the 20th century, along with their accompanying mill villages, were generally segregated, and those operated by Charlotte's famous D. A. Tompkins were strictly segregated. The Hoskins Mill, built in 1903 about three miles northwest of Charlotte, was apparently an exception to this rule. Not only were blacks hired to work in the mill, separate housing, identical to the housing for the white workers, was provided. The mill company constructed approximately eighty one-story cross-gabled houses, six of which were available to black workers. These mill houses were very similar to the popular hall-and-parlor houses. They were both three bays wide, and the principal section and the front and rear wings were all just one room deep. The design of the house was basically the same as a hall-and-parlor house, with a centered rear wing, rotated ninety degrees. This rotation allowed for a more complex asymmetrical façade. The houses feature a center chimney and a hipped-roof front porch. Two of the African American workers houses, the Ashford and the Strong family houses (MK 2322) have retained their essential form and setting.

The Hoskins Mill drew workers to the area and a community sprang up around the mill. African Americans who worked at the mill, and who found jobs in the new community, settled on Carothers Street. The most intact of the few surviving houses on the street is the small pyramidal house at 232 Carothers (MK 2321).