

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## P.H. Hanes Knitting Company – Mill Building

**Local Historic Landmark #122**

**675 N. Main St., Winston-Salem**

**Construction Date: 1920**

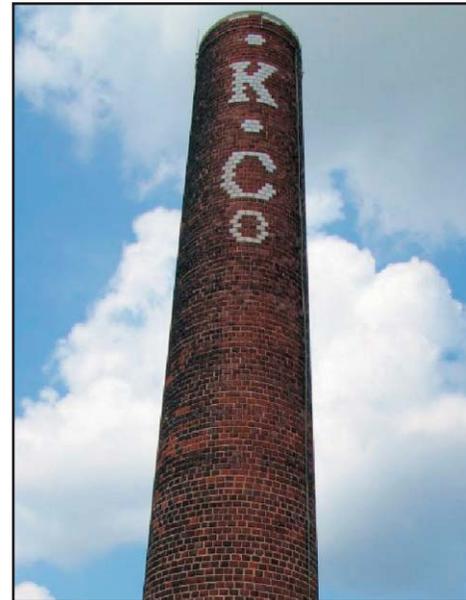
**Landmark Designation Date: 05/07/07**

In 1872, Pleasant Henderson Hanes and his brother, John Wesley Hanes, came to what was then the town of Winston from Davie County, North Carolina. Together, the brothers first established a tobacco manufacturing enterprise. However, they sold the business in 1900 to the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; the brothers then separately went into the textile business. John Wesley Hanes went into the manufacturing of stockings in 1901 (City of Winston-Salem Historic Marker #20, Shamrock Mills), while his brother opened an underwear manufacturing business in 1902 under the name P.H. Hanes Knitting Company.

Three buildings from the company's downtown Winston-Salem complex remain and are an important piece of the city's industrial heritage. They are among the few industrial buildings left in the downtown area from Winston-Salem's period of intense industrial growth. While there were hundreds of industrial buildings in the eastern blocks of downtown during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, now only a handful remain. The tobacco industry made up the largest part of the city's industrial production, but textiles were an important factor in the economy, as well.

The earliest of the three buildings comprising the complex is the Knitting Building (Local Historic Landmark #121), which was constructed in 1920. The last building remaining in the complex is the Warehouse & Shipping Building (Local Historic Landmark #119), constructed in 1940. Between the construction of the Knitting and Warehouse & Shipping Buildings, the Mill Building was erected in 1928. These structures were built during a period of textile expansion in North Carolina that culminated in the explosive postwar growth of the company, when Hanes became a nationally-recognized brand.

The Mill Building is located southeast of the Knitting Building and is a five-story-plus-basement structure. This building features concrete, brick, and steel construction with pilastered bays and a corbelled cornice. The building



is trapezoidal in shape and follows the angle of the rail line on the east side. Attached to the north elevation of the building is a three-story power plant constructed with concrete floors and concrete ceilings supported on steel beams, with original smokestack. The smokestack has been truncated and the white accent brick reads only ". K . Co.," although it originally read "P . H . H . K . Co." The Mill Building features many original metal, sixteen-light windows set in tripartite and paired configurations. Cast concrete lintels and sills accent the windows.

In 2008, Main Street Lofts, LLC, acquired the building.

Today the Mill Building is undergoing a sensitive adaptive reuse rehabilitation that will ultimately house upscale apartment units.



*Aerial view showing the 600 block of Main Street, the P.H. Hanes Knitting Company (at center) and the surrounding area, Date Unknown*  
(Mill Building with smokestack shown roughly in center of photograph)  
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection via Digital Forsyth (<http://www.digitalforsyth.org>)

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

**P.H. Hanes Knitting Company  
National Register Nomination**  
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY3152.pdf>

<http://www.textilehistory.org/PHHanesCompany.html>

[http://www.hanesbrands.com/HBI/flash/hbi%  
20timeline%208.25.06.swf](http://www.hanesbrands.com/HBI/flash/hbi%20timeline%208.25.06.swf)

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/vintage  
halloweencollector/2811758093/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/vintagehalloweencollector/2811758093/)



This information is also available  
at the Forsyth County  
Historic Resources Commission's web site:  
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>