

# Edenton Cotton Mill 1900

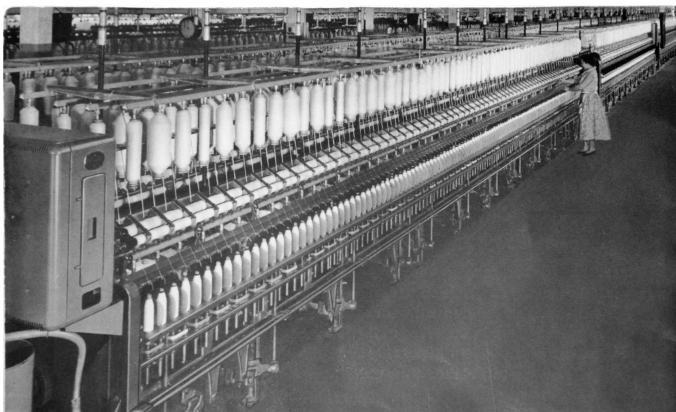
(Note: This additional information about the Cotton Mill adapted from the Edenton Cotton Mill Museum of History web site (<http://millvillagemuseum.org/history/>).

Although located within a very easy walk of downtown Edenton, the Cotton Mill was much more than just an industrial site. It was a little village unto itself. All the attributes existed, from its baseball team competing in regional games to local community cookouts and neighborhood churches.



*Model on display at the Cotton Mill Museum*

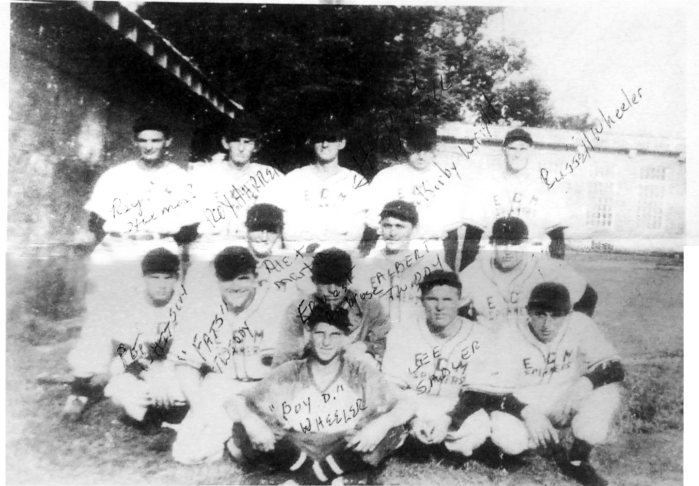
The main building, standing today and occupied by beautiful condos, was constructed in 1900 and is a great example of an Italianate Revival brick industrial complex, a style that was popular in turn-of-the-century North Carolina. Defining the building's character is the repetition of large segmental arched windows and projecting ceiling joist.



Can you imagine what it was like to work in that building with its large windows before air conditioning arrived in 1960? When air conditioning did arrive, the arched windows were replaced with brick, which was then removed early in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the building was converted to condominium-style homes and apartments.

The Mill was started by 19 local businessmen and remained in local ownership until 1990. As was fairly common in industrial situations, the company also built homes for employees and at one time 70 dwellings existed for those families. Some were duplexes, others were larger homes occupied by top supervisors, but all within a baseball's throw of the factory.

"They could walk to work, they could walk to church and they could walk to school," said Bill Hicks, a board member of the Edenton Cotton Mill Museum of History.



As noted on the Wikipedia web site ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edenton\\_Cotton\\_Mill\\_Historic\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edenton_Cotton_Mill_Historic_District)):

The "Edenton Cotton Mill Historic District is a national historic district located at Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina. The district encompasses 70 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site, 2 contributing structures, and 1 contributing object in a small mill village. It includes industrial and residential buildings developed between 1899 and 1923. Residential buildings are primarily simple one-story, single-pile, frame dwellings and some examples of the Bungalow / American Craftsman style. Notable non-residential buildings include the Italianate Revival style Edenton Cotton Mill (1899-1916), Edenton Cotton Mill Office, and First Christian Church (1916). It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999."

**Families Wanted!**

The Edenton Cotton Mills has reduced its hours of work from 60 to 55 hours per week and its work day from 10 to 9 hours and increased wages so that employees can earn as much in 9 hours as they have been able to earn in 10 hours.

Boys over 16 years of age earn **\$1.25 to \$1.90**

Women, and Girls over 16 years of age earn **\$1.08 to \$2.00**

Men earn **\$1.50 to \$2.50**

Apply to

**J. P. Cain, Superintendent,**  
**Edenton Cotton Mills,**  
**Edenton, N. C.**

Like most other historic gems of Edenton, the Edenton Cotton Mill Museum of History is totally reliant on volunteers for both donations and keeping the museum open for the public. One of Chowan County's great attributes is the fact that churches and organizations welcome newcomers. They do as much as the want from being docents, donors or leaders. No one has to prove they were born in Edenton to play a big role in protecting the historical and community assets of the County.

The Museum's exhibits contain photos, old documents (like this newspaper ad), maps, and items from the Mill and Village. In the center of the room is a four-part "carousel" display, with photos from when the Mill and Mill Village were first built and on through to the present period."