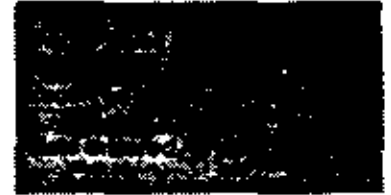


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

<u>Name:</u>	Historic: Victor Cotton Oil Company Complex	Location: West side of Frederick St. between Hill St. and Johnson St.
	Common: Same	Classification: District
<u>Owner:</u>	Victor Oil Company c/o W. G. Smoke, Jr., and Sr. Box 910 Gaffney, S. C. 29342	

Representation in Existing Surveys: South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1985

Description: The Victor Cotton Oil Company Complex contains approximately fifteen resources constructed between ca. 1899 and ca. 1925. These include eight buildings, four objects, two structures, and one site.

Contributing resources:

1. Cotton Seed Oil Mill: Two-story, brick building constructed ca. 1899 and expanded in the early twentieth century.
2. Oil Storage Tanks: Four upright, cylindrical, metal tanks erected in the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth centuries to store cotton seed oil.
3. Water Tower: Metal water tower erected between 1904 and 1910.
5. Fertilizer Plant: One-story, frame building with brick fire walls constructed in 1909. The building has been altered by the application of metal siding and the demolition of approximately ten feet of the south end. The interior retains a concrete fertilizer mixing pit.
6. Flour and Corn Mill: Two-story, frame building constructed between 1904 and 1910. The machinery and equipment associated with the processing of flour are still intact on the interior. The machinery associated with the grinding of corn has been removed.
7. Site of Cotton Gin: Foundation of a cotton gin constructed between 1904 and 1910.
8. Warehouse: One-story, frame building constructed ca. 1920. On a 1926 map of Gaffney published by the Sanborn Map Company, the building was labeled a bag house/warehouse.

9. Mule Barn: One-story, frame building constructed in the early twentieth century. The barn was used to shelter the mules associated with the Victor Cotton Oil Company.

11. Office: One-story, frame building constructed ca. 1899 (?) and enlarged in the early twentieth century.

12. Hull House: One-story, frame building constructed by 1904. It was used to store the hulls removed from the cotton seed in the oil mill.

13. Ice Plant: One-story brick building constructed in 1908 and expanded in subsequent years.

14. Branch Line of Southern Railway: Constructed in the late nineteenth century as a line of the Ohio River and Charleston Railroad. This line provided rail facilities within the yards of the Victor Cotton Oil Company.

Noncontributing resources:

4. Modern Metal Industrial Building.

10. Garage: One-story, frame building constructed ca. 1960 of old materials.

Significance: The Victor Cotton Oil Company Complex is a largely intact collection of resources illustrating the history of one of Gaffney's largest industrial enterprises of the early twentieth century. The Victor Cotton Oil Company, which was founded in 1899 by N. Lipscomb, J.N. Lipscomb, T.R. Cox, and F.D. Hunter, constructed the city's first cotton seed oil mill. A cotton seed oil mill first cleaned the seed of linters, which were sold for the manufacture of explosives. The seed was then hulled and ground and the hulls added to cattle feed. Then the grain of the seed was pressed to extract the oil, the most valuable product of the seed. The eventual uses of the oil included cooking oil, lubricating oil, and explosives. The residue (meal) left after the oil was extracted was of value as a feed or fertilizer. The Victor Cotton Oil Company provided a market for seed produced by farmers of the area and furnished them with fertilizer and cattle feed. According to the 23 September 1917 issue of the Gaffney Ledger, the oil mill employed about seventy-five men during the busy season between September and May. The oil mill was using forty tons of cotton daily, from which 1,600 gallons of oil were extracted. The oil was shipped to a refinery in Savannah, Georgia.

By 1910 the operations of the Victor Cotton Oil Company had expanded to include a flour and corn mill, an ice plant, a fertilizer factory, and several cotton gins. The flour mill had a capacity of fifty barrels a day and the grist mill's capacity was 300 bushels of corn meal per day. The ice plant produced fifteen tons of ice daily, which was delivered throughout the city as well as being shipped to other towns. In the fertilizer plant cotton seed meal was mixed with phosphoric acid and potash to make fertilizer. By 1917 the Victor Cotton Oil Company was also operating a Pepsi-Cola bottling plant. (68)

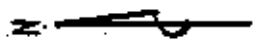
Acresage: Approximately 4.2 acres

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary for the Victor Cotton Oil Company Complex is shown as the heavy black line on the accompanying Cherokee County tax map 99-04, which is drawn at a scale of 1"=100'. The nominated property includes those historic resources associated with the development of the Victor Cotton Oil Company that maintain integrity while excluding as many noncontributing resources as possible.

UTM Reference Point: 17/~~441200~~/~~388145~~

Other Information: 441200 388145

Level of Significance: State



E. FREDERICK STREET

* 6

* 8

* 9

* 10

* 12

* 13

* 11

5

4

1

JOHNSON STREET

3 0 8 *

MEADOW STREET

VICTOR COTTON OIL COMPANY COMPLEX
SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE

* = DEMOLISHED
12/29/88
M/S