

MSS 163 Alester Furman Company Records, 1918-1977

33.7 cu. ft. 16 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 1 box of photographs, 22 files of blueprints in 5 map file drawers

Introduction

The Alester Furman Records were acquired from Alester G. Furman III in 1994, accession 94-58. They consist of his real estate company's records concerning the sale of the houses in mill villages, 1940 - 1977. The help of Dr. George Vogt, Director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, in obtaining this collection is appreciated. The records were processed by Michael Kohl with the help of the student assistants Brian Martin and Lisa McAlister.

Biographical Sketch

Alester Garden Furman III was born in Greenville, South Carolina, on January 3, 1918. He attended Greenville Public Schools and graduated from Amherst College in 1939. Furman received a MBA from the Harvard Business School in 1941. He served in the United States Marine Corps 1941-1945 and was discharged as a captain. Beginning in 1946, Furman worked for the Alester G. Furman Company, now known as The Furman Company which brokered securities, sold insurance and handled real estate transactions. He was its Resident 1961-1977 and Chairman of the Board, 1977-1986.

Furman has been active in many civic and state organizations such as serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of Furman University, the South Carolina - Commission on Higher Education, and the Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board.

He married Mary Simms Oliphant in 1942 and together they raised four daughters.

Scope and Content

The records from the Alester G. Furman Company consist of files documenting the sale of real estate, primarily residential housing, by textile manufacturing companies during the period c. 1945-1970. The Furman Company served as the broker for the sale of real estate which, with respect to the residential housing, in most cases was sold to the mill workers. Furman handled the loan applications, insurance, and all other matters related to the sale. The textile manufacturers involved in these sales had their factories located in the Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. This collection documents one of the most significant turning points in the history of the textile industry. The sale of the mill villages changed the relationship between the mill and its workers while at the same time providing capital for the renovation of the mills. The workers became home owners and could sell the homes if they so desired, thus changing the nature of the closely-knit mill communities. Perhaps equally important, the collection includes plats of the mill communities at the time of their sale

The records are arranged alphabetically by the name of the textile firm and usually contain correspondence, records of financial disbursements, and sometimes insurance and other material related to the sales. Most of the sales and the bulk of the records are from the 1950s and 1960s. There is an individual folder(s) for each mill community which often contains detailed listings of the names of the purchasers of homes and the amount of the purchase, method of payment, and status reports related to the liquidation of all properties and transfer of funds held in account. In

the case of the J.P. Stevens Corporation, there is considerable documentation from the mid-1980s related to the sale of Stevens property after the purchase of that firm. In most cases, there are plat maps of the mill community or other property at the time of sale, although some plats may have been drawn up several decades earlier. The plats and sale information provide a snapshot in time of the mill communities at the very moment when they were to be forever changed.

The Alester Furman Company sold the real estate of a number of textile firms for which Special Collections has other records including Mss 136 Clifton Manufacturing Company, Mss 162 Courtenay Manufacturing Company, and Mss 135 J.P. Stevens Company.

MSS 163 Alester Furman Company Records

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
		Abney Mills
1	1	Anderson Plant, Anderson, South Carolina, 1922-1963
	2	Belton Plant, Belton, South Carolina, 1959-1964
	3	Brandon Plant, Greenville, South Carolina, 1959-1964
	4	Courtenay Plant, Newry, South Carolina, 1959-1965
	5	Grendel Plant, Greenwood, South Carolina, 1943-1959
	6	Home Sales & Taxes, 1958-1964
	7	Panola Plant, Greenwood, South Carolina, 1942-1964
	8	Poinsett Plant, Greenville, South Carolina, 1958-1963
	9	Renfrew Plant, Travelers Rest, South Carolina, 1959-1965
	10	Toxaway Plant, Anderson, South Carolina, 1959
2	11	Village Resale Reports 1-59, 1959-1966
		Alice Manufacturing Company
	12	Alice & Arid Plants, Easley, South Carolina, 1946-1960
	13	Anniston Manufacturing Co., Anniston, Alabama, 1954-1959
		Apalache Mill, Greer, South Carolina
	14	Sale of Property, 1950-1985
	15	Aragon Mills, Aragon, Georgia, 1952-1954
		Aragon-Baldwin Mills
	16	Rock Hill, South Carolina, 1950-1956
	17	Whitmire, South Carolina, 1949-1963
	18	Arcade Mills, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 1950-1954 I
3	19	Joseph Bancroft & Sons Co., Wilmington, Delaware, 1958-1963
		William L. Barrell Co., Inc.
	20	Bellevue Manufacturing Co., Hillsboro, North Carolina, 1918-1959
	21	General File, 1957-1958
	22	Guntersville, Alabama, 1957-1961
	23	McColl, South Carolina, 1947-1958
	24	Selma, North Carolina 1955-1961
	25	Bemis Company, Inc., Bemis, Tennessee, 1957-1968
		Bibb Manufacturing Company
	26	Macon, Georgia, 1954-1966
		Porterdale, Georgia
4	27	1964, 1965, 1970, 1964-1970
	28	Insurance Premiums, 1970-1977
	29	Taylor, Georgia-Insurance Premiums, 1966-1977
		Borden Mills
	30	Irene P. Carter vs. J.P. Stevens & Co., Inc., 1960-1965
		Kingsport, Tennessee
	31	Home Sales, 1959-1961
	32	Supervisory Houses, 1928-1963
	33	Botany Cottons, Inc., Thomasville, North Carolina, 1959-1961
	34	Brookford Mills, Brookford, North Carolina, 1953-1956

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
		Burlington Industries, Inc.
	35	Asheville, North Carolina, 1957-1958
	36	Batesburg & Lexington Mills, South Carolina, 1950-1958
5	37	Cherokee Falls, South Carolina, 1957-1960
	38	Henrietta & Caroleen Mills, North Carolina, 1956-1961
	39	Henrietta-Martel, North Carolina, 1955-1957
	40	Ivey Weavers, North Carolina, 1959-1960
	41	Vacant Land, 1958-1960
	42	Valley Falls Mill, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1950-1959
	43	Calhoun Mills, Calhoun Falls, South Carolina, 1946-1959
	44	California Cotton Mills, Ellawhite Village, Uniontown, Alabama, 1958-1959
	45	Camperdown Company, Inc., Greenville, South Carolina, 1956-1959
		Cannon Mills
	46	Amazon Cotton Mills, Thomasville, North Carolina, 1952-1972
	47	Social Circle Cotton Mills, Kannapolis, North Carolina, 1953-1972
	48	Wiscassett Mills Co., Albemarle, North Carolina, 1963-1972
6	49	Canton Cotton Mills, Canton, Georgia, 1962-1965
	50	Carlton Yarn Mills, Cherryville, North Carolina, 1961-1965
	51	Chicopee Manufacturing Co., Walhalla, South Carolina, 1951-1955
	52	Chiquola Manufacturing Co., Honea Path, South Carolina, 1953-1955
	53	Clinton Cotton Mills, Clinton, South Carolina, 1953-1959
	54	Clyde Fabrics, Inc., Newton, North Carolina, 1957-1958
	55	Cone Mills Corporation, Carlisle, South Carolina, 1955
		Crompton-Highland Mills, Inc.
	56	Griffin, Georgia, 1956-1958
	57	Hendersonville, North Carolina, 1957-1958
	58	Dan River Mills (Clifton Mfg. Co.), Pricing Sheets, 1951-1965
7	59	Dora Yarn Mill, Dover Mill Co., Shelby, North Carolina, 1955-1963
		Dundee Mills, Inc., Griffin, Georgia
	60	Mortgage Life Insurance, January 1962-December 1963, 1962-1964
	61	Home Sales, Griffin, Georgia, 1953-1967
	62	Group II Home Sales, Experiment, Georgia, 1948-1962
	63	Group III Home Sales, Griffin, Georgia, 1960-1963
	64	Dunean Mills (Division of J.P. Stevens & Co., Inc.), 1948-1960
	65	Eastman Cotton Mills, Eastman, Georgia, 1961-1965
		Erwin Mills, Inc.
	66	Cooleemee, North Carolina, 1934-1956
	67	Erwin, North Carolina, 1949-1952
8	68	Plats, Property in Harnett County, Erwin, North Carolina, 1951-1958
	69	Exposition Cotton Mills, Atlanta, Georgia, 1955-1964
	70	Falls Manufacturing Co., Inc. Granite Falls, North Carolina, 1955
	71	Fitzgerald Mills Corporation, Fitzgerald, Georgia, 1956
	72	Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills, Atlanta, Georgia, 1955-1957
	73	Glenwood Mills, Easley, South Carolina, 1949-1959

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
		Graniteville Company, Graniteville, South Carolina
	74	Home Sales, 1948-1956
	75	Home Sales, 1968, 1948-1968
	76	Green River Mills, Inc., Tuxedo, North Carolina, 1954-1958
		Greenwood Mills, Greenwood, South Carolina
	77	Home Sales, General, 1961-1967
	78	Greenwood Plant, 1962
9	78a	Harris Plant, 1951-1962
	79	Mathews Plant, 1951-1962
	79a	Ninety Six Plant, 1962-1963
	80	Greer Mill Village, Greer, South Carolina, 1951
	81	Hannah Pickett Mills, Rockingham, North Carolina, 1948-1955
	82	Hartwell Mills, Inc., Hartwell, Georgia, 1963-1964
	83	Haslin Mills, Inc., Lincolnton, North Carolina, 1958-1959
	84	Hermitage Cotton Mills, Inc., Camden, South Carolina, 1954-1958
		Highland Park Manufacturing Co.
	85	Charlotte, North Carolina, 1953-1954
	86	Rock Hill, South Carolina, 1953
		Indian Head Mills, Inc.
	87	Fingerville, South Carolina, 1958
	88	Additional Houses, 1943-1 959
10	89	Industrial Cotton Mills, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 1950-1963
	90	Jefferson Mills, Inc., Jefferson, Georgia, 1954-1961
	91	Joanna Cotton Mills Co., Joanna, South Carolina, 1944-1962
		Johnston Manufacturing Co.
	92	Selma, North Carolina, 1946-1955
	93	Spindale, North Carolina, 19541955
	94	Liberty Mill, Liberty, South Carolina, 1951-1969
	95	The Linen Thread Co., Inc., Blue Mountain, Alabama, 1939-1959
	96	Manetta Mills, Monroe, North Carolina, 1953-1958
11	97	Mayfair Mills, Arcadia, South Carolina, 1949-1951
	98	McCall Manufacturing Co., Greer, South Carolina, 1949
	99	Monroe Cotton Mills, Monroe, Georgia, 1963-1966
	100	Norris Cotton Mills, Cateechee, South Carolina, 1950-1958
	101	North Georgia Mill Company, Summerville, Georgia, 1948-1952
		Pacific Mills
	102	Lyman, South Carolina, 1951-1955
	103	Rhodhiss, North Carolina, 1952-1955
	104	Pendleton Manufacturing Co., La France, South Carolina, 1946-1947
	105	Pickens Mill, Pickens, South Carolina, 1958-1961
		Piedmont Manufacturing Company
	106	Piedmont, South Carolina, 1938-1964
12	107	Vacant Property, 1956, 1956-1962
	108	Plyrnoth Manufacturing Co., Inc., McColl, South Carolina-Map, 1947

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
		F. W. Poe Manufacturing Co., Greenville, South Carolina
12	109	Home Sales, 1949-1959
	110	Additional Houses, 1959-1960
	111	Red Bank Mill, Inc., Lexington, South Carolina, 1942-1962
	112	Rhyne-Houser Manufacturing Co., Cherryville, North Carolina, 1960
		Riegel Textile Corporation
	113	Fork Shoals, South Carolina, 1937-1955
	114	Trion, Georgia, 1950-1952
		Ware Shoals, South Carolina
	115	Home Sales, 1950-1952
	116	Additional Houses, 1952-1962
	117	Rushton Cotton Mills, Griffin, Georgia, 1959-1960
	118	Safie Manufacturing Co., Rockingham, North Carolina, 1950-1959
	119	Sayles Bleachery, Asheville, North Carolina, 1960-1963
13	120	Shelby Cotton Mills, Shelby, North Carolina, 1955
	121	Siluria Mills, Inc., Siluria, Alabama, 1961-1966
	122	Southern Bleachery & Print Works, Taylors, South Carolina, 1964-1966
	123	The Springs Cotton Mills, Lancaster, South Carolina, 1950-1954
		J.P. Stevens Co., Inc.
	124	General Papers, 1950-1958
		Greenville, South Carolina
	125	Plats, 1948-1980
	126	Stevens Center Corporate Complex Sale, 1986-1992
14	127	Greer, South Carolina-Truck Terminal Proposal, 1987
		Piedmont Plant
	128	Piedmont, South Carolina, 1982-1 985
	129	Plats, 1950-1980
	130	Slater Mill Village, 1982-1987
	131	Spalding Farm, 1964-1986
	132	Stevens Center Road Abandonment, Greenville, South Carolina, 1980-1991
	133	Various Locations, 1967, 1949-1968
	134	Victor, Greer & Apalache Plants, 1953-1958
		Textron-Southern, Inc.
	135	Anderson, South Carolina, 1949-1950
	136	Williamston, South Carolina, 1937-1949
		Thomaston Mills, Inc. -
	137	Griffin, Georgia, 1962-1 965
	138	Thomaston, Georgia, 1954-1968
	139	Trenton Cotton Mills, Huntersville, North Carolina, 1955-1959
		Union Bleachery, Greenville, South Carolina
	140	Home Sales, 1955-1960
15	141	Additional Lots, 1959-1960
		Union Buffalo Mills Co., Union, South Carolina
	142	Home Sales, 1949-1950

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
15	143	Vacant Lots-Union & Buffalo, 1950-1956
	144	Union Mills Co., Monroe, North Carolina, 1953-1955 United Merchants & Manufacturers, Inc.
	145	Bath and Clearwater, South Carolina, 1953-1954
	146	Buffalo, South Carolina, 1946-1956
	147	Langley, South Carolina, 1953-1954
	148	Union, South Carolina, 1950-1955
	149	United Rayon Mills, Elberton, Georgia, 1952
	150	Utica & Mohawk Cotton Mills, Seneca, South Carolina, 1954-1958
	151	Victor Mill Village, Greer, South Carolina, 1950-1960 Victor-Monaghan Co.
	152	Cedar Lane Road, 1950-1957
	153	Development No. 1, 1955-1965
	154	Village Survey, 1952-1953 -'
	155	Wallace Mfg. Co., Jonesville, South Carolina, 1950-1956
	156	Walton Cotton Mill Company, Monroe, Georgia, 1963-1965 Watts Mill, Laurens, South Carolina
16	157	Home Sales, 1948-1919
	158	Additional Houses, 1942-1954 Woodside Mills
	159	Easley, South Carolina, 1951-1 955
	160	Fountain Inn, South Carolina, 1952-1953
	161	Greenville, South Carolina, 1928-1953
	162	Liberty, South Carolina, 1951-1961
	163	Simpsonville, South Carolina, 1937-1961
	164	Various Locations, 1951- 1959
	165	Worth Spinning Co., Stony Point, North Carolina, 1952-1 957

Separation List – Oversize

<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Ledger Sheets
1	Abney Mills -- The Linen Thread Co.
2	Manetta Mills -- Worth Spinning Company

Separation List - Pictures

<u>Box</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	Photos and Negatives from Various Sites

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Box Folder Title

Separation List - Plat Maps

Located in Map Case drawers ("box" = "drawer").

The map number(s) follow the map title.

1	1	Abney Mills Anderson Plant (1-6) Belton (1) Brandon (1) Courtenay (1-3) Grendel (1-2) Panola (1-2) Renfrew (1-2) Toxaway (1)
	2	Alice Mfg. Co. Alice & Arial (1-11) Anniston (1-3) Apalache (1-5) Aragon (1) Aragon-Baldwin (1) Arcade (1-3)
	3	Joseph Bancroft & Sons Co. (1-6) William L. Barrel1 Co., Inc. Bellevue Mfg. Co., Hillsboro, North Carolina (1-4) Guntersville, Alabama (1-5) McColl, South Carolina (1-16) Selma, North Carolina (1-10)
	4	Bemis Company, Inc. (1-12) Bibb Manufacturing Co. Macon, Georgia (1-2) Porterdale (1) Borden Plant (1) Botany Cottons, Inc. (1) Brookford Mills (1)
	5	Burlington Industries, Inc. Asheville, North Carolina (1) Batesburg & Lexington Mills (1-4) Cherokee Falls (1-5) Henrietta & Caroleen Mills (1-17) Ivey Weavers (1) Vacant Land (1-16) Valley Falls Mill (1-5)
	6	Calhoun Mills (1-6) California Cotton Mills (1-2) Camperdown Company, Inc. (1-12)

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
	7	Cannon Mills Amazon Cotton Mills (1-7) Social Circle Cotton Mills (1-3) Wiscasset Mills Co. (1-18)
2	8	Canton Cotton Mills (1-10) Carlton Yarn Mills, Inc. (1-2) Chicopee Mfg. Co. (1-2) Chiquola Mfg. Co. (1) Clinton Cotton Mills (1-2) Clyde Fabrics, Inc. (1) Cone Mills Corporation (1) Crompton-Highland Mills, Inc. Griffin, Georgia (1-3) Hendersonville, North Carolina (1)
	9	Dan River Mills (1-3) Dover Mill Company (1-2) Dundee Mills, Inc. Griffin, Georgia (1-4) Experiment, Georgia, Group II (1-7) Griffin, Georgia, Group III (1) Dunearn Mills (1-6) Eastman Cotton Mills (1-3)
	10	Erwin Mills, Inc. Cooleemee, North Carolina (1-3) Erwin, North Carolina (1-4) Plat-Property in Harnett County (1-12) Exposition Cotton Mills (1-2)
	11	Falls Manufacturing Co., Inc. (1-2) Fitzgerald Mills Corporation (1) Fulton Bag & Cotton Mills (1-10) Glenwood Mills (1) Graniteville Company Home Sales (1-2) Home Sales 1968 (1-18)
	12	Green River Mills, Inc. (1-2) Greenwood Mills Greenwood Plant (1-2) Harris Plant (1) Mathews Plant (1-4) Greer Mill Village (1) Hannah Pickett Mills (1-6) Hartwell Mills, Inc. (1-4) Haslin Mills, Inc. (1-2) Highland Park Mfg. Co. Charlotte, North Carolina (1)

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
2	12	Rock Hill, South Carolina (1-2)
		Indian Head Mills
		Fingerville, South Carolina (1-4)
3	13	Additional Houses (1-3)
		Industrial Cotton Mills (1)
		Jefferson Mills, Inc. (1-3)
		Joanna Cotton Mills Co. (1-3)
		Johnston Mfg. Co. (1-3)
		Liberty Mill (1-2)
		Linen Thread Co., Inc. (1-6)
		Manetta Mills (1-2)
		Mayfair Mills (1-2)
		McCall Manufacturing Co. (1-3)
	14	Monroe Cotton Mills (1-3)
		Norris Cotton Mills (1-3)
		North Georgia Mill Company (1-3)
		Pacific Mills
		Lyman, South Carolina (1-2)
	15	Rhodhiss, North Carolina (1-17)
		Pendleton Mfg. Co. (1)
		Pickens Mill (1-3)
		Piedmont Mfg. Co.
		Piedmont, South Carolina (1-3)
		Vacant Property (1-3)
		Plymouth Mfg. Co., Inc. (1)
		F.W. Poe Mfg. Co. (1-9)
		Rhyne-Houser Mfg. Co. (1-3)
		Riegel Textile Corp.
		Fork Shoals, South Carolina (1-2)
		Trion, Georgia (1)
		Ware Shoals, South Carolina
4	19	Home Sales (1)
		Additional Houses (1-2)
		Rushton Cotton Mills (1)
		Safie Manufacturing Co. (1)
		Sayles Bleachery (1-7)
		Shelby Cotton Mills (1-2)
		Siluria Mills, Inc. (1-7)
		Southern Bleachery & Print Works (1-4)
		Springs Cotton Mills (1)
		J.P. Stevens & Co., Inc.
	17	Greenville, South Carolina (1-18)
		Piedmont Plant (1)
		Piedmont Plant Plats (1-27)
	18	Slater Mill Village (1-5)
		Spalding Farm (1-12)

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
4	19	Stevens Center Corporate Complex Sale (1-3) Stevens Center Road Abandonment (1) Various Locations, 1967 (1-7) Victor, Greer & Apalache Plants (1-3)
	20	Textron-Southern Inc. (1) Thomaston Mills, Inc. Griffin, Georgia (1-4) Thomaston, Georgia (1-4) Trenton Cotton Mills (1-3) Union Bleachery (1-3) Union Buffalo Mills Company Home Sales (1-2) Vacant Lots-Union & Buffalo (1-3) Union Mills Co. (1-6)
	21	United Merchants & Manufacturers, Inc. Bath and Clearwater, South Carolina (1-2) Buffalo, South Carolina (1-3) Langley (1-18) Union (1-2)
	22	United Rayon Mills (1-3) Utica & Mohawk Cotton Mills (1-2) Victor Mill Village (1-5) Victor Monaghan Co. (1) Wallace Mfg. Co. (1-2) Walton Cotton Mill Co. (1-2) Watts Mill (1-3) Woodside Mills Fountain Inn, South Carolina (1-2) Greenville, South Carolina (1-2) Liberty, South Carolina (1-3) Simpsonville, South Carolina (1-3) Various Locations (1-4) Worth Spinning Co. (1-3)