

**Coats & Clark Thread Mill
1931 - 1983**

In 1931 Clark Thread Company opened a spinning mill here, giving the local economy a boost during the Depression with the creation of approximately 650 new jobs. Baled cotton was spun into unfinished thread that was then shipped to a finishing mill in Toccoa to be bleached, dyed and spooled. Except during WWII when the company had government contracts, the only product made here was industrial thread sold to clothing manufacturers. The company merged with J&P Coats Limited in 1952 to form Coats & Clark Inc. In the early 1980s the strength of the dollar against the Japanese yen made the purchase of imported thread less costly than producing it locally, leading to the closure of the mill in 1983.

Cobb County - 2009

Barbara Flack
July 12, 2008

Sources – Coats & Clark Thread Mill

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Coats & Clark Thread Mill
1931 - 1983

In 1931 Clark Thread Company opened a spinning mill here¹, giving the local economy a boost during the Depression² with the creation of approximately 650 new jobs.³ Baled cotton was spun into unfinished thread⁴ that was then shipped to a finishing mill in Toccoa⁵ to be bleached, dyed and spooled.⁶ Except during WWII when the company had government contracts⁷, the only product made here was industrial thread⁸ sold to clothing manufacturers.⁹ The company merged with J&P Coats Limited in 1952 to form Coats & Clark Inc.¹⁰ In the early 1980s the strength of the dollar against the Japanese yen made the purchase of imported thread less costly than producing it locally,¹¹ leading to the closure of the mill¹² in 1983.¹³

¹ Cawley, 5, 43, National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(g), Roth, 120, Scott, 46, Temple, 495-6. CCT 1/8/31, page 1 and 2/5/31 (respectively) refer to the upcoming and successfully completed negotiations to build the plant.

² Cawley, 13, CCT 1/29/31, National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8). (l), Roth, 120, Scott, 46-7.

³ CCT, 1/8/31, page 5, 1/22/31, Scott, 46, Temple, 495-6. Note: CCT figures were estimates of the number of jobs that would be created if negotiations to build a plant here were successful. Scott reported the number of employees as being over 700; Temple reported it as 650. (The numbers reflected here refer only to the approximate number of people employed during the first few years and not to numbers of employees working during later periods of the mill's history.)

⁴ Cawley, 15.

⁵ Cawley, 15, 16.

⁶ Cawley, 15.

⁷ Cawley, 30.

⁸ Cawley, 30, Roth, 120, Temple, 495-6.

⁹ Cawley, 30.

¹⁰ Cawley, 14, Coats & Clark website.

¹¹ Cawley, 29.

¹² Cawley, 28-9.

¹³ Cawley, 28-9, Roth, 120.

