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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

River View should be placed on the register of Ala. Historical Commission significant sites in Alabama. It was in the vanguard of the New South movement that followed the devastation left at the end of the War Between the States.

Henry W. Grady eloquently deplored the fact that the South, rich in climate, soil, timber, minerals, water, and people had to go elsewhere to purchase the simplest merchandise.

With little capital, and no benevolent external aid, the founders of River View made a successful effort to move from a strictly agrarian economy to a more diversified one.

The enterprise used the river for transportation, power, and the humidity needed for textile production. It relied on surrounding farms for some of its raw materials and on an intelligent, energetic people needing employment.

This break-through created a need for other occupations and services. All this provided the ability to help support regional ventures into other types of industry.

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CONTRIBUTING

Ala. Historical Commission

1. 1468 California Street; The River View Kindergarten c. 1914; One large room; one story; pyramid roof; 12 over 1 bay windows on each side; frame construction with vinyl siding over original clapboard; full width portico; continuous brick foundation over stone piers; urban site.

This is now a private dwelling but for many years served as the River View Kindergarten, sponsored by West Point Manufacturing Company. Pre-school age children from the community attended here for two years and then enrolled in River View School at age six.

2. 1465 California Street; The First Christian Church of River View (Union Church) c. 1870; Church building with basement; frame with siding; gabled roof; round top cathedral type stained glass windows; two front doors; steeple; cemetary adjacent to church; urban site.

The First Christian Church of River View was organized in 1897. The Union Church was first built for the use of the Methodist, Christian and Baptist congregations on alternate Sundays. The Baptist and Methodists later built churches of their own.

In 1901, a large part of the roof of the church was blown off and a new roof was built above the old one.

During 1938, the church went into a renovation program. The ceiling was cathedralized, one-half underneath the church was excavated, and Sunday School rooms were built. Celotex was put on the walls and ceiling. Oak flooring was added. Square windows in the sanctuary were replaced with round top cathedral type windows.

During 1956-57, there was another renovation. All church benches were refinished; the heating system was changed from steam to gas; stained glass windows replaced the old windows. The front part of the church was changed into a vestibule with two front doors. The other half of the downstairs was excavated and made into Sunday School rooms.

3. 1445 California Street; River View Beauty Shop and Historic Site of River View Theatre and River View Drug Store c. 1917; One story frame building; gable side and front roof; nine over nine windows; continuous brick foundation; urban site; front and side entrances with awnings.

This building was moved from the Fairfax Community in 1977. The historical significance of this building is, while in Fairfax, it was the telephone exchange for that community. It is now located on a historic site of the River View community.

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This was the former location of the River View Theatre and the River View Drug Store. The original theatre on this spot was destroyed by fire on March 7, 1939 and was replaced by a new brick theatre and store. The building, combined theatre and store, was later torn down. Both contributed to the social and economic growth of the community.

4. California Street; Historic Site of M. M. Hunt General Mercantile Store

This was the site of a three story brick building that contributed to the economic history of River View. The third story of this building was a large hall used as a meeting place for the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star organizations.

The second floor for many years housed the general merchandise and grocery business for one of the pioneer men of the town, M. M. Hunt. He was also postmaster for many years, and part of the floor was partitioned off for post office business. Groceries were delivered out into town by mule and wagon.

The first floor had many various businesses over the years and included, at one time, the post office, telephone exchange, barber shop, cafe, constable office, and a Girl Scout meeting room.

5. 1425 California Street; United States Post Office and Historic site of River View Hotel
c. 1966; Brick Post Office; one story; flat roof; slight overhang at entrance; one over one windows on right side; three large windows at entrance; recessed site. The significance of this Post Office is that all residents of the community get their mail at a post office box, there is no door to door delivery out in the community.

This was the site of a two story wooden building used and operated as a hotel. Meals from the hotel were delivered to workers at the mill. The building was destroyed by fire on December 25, 1941.

- 6. 1415 California Street c. 1902; Six-room mill cottage; six over six windows; vinyl siding over clapboard; continuous brick foundation over original piers; gabled roof; one-story; side porch; urban site.
- 7. 1405 California Street c. 1902; Six-room mill cottage; six over six windows; porch extends over both sides of house; gable roof; continuous brick foundation over original piers; interior chimney; one story; recessed site.

- 8. 1391 California Street c. 1902; Six-room mill cottage; rebuilt in 1919; six over six windows; frame construction; screened front porch; interior chimney; continuous brick foundation over original piers; one story; recessed site.
- 9. 1381 California Street c. 1902; Six-room mill cottage; one and one-half story; gable roof; six over six windows; interior chimney; frame building; continuous brick foundation over original piers; deck added on back of house; open front porch; elevated site with original rock wall.
- 10. 1369 California Street c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; rebuilt in 1919; gable roof; six over six windows; enclosed front porch; interior chimney; continuous brick foundation over original piers; frame building; one story; carport added at side; urban site.
- 11. 1355 California Street
 c. 1919; Three-room mill cottage; gable roof; one story; six over
 six windows; frame building; brick foundation over original
 piers; carport added; interior chimney; gabled overhang over
 front entrance; urban site.
- 12. 1349 California Street c. 1901; Five-room mill cottage; gable roof; siding over original clapboard; screened front porch; one over one windows; brick foundation over original piers; interior chimney and fireplace; one story; urban site.
- 13. 1341 California Street
 c. 1901; Four-room mill cottage; one story; continuous brick
 foundation over original piers; gable roof; screen front porch;
 frame construction; roll-out windows; urban site; rebuilt in
 1919.
- 14. 1331 California Street c. 1902; Four-room mill cottage; one story; six over six windows; gable roof; front porch screened later; continuous brick foundation over original piers; frame construction; urban site; remodeled in 1919.
- 15. 1311 California Street; River View Baptist Church c. 1922; Three and one-half story frame and brick building; L-shaped; central pedimented porch with two Dorie columns; original structure had two stories with gabled roof; one large room used as sanctuary with two classrooms on each side of first floor; two front entrances later changed to one; original clapboard now covered with vinyl siding; original slate roof; urban site. Educational building added at a later date, is brick with 12 pane windows; three floors used as classrooms. Old and additional structure has ground level accessibility on all floors; continuous brick foundation; steeple over front entrance. River View, Alabama 10/91

The Baptist congregation met in the Union Church (#2) in early years and moved from there to another location about one-half mile from this present location.

16. 1281 California Street; Leak House
c. 1905; One story; four-rooms; frame with original clapboard;
hipped roof; interior rock chimney; wrap-around porch with rock
pillars; rock foundation with piers; urban site.

This was the home of D. S. Leak, Sr., prominent family of River View history. Before the streets were paved, Mr. Leak, as an employee of West Point Manufacturing Company, hauled dirt to be put on the streets. He also delivered coal and ice, in season, to the homes of the local people in the mill village.

- 17. 1275 California Street
 c. 1913; Four rooms; two over two windows; pyramid roof; front
 porch with wrought iron railing; addition at left back;
 continuous block foundation; urban site.
- 19. 1265 California Street
 c. 1940; One and one-half story frame cottage; gable roof;
 interior chimney; half-porch on left front; six over six windows;
 carport on side; concrete foundations; addition to back of house;
 urban site.
- 20. 1255 California Street
 c. 1900; Six over six windows; gable roof; concrete block
 foundation; enclosed front porch with brick up to windows; siding
 added; exterior chimney; urban site.
- 21. 1245 California Street
 c. 1935; Rock construction; gable side and front; gable arch at
 front entrance; six over six windows; exterior chimney; urban
 site; cement porch on front.
- 23. 1235 California Street
 c. 1949; Five-room frame house with siding; one story with
 basement; eight over eight windows; exterior chimney with
 fireplace; right front porch with metal awning; continuous block
 foundation; urban site.
- 24. 1225 California Street; The Weaver House c. 1900; Four room rock house; full length front porch with wooden columns on brick piers; gable roof, six over six windows; urban site.

This was the home of a prominent River View family, James and Lizzie Weaver. One son, Tyre Weaver, Sr., ran the Johnson and Company store (#43), for many years. Tyre, Sr. was also involved

in scouting over 60 years. The first Boy Scout troop organized in the Valley area was Troop 12 in River View. This troop was organized in 1915, and Mr. Weaver was the first Scoutmaster. The troop was sponsored by Riverdale Mill.

26. 1210 California Street; Collins House c. 1900; One and one-half stories; gable roof; six over six windows with shutters; interior chimneys; vinyl siding over original clapboard; central pedimented porch with balcony and balanced wooden columns; continuous brick foundation; urban site.

This was originally the property of the Collins family along with many acres of land south of the house. After Buddy Milner and family lived in the house, it was purchased by West Point Manufacturing Company and remodeled for occupancy by T. J. Goggans, manager of Riverdale Mill. From that time, and until during the 1980s, the house was occupied by the Plant Manager of Riverdale Mill.

27. 1230 California Street c. 1927; Seven rooms; one story; gabled roof; six over six windows; interior chimney; overhang at front entrance; urban site.

After extensive remodeling, this house was occupied for many years by the Assistant Manager of Riverdale Mill. It was sold to a private buyer during the 1980s.

28. 1244 California Street; River View Methodist Church Parsonage c. 1940; Five room brick construction; one story; gable roof; continuous brick foundation; chimney on front near entrance; partial screened porch on side; six over six windows; urban site.

This house is usually occupied by the pastor of the River View Methodist Church.

29. 1254 California Street; River View Methodist Church c. 1937; Brick construction; two story; gable roof, side and front; six over six windows; steeple above front entrance; urban site.

The congregation for this church was organized in 1900 and consisted of two families. Over the years the membership grew, but the church met in the Union Church along with the First Christian and Baptist congregations.

In 1935-36, work began on this building, and when completed it was called the Johnson Memorial Methodist Church. However, less than a year later, a fire destroyed a good portion of the church. Immediately the members set about rebuilding and completed it in March 1937. A similar fire also occurred in June, 1978. The name has since been changed to River View United Methodist Church.

- 31. 1338 California Street
 c. 1902; Four-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; two over
 two windows; continuous brick foundation over original piers;
 side entrance added; remodeled in 1920.
- 32. 1346 California Street
 c. 1902; Five-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original
 windows removed and roll-out type installed; remodeled in 1920;
 interior chimney; brick foundation over original piers; urban
 site.
- 33. 1352 California Street
 c. 1902; Six-room house; one and one-half story; gable roof;
 frame construction with asbestos siding; six over six windows;
 continuous brick construction over stone piers; interior chimney;
 gable cover over front entrance; urban site.
- 34. 1360 California Street
 c. 1902; Four-room mill house; gable roof; one story; interior
 chimney; continuous brick foundation over original piers; six
 over six windows; front porch; urban site.
- 35. 1366 California Street
 c. 1912; Four-room mill cottage; gable roof; one story building;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers; screened front
 porch; one interior chimney; original clapboard; two front
 entrances; urban site.
- 37. 1382 California Street
 c. 1900; Brick veneer over original frame; gable roof; screened
 side porch; one interior and one exterior chimney; gable over
 front entrance; awnings over front windows; elevated site over
 rock wall.

This house was moved from Site #38 in 1937.

- 38. 1392 California Street
 c. 1938; Brick cottage; eight rooms; one and one-half stories;
 one exterior chimney; six over six windows; screened side porch;
 gable roof front and side; awnings over front windows and door.
- 39. 1400 California Street c. 1902; Five-room cottage; screened porch with wooden posts over brick piers; one story; gable roof; one interior chimney; brick foundation over original piers; asbestos siding; urban site.
- 40. California Street; Historic Site of Teacher's Dormitory
 This was the site of a teacher's dormitory. The occupants were
 teachers at River View School (#97). This was a ten-room wooden
 building and was two story. Before this, there was a Lodge
 Building here that also contained a Drug Store.
- 41. 1422 California Street
 c. 1883; Five-room frame mill cottage; reworked 1917; three
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exterior chimneys; siding on house; six over six windows; recessed site.

- 42. 1432 California Street
 c. 1917; Seven-room mill cottage; two exterior chimneys; siding;
 front porch made into florist shop; full basement; urban site.
- 43. California Street; Historic Site of G & M Store and Johnson and Company Store
 This lot contained two business establishments that contributed to the well-being of many River View citizens. The G & M Store was owned and operated by Edward Goggans and Carlton McGinty and was a cafe and general merchandise store. It also was a gathering place for many of the sports fans in town.

The Johnson and Company store was more of a grocery store and sold items that were necessary to the everyday survival of the town families. At one time, home deliveries were made by mule and wagon.

- 44. 1450 California Street; River View public gymnasium c. 1935; Brick; one story with basement; exterior chimney; two front entrances from concrete steps; flat roof; urban site; meeting rooms in basement.
- 45. California Street; Historic site of former M. M. Hunt home Historical Name; Hunt House. This is the former site of the home of M. M. Hunt, pioneer River View merchant, who owned and operated Hunt's store for many years (#4). This house was originally built as a three-room house in 1883 and was rebuilt into an eight-room house in 1919. The house was town down around 1970.

This is now the location of a children's playground sponsored by the Rivala Variety Club.

- 46. 54 Lower Street
 c. 1916; Three-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story;
 one interior chimney removed; gable roof; six over six windows;
 enclosed room on screened porch at later date; continuous brick
 foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 47. 20A Lower Street
 c. 1936; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story;
 two interior chimneys; gable roof; six over six windows; screened
 porch added later; continuous brick foundation over original
 piers; urban site.

- 48. 20 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; two rooms and screened porch added later;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban
 site.
- 49. 19 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; screened porch at later date; continuous brick
 foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 50. 16 Lower Street
 c. 1913; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; screened porch added; continuous brick foundation
 over original piers; recessed site.
- 51. 14 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Five-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; screened porch later; continuous brick foundation
 over original piers; recessed site.
- 52. 13 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Six-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one
 story; gable roof; two interior chimneys (removed); six
 over six windows; room added on original porch with screen
 and lattice work; continuous brick foundation over original
 piers; recessed site.
- 53. 12 Lower Street
 c. 1866; Six-room mill cottage; one story; two interior chimneys; gable roof; six over six windows; frame construction with siding over original clapboard; small front porch added; continuous brick foundation over original piers; recessed site.
- 54. 10A Lower Street
 c. 1924; Three-room mill cottage; one story; two interior chimneys; six over six windows; gable roof; frame construction with asbestos siding over original clapboard; front porch screened; continuous brick foundation over original piers; recessed site.
- 55. 10 Lower Street c. 1924; Three-room mill cottage; one story; two interior chimneys; gable roof; six over six windows; frame construction with aluminum siding over original clapboard; screened porch later; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.

- 56. 124 Lower Street
 c. 1947*; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one story; one
 interior chimney; gable roof; six over six windows; concrete slab
 foundation; gable stoop over front entrance; recessed site.
 - *See note before #127.
- 57. Historic Site
 Prior to 1927, two houses were located on this site. One of
 these was a ten-room house and was the home of the Plant
 Superintendent, T. J. Goggans. These houses were torn down in
 August of 1927 to make room for an expansion at the mill.
- 58. 3 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story;
 two interior chimneys; gable roof; six over six windows;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers; original porch
 later screened; some remodeling in 1919 and 1920; elevated site.
- 59. 5 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story;
 interior chimney; gable roof; six over six windows; enclosed room
 on original porch added later with new windows, two over two;
 siding on front; continuous brick foundation over original piers;
 elevated site.
- 60. 7 Lower Street c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six windows; enclosed room on original porch added at later date with two over two windows and siding over clapboard; continuous brick foundation over original piers; elevated site.
- 61. 9 Lower Street c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six windows, original porch screened later; continuous brick foundation over original piers; elevated site.
- 62. 11 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story;
 one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six windows; front
 porch later screened and small room added; continuous brick
 foundation over original piers; elevated site.
- 63. 15 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story;
 one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six windows; front
 porch screened later date; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers; elevated site with original rock wall.

- 64. 17 Lower Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story;
 gable roof; six over six windows; remodeled porch screened;
 original chimney removed; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers; elevated site with original rock wall.
- 65. 18 Lower Street c. 1913; Four-room mill cottage; original clapboard; one story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six windows; original porch later screened; continuous brick foundation over original piers; elevated site with original rock wall.
- 66. 23 Middle Street c. 1883; Three-room mill cottage; one story; frame with asbestos siding over original clapboard; gable roof; nine over nine windows; front porch, half enclosed at a later date, other half now screened; two exterior rock chimneys with brick extension at top, added later; shed porch at side now enclosed; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 67. 25 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room mill cottage; one story; frame with
 asbestos siding over original clapboard; gable roof; six
 over six windows; front porch, half enclosed at a later
 date, other half screened; two exterior rock chimneys with
 brick extensions at top, added later; asbestos siding over
 original clapboard; shed porch on side framed in at a later
 date; continuous brick foundation over original piers;
 aluminum awnings added later; urban site.
- 68. 27 Middle Street
 c. 1880; Four-room frame mill cottage; one story; original clapboard; full width porch; six over six windows; brick foundation over original piers; original chimneys removed; urban site.
- 69. 29 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room mill cottage; one story; frame original clapboard; gable roof; porch now screened; two doors; two exterior rock chimneys with brick extension at top, added later; nine over nine windows; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 70. 31 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Original three-room mill cottage; altered, now
 two-story; two rooms upstairs; gable roof; two exterior
 chimneys with brick extensions added at top; original side
 porch now enclosed; six over six windows; aluminum awnings
 and asbestos siding over original clapboard added later;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.

- 71. 33 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room mill cottage; one story; frame with
 original clapboard; full front porch; gable roof; shed porch
 now enclosed; two exterior rock chimneys with brick extensions at top;
 six over six windows; continuous brick foundation over original piers;
 urban site.
- 72. 34 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room, one story mill cottage; original clapboard; full
 front porch, now screened; gable roof; side shed porch now enclosed;
 two doors; two exterior rock chimneys, with brick extensions at top
 added later; two over two windows; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers.
- 73. 35 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Four-room, one story mill cottage; vinyl siding over original clapboard; gable roof; full porch; two over two aluminum windows, shutters added later; one interior chimney; continuous brick foundation over original piers; elevated site with concrete over original rock wall.
- 74. 37 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room, one story mill cottage, two rooms added later;
 full width front porch; gable roof; six over six windows, shutters
 added later; asbestos siding over original clapboard; continuous brick
 foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 76. Corner of Middle and Lower Streets; Riverdale Mill c. 1866; Original red brick on rock foundation; one over one windows; a water powered mill originally, converted to electric power in 1926; original camel back water wheel still in place; flat tar and gravel roof; weave room, main office and warehouse added at later dates; four story, every floor has a ground level entrance; small building outside office building is original office building of original mill.
- 77. 45 Middle Street
 c. 1915; Three-room, one story mill cottage; gable roof; full porch,
 now screened; one interior chimney; asbestos siding over original
 clapboard; two lean-to rooms added later; continuous brick foundation
 over original piers; recessed site.
- 78. 44 Middle Street
 c. 1866; Four-room, one story mill cottage; frame with original clapboard; gable roof; full width porch; two interior chimneys; one room added in 1916; two over two aluminum windows; wrought iron rail on porch and carport added later; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 79. 42 Middle Street c. 1866, rebuilt 1916; Four-room, one story mill cottage; hipped roof; six over six windows; frame construction; vinyl siding over original clapboard; small front porch; one room with utility room and carport, shutters and awnings added; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.

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- 80. 40 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room, one story mill cottage; frame with full width
 porch; original rock wall; original clapboard; interior chimney
 removed; gable roof; one over one aluminum windows with shutters;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers, recessed site.
- 81. 38 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Four-room, one story mill cottage; gable roof; frame with
 vinyl siding over original clapboard; full width porch; three pane
 aluminum windows with shutters; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers; one entrance; urban site.
- 82. 36 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room, one story mill cottage; gable roof; original full
 width porch, now screened; original frame clapboard; six over six
 windows; one interior chimney; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers; urban site.
- 83. Middle Street; Historic Site of River View Library Site of original one-room town library; built in 1916 by West Point Manufacturing, Company for the mill village; the librarian/custodian and books were furnished by West Point Manufacturing, Company; sold and removed from the site in 1984; site still owned by West Point Pepperell, Inc.
- 84. 32 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Four-room, one story mill cottage; gable roof; two over two
 aluminum windows; aluminum siding over original clapboard, interior
 chimney; continuous brick foundation over original piers; full width
 porch; bannister rail; two entrance doors; urban site.
- 85. 30 Middle Street
 c. 1880; Four-room, one story mill cottage; two doors; gable roof;
 full width front porch, now screened; interior chimney; original frame
 and clapboard; nine over nine windows; continuous brick foundation
 over original piers; urban site.
- 86. 28 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room, one story mill cottage; two doors; gable roof;
 full front porch, now screened; two exterior rock chimneys, with brick
 extensions at top; vinyl siding over original clapboard; two over two
 windows, continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 87. 26 Middle Street
 c. 1880; Three-room, one story mill cottage; gable roof; shed porch,
 later screened; two exterior rock chimneys with brick extension at
 top; original clapboard; full width front porch with original posts;
 six over six windows; two doors; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers; urban site.
- 88. 24 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Three-room, one story mill cottage; vinyl siding over
 original clapboard; shed porch, now glassed in; gable roof; interior

chimney; original porch replaced with gable stoop; six over six windows; continuous brick foundation over original piers; awnings added at front windows; urban site.

- 89. 22 Middle Street
 c. 1883; Six-room, one story mill cottage; frame with original clapboard; gable roof; windows replaced with aluminum five-pane windows; full porch and half side porch; two lean-to rooms added later; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 90. 7823 School Street
 c. 1937; Six-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original frame clapboard; six over six windows; central shed front porch; two interior chimneys; two front entrances; continuous brick foundation over original piers; elevated site with original rock wall.
- 91. 7815 School Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original frame clapboard; six over six windows; one interior chimney; full width front porch now screened; two front entrances; continuous brick foundation over original piers; remodeled in 1920; elevated site with original stone wall.
- 92. 7809 School Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; asbestos
 siding over original clapboard; aluminum windows; full width porch
 screened at a later date; one interior chimney; one room and shed
 carport added at later date; continuous brick foundation over original
 piers; elevated site with original stone wall.
- 93. 7799 School Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original frame clapboard; six over six windows; full width front porch replaced with gable stoop; one interior chimney; continuous block foundation over original piers; recessed site with original stone wall.
- 94. 7783 School Street
 c. 1883; Three-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original
 frame clapboard; six over six windows; full width front porch screened
 at later date; one interior chimney; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers; back porch enclosed for additional room; shed porch
 added to back at later date; elevated site with original stone wall.
- 96. 7769 School Street
 c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; two rooms
 added in 1927; half of full width porch enclosed with jalousie
 windows and sliding glass door; two over two windows; asbestos siding
 over original clapboard; interior chimney removed; urban site.
- 97. 7755 School Steeet; River View Elementary School
 c. 1928; Stylized Georgian elementary school; two stories; brick;
 load bearing construction; continuous foundation; one story on front;
 two stories open on rear; formal pedimented facade with decorative
 raised brick scroll design; central archeal opening to recessed
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double hung doors flanked by Gothic windows with fanlight and keystone; perfect architectural symmetry is achieved by the use of two sets of five nine over one windows.

- 98. 7738 School Street
 c. 1915; Mill cottage, one story; gable roof; masonite siding over
 original clapboard; two over two windows with shutters; interior
 chimney removed; full width porch; continuous block foundation over
 original piers; urban site with fenced yard.
- 99. 7744 School Street
 c. 1915; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original clapboard; two
 over two windows; interior chimney removed; half of full width front
 porch enclosed for additional room; continuous block foundation over
 original piers; recessed site.
- 100. 7752 School Street
 c. 1915; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original clapboard;
 interior chimney; nine over nine windows; full width front porch with
 two front entrances; continuous block foundation over original piers;
 recessed site.
- 101. 7766 School Street
 c. 1910; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original clapboard; six over six windows; interior chimney, full width porch enclosed on one end; full basement; continuous brick foundation; urban site with chain link fence.
- 102. 7776 School Street
 c. 1865; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; aluminum siding over
 original clapboard; two over two windows; full width front porch with
 two entrances; full basement; continuous brick foundation; interior
 chimney removed; urban site.
- 103. 7786 School Street
 c. 1894; Four-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; asbestos siding over original clapboard; full width porch enclosed with masonite siding and jalousie windows; interior chimney removed; aluminum windows; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 104. 7796 School Street
 c. 1908; Original four-room mill cottage with central hall; two rooms added in 1919; high hipped roof with eight balanced gables with gingerbread trim; two interior chimneys; aluminum siding over original clapboard; wrap-around porch now enclosed on side; one original nine over nine window; this mill cottage is unique as it is the only one in this area of this design, and it was used as a hotel in the earlier years and also served as the Red Cross Center during World War I; urban site.

- 105. 7806 School Street
 c. 1902; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; six over six windows on side, with two over two windows on front; awnings over porch and windows; asbestos siding over original clapboard; porch on right side with two wooden columns; continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 106. 7816 School Street c. 1883; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; aluminum siding over original clapboard; nine over nine windows; shutters; full width porch; two entrances; interior chimney; urban site.
- 107. 7824 School Street
 c. 1883; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; masonite siding over
 original clapboard; six over six windows; full width porch; two front
 entrances; continuous brick foundation over original piers; interior
 chimney removed; urban site.
- 108. 7834 School Street
 c. 1900; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; remodeled in 1910;
 vinyl siding over original clapboard; aluminum awnings over porch and
 aluminum windows; full width porch now enclosed with glass;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site.
- 109. 52 Reservoir Street
 c. 1900; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original clapboard; two
 over two windows; interior chimney; full width screened porch;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers; urban site with
 original stone wall.
- 110. 53 Reservoir Street
 c. 1900; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; asbestos siding; two
 over two windows; one interior chimney; full width masonite and
 screened porch; two lean-to rooms added at later date; continuous
 brick foundation over original piers; urban site with original stone
 wall.
- 111. 54 Reservoir Street c. 1900; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; six over six windows; masonite siding over original clapboard; interior chimney; full width porch now screened; continuous brick foundation over original piers; recessed site with original stone wall.
- 112. 56 Reservoir Street
 c. 1900; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; two over two windows;
 original clapboard; one interior chimney; shed stoop added at later
 date; full width porch now screened; continuous brick foundation over
 original piers; recessed site with original stone wall.
- 113. 58 Reservoir Street
 c. 1900; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original clapboard; six over six windows; interior chimney removed; shed stoop added at later date; full width porch now screened; continuous brick foundation over original piers; recessed site with original stone wall.

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- 114. 60 Reservoir Street
 c. 1910; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original
 clapboard; full width porch, half enclosed and half
 screened; three panes on front; nine over nine windows
 on side; interior chimney removed; continuous brick
 foundation over original piers; recessed site with
 original stone wall.
- 115. 62 Reservoir Street
 c. 1910; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original
 clapboard; nine over nine windows; interior chimney
 removed; full width porch replaced with concrete slab;
 continuous brick foundation with basement; recessed
 site with original stone wall.
- 116. 64 Reservoir Street
 c. 1910; Four-room, one story mill cottage; gable
 roof; full width front porch, with bannisters; two
 front entrances; two over two windows; interior
 chimney; back porch added later; aluminum siding;
 continuous block foundation over original piers;
 recessed site with original stone wall.
- 117. 63 Reservoir Street
 c. 1910; Four-room, one story mill cottage; gable
 roof; two front entrances; full width front porch,
 with bannisters; nine over nine windows; interior
 chimney; vinyl siding over original clapboard;
 continuous block foundation over original piers;
 elevated site with original stone wall.
- 118. Reservoir Street; (Historic) Site and Location of River View Reservoir c. 1902; Site of town reservoir; 50' diameter, 14' deep; 8" brick wall; plastered inside; bowl shaped. This served as the water supply for the sprinkler system at Riverdale Mill for many years. This dead-end street is named for this reservoir location.
- 119. 61 Reservoir Street
 c. 1870; Six-room, one story mill cottage; gable roof;
 asbestos siding; stone veneer front; six over six
 windows; full width porch; two front entrances; two
 over two windows on sides; one room and bath added to
 original structure; one room in attic; continuous
 block foundation over original piers; elevated site
 with original stone wall.
- 121. 57 Reservoir Street
 c. 1900; Four-room, one story mill cottage; gable
 roof; two over two windows; interior chimney; asbestos
 siding over original clapboard; full width porch, now
 screened; two front entrances; aluminum awnings over

porch and windows; continuous block foundation over original piers; elevated site with original stone wall.

- 122. 55 Reservoir Street c. 1883, Remodeled 1920; Four-room, one story mill cottage, hipped roof, nine over nine windows; full width screened porch; three rooms, with one over one aluminum windows, deck and exterior chimney all added after 1920; one front entrance; continuous block foundation over original piers; elevated site with original stone wall.
- 123. 49 Library Street c. 1900; Four-room mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original clapboard; two over two windows with shutters; full width porch replaced with gable stoop; one interior chimney; continuous brick foundation over original piers; recessed site.
- 124. 48 Library Street
 c. 1900; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof;
 remodeled in 1920; vinyl siding over original
 clapboard; six over six windows; full width front
 porch with two entrances; one interior chimney;
 continuous brick foundation over original piers,
 recessed site.
- 125. 47 Library Street
 c. 1883; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; asbestos
 siding over original clapboard; nine over nine
 windows; full width porch, now screened; two front
 doors, one interior chimney; continuous brick
 foundation over original piers; recessed site.
- 126. 46 Library Street
 c. 1883; Mill cottage; one story; gable roof; original clapboard; six over six windows; siding and enclosed room on original porch added at later date, half screened; interior chimney removed; remodeled in 1920; urban site.

NOTE: The following houses, #127 thru #145 and #56 (already shown) are not 50-years old but should be listed as contributing because of the unique historic value to the town. The houses were built in 1946 and 1947, immediately at the end of World War II. Building material was simply not to be found, but two Riverdale Mill Management employees were very persistent in their efforts to secure the materials for the building of needed housing in the town. These two, Jack Swann and John Will Terry, were responsible for this effort. The government agreed to release the materials with one important stipulation attached.

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The houses were to be rented to returning World War II service men who were in the employment of Riverdale Mill and West Point Manufacturing Company. Hence, the unique name, G. I. Street, was born.

- 127. 125 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room, one porch
 and jalousie windows added; gable stoop at front
 entrance; urban site.
- 128. 126 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; two rooms, one
 porch and jalousie windows added; gable stoop over
 front entrance; urban site.
- 129. 127 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; carport added;
 gable stoop over front entrance; urban site.
- 130. 128 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; gable stoop over
 front entrance; urban site.
- 131. 129 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room and
 carport added; gable stoop over front entrance; urban
 site.
- 132. 130 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room and
 carport added; gable stoop over front entrance; urban
 site.
- 133. 131 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room, one
 porch, one carport and vinyl siding added; gable stoop
 over one front entrance; urban site.

- 134. 132 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; gable stoop over
 front entrance; urban site.
- 135. 133 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; two rooms and porch
 added; gable stoop over front entrance; urban site.
- 136. 134 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; two rooms and one
 exterior chimney added later; flat stoop over front
 entrance; urban site.
- 137. 135 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room and porch
 added; flat stoop over front entrance; urban site.
- 138. 136 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; flat stoop over
 front entrance; urban site.
- 139. 137 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room and one
 porch added; flat stoop over front entrance; urban
 site.
- 140. 138 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room and one
 porch added; windows changed to two over two; flat
 stoop over front entrance; urban site.
- 141. 139 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; utility room added;
 flat stoop over front entrance; urban site.

- 142. 140 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; flat stoop over
 front entrance; urban site.
- 143. 141 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; room and porch
 added later; aluminum siding over blocks; flat stoop
 over front entrance; urban site.
- 144. 142 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; veneer siding
 across front, added later years; flat stoop over front
 entrance; urban site.
- 145. 143 G. I. Street
 c. 1947; Four-room concrete block mill cottage; one
 story; one interior chimney; gable roof; six over six
 windows; concrete slab foundation; one room and one
 carport added; flat stoop over front entrance; urban
 site.
- 146. G. I. Street; Historic Site of River View Baseball Park
 This is the present site of a softball park and two
 tennis courts. There was a baseball park located here
 for many years as each mill town sponsored a baseball
 team and played in the Chattahoochee League. Several
 players from this league later played in organized
 leagues as high as the major leagues. Data gives the
 league being organized in 1914, with River View being
 declared the first winner.

The area toward the river is also reputed as being a meeting place for early Indian tribes living around the Chattahoochee River.

147. Trail Street; Historic Site and Location of River View Boy Scout House c. 1949; One large 60'x40' room; one story; pyramid roof; six over six windows; concrete block construction; exterior chimney.

There has been a Boy Scout House in this general area for many years as River View was a pioneer in the scouting field. Over the years, many community leaders have been through the scout program and many served as scout leaders. Inventory #24 states that the first scout troop in the Valley area was located in River View and was organized in 1915.

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148. 1372 Mapp Road
c. 1902; Four-room cottage; siding; gable roof; six
over six windows; screened front porch; one story;
interior chimney; original brick pier foundation;
urban site.

NONCONTRIBUTING

- 18. 1265A California Street
 c. 1947; Block and wood frame building; three over
 three and six over six windows; flat roof; cement
 foundation. This building is now vacant. At one time
 it was a service station and also has been a
 laundromat.
- 22. 1243 California Street c. 1949; Interior chimney; six over one windows; gable roof; gable stoop at front entrance; continuous block foundation; siding; urban site.
- 25. 1205 California Street
 c. 1949; Four-room cottage; asbestos siding; four
 rooms; two over two and three over one windows; gable
 roof; continuous block foundation, urban site.
- 30. 1330 California Street
 c. 1945; Five-room mill cottage; interior chimney;
 siding over frame construction; one over one windows;
 one story; screened side porch; flat stoop over
 entrance; original house on this site was destroyed by
 fire; elevated site over rock wall.
- 36. 1372 California Street
 c. 1942; Five-room frame house; gable roof; six over
 six windows; screened side porch; continuous brick
 foundation over stone piers; one interior chimney;
 awnings over front windows and porch; gable stoop over
 front entrance; urban site.
- 75. 39 Middle Street
 c. 1959; Six-room frame construction; asbestos siding; hipped roof; picture window at front, all other windows two over two aluminum with awnings; continuous brick foundation; the original mill cottage on this urban site destroyed by fire.

- 95. 7775 School Street
 c. 1980; Modern frame cottage; one story; gable roof;
 vinyl siding; two over two windows; gable stoop;
 cinder block foundation; elevated site with original
 stone wall.
- 120. 59 Reservoir Street
 c. 1973; Four-room one story cottage; hipped roof;
 masonite siding; one over one aluminum windows;
 continuous block foundation; original mill cottage
 destroyed; existing house less than 50 years old;
 elevated site with stone wall.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

On hills dropping to the Chattahoochee River, the town of River View was born in 1866 and aptly named. The surrounding agricultural countryside was in economic ruin at the end of the War Between the States.

Two groups endeavored to build textile mills on the Alabama side of the river. "Both mills secured capital from the sale of high priced cotton in Savannah and Augusta [for markets in England] before it could be seized by Reconstruction agents."1

Captain George Huguley was the driving force behind the Alabama-Georgia Mill at River View. Bricks for the building were made from clay; dug, shaped, and baked on the site. The original structure was 50 feet wide, 250 feet long, and four stories high. It had 48 looms, 3,000 spindles, and was run by water power. It was fully electrified in 1926.

Configuration of the hills, bends in the river, and two near islands result in a bit of land jutting eastward that is just below the high water mark of the river. By treaty, this makes it a part of Georgia, and the east end of the mill is on it.

Dan Cupid used this unique fact to facilitate a number of romances. Alabama law required a waiting period between granting licenses and speaking wedding vows. Georgia had no such restriction. Thus many couples secured licenses in nearby West Point and went with their minister to the far end of the mill to be united in holy matrimony. One couple is known to have come from the center of Randolph County, some 50 miles away.

This mill began actual operations some time before the other project a few miles up the river. Employing from 75 to 100 people, it was at the site of a grist mill that had served the ante-bellum plantation area. Later, just beyond the east end of the plant, a small hydro-electric plant was built. It is today operated by Georgia Power Company. The influx of workers also brought merchants, artisans, and professionals to serve the community.

A remarkable feature is that the hilly terrain provides ground level entrance to all four floors of the mill. If one counts the original office (a separate building further up the hill) and the present modern offices, there are six such levels.

The mill closed briefly in the Panic of 1873. William Lang, of England, who had helped with the Langdale Mill became superintendent

- 1. From the First 75 Years of West Point Manufacturing Company, an address by J. L. Lanier, Sr. to the Newcome Society in Birmingham, 1955.
- 2. Ibid

in 1880. Ten years later it closed because of financial difficulties. Under guidance of Mr. LaFayette Lanier, it was soon refinanced and incorporated as Galeton Cotton Mills in 1892. Shortly after this there was litigation over ownership. When this was settled, it was renamed Riverdale Mill and operated as a subsidiary of West Point Manufacturing Company, hereinafter called the Company. In 1921 Riverdale became a division of the Company and converted from duck to toweling. It has run continuously since. From this time the Laniers have given much of the leadership that has provided progress and many contributions toward making River View a good place to live.

Built long before the automobile, the mill houses are close to the street. Most, however, have large wooded back yards; some leading to small streams. Originally, most of these houses were on piers. One late November day in the forties, the temperature started plummeting about noon, and before midnight had dropped to an incredible zero. Almost everyone had burst water pipes. After this, walls were built from ground to floor between all piers.

Old timers tell of two communal water wells that served the village. River View was the first of the Valley mill towns to have telephones. The houses were sold to employees in 1950. Most are well maintained today. There has always been a goodly number of privately owned homes.

John Parnell, who is credited with starting the peach industry in the South, came to River View from Ireland about 1870. He built and lived in a house built of rough pine logs while getting his enterprise underway. His brother, Charles Stewart Parnell, a member of Parliament, and agitator for Irish Home Rule, came for a short visit in 1872. It was short because, being accustomed to metropolitan London, he found the primitive ways of early Alabama a bit difficult. Later John moved to a nice house in what is now nearby Fairfax.³

Transportation in the early days was by boat and barge on the river, and by wagons on mostly dirt roads. The Chattahoochee Valley Railroad Company was chartered in 1895. It began operating between West Point and River View the next year, serving Lanett, Shawmut, Langdale, and Fairfax along the way. In addition to hauling freight, the trains had a passenger car.

Churches have always been important in the little town. Originally there was a union church building where the different denominations worked out a schedule to fit their services. As they were able, the various sects erected their own sanctuaries, with generous help from the Company. Today there are three Baptist, two Christian, two Methodist, and one Pentacostal churches offering full services.

Because of proximity to larger communities, River View had a senior high school only three years in the mid-twenties. The Company

^{3.} The Birmingham News, December, 1940. River View, Alabama - 10/91

did much for education. It not only financed a kindergarten, it built a fine new school in 1928 to serve grades one through nine. During the great depression of the thirties when many schools had short terms, the Company kept these schools open nine full months.

The River View Junior High School had a full athletic program; i.e., football, basketball, and baseball. A lunch room began serving the children in 1947. Every year the International House students from Jacksonville State University visited the school. Young people from some twelve to fifteen countries, along with their American classmates, presented a program at the local theatre building. They spent the night in homes throughout the community, enabling a small textile town the opportunity to show Southern hospitality to people from all over the world.

Grades were small enough that the eighth and ninth grades could be taken on one bus to Montgomery one year and Atlanta the next. They visited the Capitol and other sights in those cities. Other field trips were made.

The annual Kindergarten graduation program was a community highlight. Some of the little tykes could be counted on to alter or add to the script.

There was a library that held many classic and contemporary novels, an unabridged dictionary, encyclopedia, atlases and a few periodicals.

The Company realized the value of recreation, and provided resources for the fielding of baseball teams and men's and women's basketball and softball teams. There was a beautiful nine-hole golf course lying between the hills and the river. A fine gymnasium was built in 1935. It provided a court for basketball and volley ball, plus a large club room (with kitchen) for community activities. There were also tennis and croquet courts. Fishing and hunting have always been popular. In the early days, they supplemented the family diet.

Although the smallest of the six Valley towns, River View was always competitive with them and surrounding cities. One year, in a playoff game for the baseball championship, River View acquired a nickname. The game was played on the home field and about the time the umpire yelled, "Play ball!" a rabbit ran across the infield. It's been Rabbit Town ever since.

The Company provided a theatre building where the Al Dun Amusement Company showed first run movies. That is, the same films that were showing in Birmingham and Atlanta. This splendid building was available for occasional use by the school and community.

The junior high school usually presented a play once a year, and the annual Christmas Tree party was held there.

This party, sponsored by the Company, was truly a joyous occasion. The teachers had taken a count of every child from River View, Alabama - 10/91

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BOUNDARIES AND STREET ADDRESSES

Ala. Historical Commission

The River View Historic District is bounded on the north by the Chattahoochee Valley Railway and the Chattahoochee River; on the east by the Chattahoochee River and the back lots of California Road; on the south by inventories number 26 and 25; on the west by the Chattahoochee Valley Railway.

Inclusive Street Addresses:

California Street; 1468, 1465, 1445, 1425, 1415, 1405, 1391, 1381, 1369, 1355, 1349, 1341, 1331, 1311, 1281, 1275, 1265A, 1265, 1255, 1245, 1243, 1235, 1225, 1205, 1210, 1230, 1244, 1254, 1330, 1338, 1346, 1352, 1360, 1366, 1372, 1382, 1392, 1400, 1422, 1432, 1450.

Lower Street; 54, 20A, 20, 19, 16, 14, 13, 12, 10A, 10, 124, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18.

Middle Street; 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 39, 45, 44, 42, 40, 38, 36, 32, 30, 28, 26, 24, 22.

School Street; 7823, 7815, 7809, 7799, 7783, 7775, 7769, 7755, 7738, 7744, 7752, 7766, 7776, 7786, 7796, 7806, 7816, 7824, 7834.

Reservoir Street; 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 63, 61, 59, 57, 55.

Library Street; 49, 48, 47, 46.

G. I. Street; 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143.

Mapp Road; 1372.

Trail Street; No number

Historic Sites:

- 4. M. M. Hunt General Mercantile Store
- 40. Teacher's Dormitory
- 43. G & M Store and Johnson and Company Store
- 45. Former M. M. Hunt Home
- 57. Two Houses; torn down August 1927 to make room for an expansion at the mill
- 83. River View Library
- 118. River View Reservoir
- 146. River View Baseball Park
- 147. River View Boy Scout House

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"First 75 Years of West Point Manufacturing Company;" Address by J. L. Lanier, Sr. to the Newcome Society in Birmingham, 1955.

The Birmingham News, December, 1940.

The West Point News, 1936.

kindergarten through the ninth grade, plus any little ones at home. There was an appropriate program, and every child received a small present and a bag of fruit. Distribution was by some local citizen playing Santa Claus. The older children had much fun trying to guess his identity. The sponsors went to some length in choosing and changing participants to keep the game interesting.

Scouting for boys and girls was strong. Mr. Tyre Weaver, Sr. organized Boy Scout Troop 12 in 1915; many claim it the first in the Valley.

In 1980, River View, Fairfax, Langdale, and Shawmut were incorporated as Valley, Alabama. The community always has heartily supported Valley Haven School (for the retarded) and Valley High School in Fairfax; Lanier Memorial Hospital in Langdale; the Chambers County Library in Shawmut; and the Community Chest.

A resident of River View, who moved there fifty years ago, tells of things outsiders told him when he first went there. Everywhere he went people said, "If they ever start anything, they won't quit until it's finished. In games, no matter what the score, they won't concede defeat until the last man is out or the last second run off the clock." In West Point, Georgia, which (except for basic groceries, gas and oil) was "town" for the area, the merchants told him: "We never worry about accounts in River View - they'll pay you."

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION 725 MONROE STREET MONIGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130 CONTACT: MELANIE BETZ (205) 242-3184 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VALLEY MILL VILLAGES RECEIVE ALABAMA REGISTER LISTING

The Alabama Historical Commission recently announced that the mill villages of Shawmut, Fairfax, and River View have been added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage and the recently designated Langdale Mill Village Historic District has been expanded.

The Shawmut Mill Village is a rather unique planned mill community. Streets radiate from a large, circular public park located in front of the Shawmut Mill, which was one of the first all-electric manufacturing plants in the South. Facing this communal area was the school, two churches, an auditorium, a post office, and a commercial building.

Virtually all of the homes that are located along Shawmut's tree-lined streets were constructed around 1908. The plans of these modest dwellings varied a bit, but most were one-story with a front porch and a steeply pitched pyramidal or hipped roof.

The Shawmut Mill Village Historic District includes 78 of approximately 350 buildings in the planned mill village.

The Fairfax Mill Village Historic District contains 104 of the approximately 300 buildings and structures that are associated with its development. Constructed between 1915 and 1917, the village is laid out around the Fairfax Mill although it does not follow a formal plan like Shawmut. The school, churches, an auditorium, park, and commercial buildings were all erected to face the mill.

The mill housing included numerous stock plan bungalows including some with clipped gables, L-plan dwellings, simple three-room cottages, as well as raised cottages and many other types of housing.

River View, founded in 1866, is the smallest of the mill village communities. The Alabama-Georgia Mill at River View began operation before the other mills located a few miles up the river. Located on the site of an

