

POINTS OF INTEREST

These are key points of historical interest within the Historic Glencoe Mill Village designated on the National Register of Historic Places in February 1979.

(Begin Tour clockwise from the museum)

Glencoe Textile Mill established in 1880, was among 10 riverfront mills, along the Haw River, which were all powered by water. The standard layout of the mill and community was the mill complex, a mill race with dam, a neighborhood of homes for employees and their families, administrative offices, a company store, churches, and a school. High Falls Mill, the first built in 1834, was followed by Alamance, Saxapahaw, Haw River (Granite), Carolina, Swepsonville, Ossipee Belmont, Altamahaw and then Glencoe, all of which helped establish the initial industrial infrastructure of Alamance County during the 19th century.

Glencoe Mill operated from 1882-1954, when it could no longer keep up with the more modern and larger textile mills, which had grown up along the North Carolina Railroad line that ran through the heart of the county. Burlington Industries, Glen Raven, Cone Mills, Holt Hosiery, and other larger textile corporations overtook the industry, but the early textile mills along the Haw River were the foundation of what would become one of the greatest industries in the history of the United States.

Stroll the streets of Historic Glencoe experiencing the sights of these well-preserved homes and the rushing waters of the Haw River, while learning the stories of the people who built this once magnificent textile mill that produced the unique woolen plaid materials, which were shipped all over the country and around the world.

1. Textile Heritage Museum

(Company Store & Administrative Offices)
Glencoe was established by James and William Holt in 1880. These brothers came from a family steeped in the beginnings of the cotton and textile industry in Alamance County and North Carolina. This brick structure served as the office of James and future mill presidents as well as the administrative staff for the mill operations. Adjacent was the Glencoe Mill Store, which supplied the residents of Glencoe with virtually everything they needed to include clothing, household supplies, canned and fresh foods. Most mill employees kept a running credit tab at the company store, which they paid some on when they received their weekly pay. Employee pay was distributed at the store on Thursdays by longstanding store clerk, James Waddell. Today, this structure serves as the Textile Heritage Museum, which opened in 2004.

2. Management House

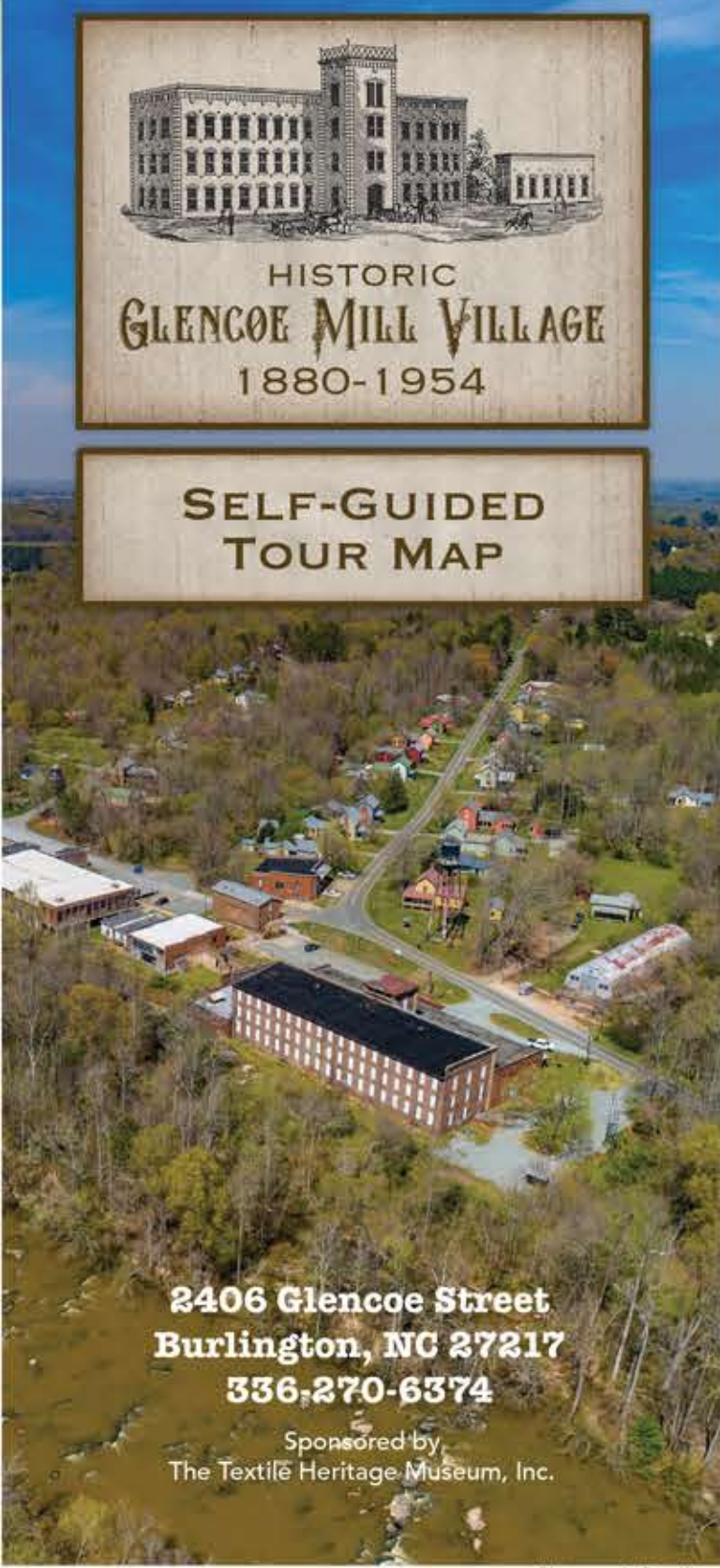
(Textile Heritage Museum Property-Scheduled Tours Provided)
This two-story house built in 1880, was the first house constructed in the Glencoe Village on a planned map. Known as House #1 or a management house, it stands strategically on this site overlooking the mill, so the supervisor could keep up with the daily operations and conduct of the employees. This home and others were rented for about 50 cents a week to employees, when many workers typically earned between 40 cents to \$2, depending on age and gender. All of the houses were owned by the mill company. Some land was provided with each house, which allowed tenants to garden and raise livestock.

These rental properties gave the mill company additional revenue, but provided more convenient housing for their employees rather than having them travel to and from the countryside as many had lived prior to the American Civil War.

From 1917-1944 Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus and Minnie Tyson with their children lived in the house. Cyrus worked in management in the offices across the street in the office and store building. Minnie worked in the packing department. The Tysons are buried in the Hawfields Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Mebane. Daniel and Mabel Strutton with their family resided in the home from about 1947-48 also working at the Glencoe Mill from about 1946-1950. They are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in (Spray) Eden, North Carolina where their family roots are.

3. Waddell House (Private Property)

Known as the home to James Brock (1867-1946) and Lue Ada (Councilman) (1876-1952) Waddell, Mr. Waddell was born just three years after the American Civil War and grew up in the newly developing textile industry era. He moved to Glencoe in his adulthood managing the Glencoe Mill Store from 1916-1940. In addition to his responsibilities of maintaining the store, he distributed the mill payroll each Thursday. James and Lue Ada raised their children in this home celebrating holidays, living through World War I and



Photograph: Ron King

enduring the Great Depression. Mr. & Mrs. Waddell are buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Burlington, North Carolina.

4. Water Tower #1

This steel water tower built by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works in 1905 was erected to replace the initial 10,000-gallon tank built on top of the mill. This is one of two water towers, which stands in the mill village today. The towers provide water supply for the Glencoe village as well as providing a fire prevention system.

5. Shuttle Sculpture entitled "Weaver's Tools"

This unique metal sculpture themed "The Weaver's Tools" was designed and created by artist Steve Cote in 2011. Plaque Description: The Weaver's Tools depicts a boat shuttle supported by two bobbins. Weavers tossed the boat shuttles between their hands using their index finger in a process that ferried the bobbins, spools which thread is wound across the width of the loom's warp threads to produce the woven fabric. The sculpture celebrates Glencoe Mill's history as a North Carolina textile mill, where mill workers would work the looms to make Glencoe Flannel Plaids.

This piece of artwork is the only known textile theme of its' kind anywhere in the southern United States. There is a shuttle sculpture in Nelson, England that was created by Dave Palmer, also in 2011.

6. Main Mill Factory (Private Property)

Glencoe Cotton Mills was originally named after James H. and William Holt, the bothers who purchased the land with their father E.M. Holt. The mill was later renamed Glencoe Cotton Mills being built from 1880-1882, opening and selling its first plaid fabrics in April 1882. The mill initially housed 186 looms purchased from Thomas Wood & Son of Philadelphia for \$6,909.20, and 2,120 spindles. In 1890, Glencoe Mills employed 133 men, women, and children. At its peak, the mill had more than 200 employees. The mill manufactured high quality plaid flannels in thousands of different designs, which were sought by companies all across the United States. Mill work had the tendency of being a dangerous work environment as noted in the local newspaper:

"John Perry, son of Ben Perry, about 13 years old, was drowned at Glencoe factory last Saturday (July 12, 1883). The mill is stopped at noon for dinner, but on this occasion the wheel could not be stopped; so, the

head-gates had to be let down and the water shut off from the water-house. When the water had run out of the water-house the boy was found caught in the wheel, having one leg and one arm cut off. He was missed about 9 o'clock, but no serious alarm was felt about him. The water-house is kept locked and besides the door there is only a small opening large enough for one to go through. A coroner's inquest was held which said that the boy came to his death by accidental drowning."

7. Machine Shop

(Open to the Public During Park Office Hours)
Here, all of the machinery, looms, and other equipment to operate the mill were brought inside for assembly and repair. It's fascinating to walk through this brick structure and see the personalized graffiti on the walls from workers and others who passed through these walls more than 140 years ago. Today, the building is used as the Alamance Parks Northern Division Office, a Visitor Information Lobby, and private artist studios located upstairs.

8. Glencoe Mill Complex

(Private and Public Businesses)
When E.M. Holt and his sons were looking to expand their textile empire they found an ideal location on the north end of the Haw River paying \$8,000 for nearly 40 acres. The mill complex which included the mill, hydroelectric facility, Picker House, Napper House, and Dye House began construction in 1880 using brick, lumber, and steel being provided locally from Hanford Brick and other construction businesses. Between 1902-1910 the mill dyed between 6,000 and 10,000 pounds of cotton a week.

Following World War II in 1945 and the invention of synthetic fabrics, there was a need to expand to remain competitive with the newer more advanced textile mills building along the rail lines in Burlington, Graham, and other cities. Glencoe Mills closed its doors permanently in 1954. Today, the mill complex is occupied by several local businesses and other parts under development.

9. Children's Park

(Sponsored by the Alamance Partnership for Children)
This elaborate exploratory park was designed for children to discover and enjoy the natural surroundings of Glencoe with interactive teaching displays throughout the park. Local businesses have provided sponsorship for the various playground exhibits.

10. Mill Dam

The first dam at Glencoe was built in the 1860's at the site of the Vincent Grist Mill. It was constructed of stone block and wood. When the Holts purchased the overall properties for their new cotton mill they enhanced the dam to include a mill race by 1909. The third mill dam was constructed with more rock and concrete by the 1950's. This is the dam which appears today. Visitors can enjoy the view of the flowing Haw River as well as the recreation of hiking the adjacent trails and waterfront fishing and boating. (Please be careful of slippery and loose rocks along the waterfront and around the mill dam area.)

11. Haw River Trails Through Glencoe

(Open to the Public)
Established in 2006, this extensive riverfront hiking trail system is part of the Mountains to the Sea Trail, which includes hiking trails with wooden bridges, park benches, and paddle accesses through the Glencoe Mill Village and continuing more than 20 miles across Alamance County. See Alamance Parks staff for more detailed map brochures.

12. Site of Marshall House and School House

Within this woodland once stood the home of Emanuel and Mary Elizabeth Marshall and their family. Emanuel was one of the longest standing superintendents of the Glencoe Mill, some 40 years. Next door to their house was a wooden three-room schoolhouse, which began the formal education for the children of Glencoe. Built in 1880 in conjunction with the mill complex operations, James Holt was a leader in North Carolina requiring children to attend school several months out of the year at least to the sixth grade. Then they could be eligible for employment in the mill. This school taught first through eighth grade until 1936. A later schoolhouse was built of brick just outside the village known as Glencoe Elementary School and operated until 1963. From 1963 to 1979, the school became an Alamance County School office. The school was torn down in 2016 to make way for development.

13. Junior Order of United American Mechanics Lodge (Private Property)

This wooden structure on the hilltop was built for the Glencoe Mill workers to hold meetings and discuss labor issues including the improvement of the work environment in the mill. Known as the Junior Order of United American Mechanics this was a national fraternal organization created in 1885 to support primarily American protestant male workers.

By the 1920's it had grown to more than 250,000 members across the country. Their philanthropy was building orphanages. Between 1925-1932 they constructed the Junior Order United American Mechanics National Orphans Home in Lexington, NC. By 1979, the national organization had declined dramatically to some 35,000 members. This lodge is currently being restored, but there are unique artifacts on exhibit at the museum, which share more of the story of this early American labor organization.

14. Barber Shop (Private Property)

Many mills sponsored additional services to the community to include a barber shop. About once a week the barber would come to the Glencoe village and open up the shop to cut hair of the men and boys. The barber later moved into the village and worked at the shop full time.

On Sundays, there would be times when the downstairs of the Methodist Church flooded where the children typically held their Sunday School, so the children walked across the street to the Barber Shop to hold their Bible class. The barber shop in Glencoe is located just up the street from the company store and across the street. It is currently a private home at just 345 square feet.

Munchkinland Story

Legendary mysterious stories have circulated throughout Alamance County and beyond since the beginnings of the county and long after Glencoe was a thriving textile mill community. Glencoe became known as a shadowy village of "munchkins" who would come out and scare curious travelers seeking these "little people" who roamed the village. As carousing teenagers and thrill seekers drove through Glencoe during the 1960's and 70's, they would encounter these "munchkins" and rather than run in fear, they would harass them with rock throwing and shouting obscenities. As time has progressed, the story has come to light that these "munchkins" were actually children with growth deficiencies (later known as Brittle Bone Disease). However, at that time in history, malicious teenagers passing through the village unknowing of their position, deemed the Massey children as "munchkins" spreading the supernatural stories of almost Wizard of Oz type characters living in Glencoe.

Garland "Pete", Donald, and Thelma Massey were three of five children, who had special needs, of which Donald and Thelma were homebound through their childhood. Pete put Donald and Thelma on the front porch daily so they could enjoy the fresh air and outdoor scenery, while their other brothers and he attended school, and their parents worked. The two children soon became subject to much unwarranted harassment with teenagers driving through the Glencoe neighborhood. Eventually Pete helped his brother and sister defend themselves with rocks and other objects to throw back at mischievous passersby. Although confined to staying at home, these children were quite talented developing their skills in playing musical instruments and Thelma becoming a wonderful seamstress. The Massey family attended their local church and maintained good neighbor relations within Glencoe. As the children grew into adulthood, locals befriended the Massey children until their deaths.

Guidelines & Rules to Follow:

• The Textile Heritage Museum offers parking, and additional parking is available where signage designates.

• The homes are private residence with the exception of the Superintendent/Management House. Please respect the privacy of the residents by not walking through their yards or knocking on their doors.

• Photography is permitted in most areas unless otherwise designated.

• Please do not litter in this historic community. There are trash receptacles located within the Alamance Parks properties and at the Textile Heritage Museum.

• All pets must be on a leash if you plan to walk the neighborhood. Please be respectful of other pet walkers you may encounter.

• While driving through the historic village please be mindful of the speed limit and parents and children playing and walking about the neighborhood.

Enjoy your visit in Historic Glencoe!

