

**Clarkdale Historic District  
c. 1931**

**Clarkdale is significant as an intact industrial village, locally called a mill village. Built according to a master plan for the employees of Clark Thread Company, it evolved into a self-contained community with commercial, social and recreational facilities onsite or nearby. The homes featured modern conveniences like electricity and indoor plumbing. Automobile garages were added in 1935. While the company owned and maintained the houses, local businesses were privately owned and they thrived under the patronage of Clarkdale residents. After layoffs at the mill in the late 1950s-early 60s businesses started to close, eventually leaving only the post office and two churches. The company sold the houses in 1966 giving current residents the first option to buy them, and most took advantage of the opportunity.**

Cobb County - 2009

Barbara Flack  
December 4, 2008

Sources – Clarkdale Historic District

- Burch, David. "Austell, Out of the Shadow." *Marietta Daily Journal*, October 1, 2001. (Copy on file in the Clarkdale vertical file in the Georgia Room, Cobb County Central Library).
- Davis, John Morgan, and Ruth Johnson Davis. Interviewed by Mary Boswell Cawley, September 9, 1987. Cobb County Oral History Series No.18. (Transcript on file in the Georgia Room, Cobb County Central Library).
- McQueen, Tucker. "Back on the Map." *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, January 11, 2007. (Copy on file in the Clarkdale vertical file in the Georgia Room, Cobb County Central Library).
- National Register of Historic Places Registration Form and Statement of Significance for Clarkdale Historic District and Coats and Clark Thread Mill dated November 7, 1987. (Copy on file at the Cobb County Planning Division office.)
- Roth, Darlene R., Ph.D. *Architecture, Archaeology and Landscapes: Resources for Historic Preservation in Unincorporated Cobb County, Georgia*. Cobb County, GA: Cobb County Historic Preservation Commission, 1988.
- Strawn, Keith. "Winds of Change." *Marietta Daily Journal*, October 18, 1993. (Copy on file in the Clarkdale vertical file in the Georgia Room, Cobb County Central Library).
- Williamson, Darcie. "A Time Gone By, Clarkdale Was a Slice of Americana." *Marietta Daily Journal*, January 6, 1993. (Copy on file in the Clarkdale vertical file in the Georgia Room, Cobb County Central Library).

Clarkdale Historic District  
c. 1931<sup>1</sup>

Clarkdale is significant as an intact industrial village.<sup>2</sup> Built “according to a master plan”<sup>3</sup> for the employees of Clark Thread Company<sup>4</sup>, it evolved into a “self-contained”<sup>5</sup> community with commercial<sup>6</sup>, social<sup>7</sup> and recreational<sup>8</sup> facilities onsite or nearby.<sup>9</sup> The homes featured modern conveniences like electricity and indoor plumbing.<sup>10</sup> Automobile garages were added in 1935.<sup>11</sup> While the company owned and maintained the houses<sup>12</sup>, local businesses were privately owned and they thrived under the patronage of Clarkdale residents.<sup>13</sup> After layoffs at the mill in the late 1950s-early 60s<sup>14</sup> businesses started to close<sup>15</sup>, eventually leaving only the post office and two churches.<sup>16</sup> The company sold the houses in 1966<sup>17</sup> giving current residents the first option to buy them<sup>18</sup>, and most took advantage of the opportunity.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Burch, Davis, 7, National Register 11.B.1.c.(8).(d) and (g), Roth, 39, 119, Williamson. (Burch stated the date as 1931, Davis and National Register stated the houses were built in 1931-2, Roth stated they were developed in 1931 and built in 1932, and Williamson stated they were built in the 1930s.)

<sup>2</sup> National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(g), Roth 39, 119.

<sup>3</sup> National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(d), (g) and (h).

<sup>4</sup> Burch, McQueen, Williamson.

<sup>5</sup> Davis, 9.

<sup>6</sup> Strawn, Williamson.

<sup>7</sup> McQueen, National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(h), Strawn.

<sup>8</sup> McQueen, National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(h), Roth, 119.

<sup>9</sup> Davis, 9-10, 43, 44, Roth 119, 120. (All three types of amenities are described here).

<sup>10</sup> Davis, 10 (electricity), National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(h) and (j) (both).

<sup>11</sup> National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(e).

<sup>12</sup> Davis, 10, National Register, 11.B.1.c.(8).(h), Williamson.

<sup>13</sup> Davis, 10, Strawn used the words “thriving” and “vibrant” to describe the community as a whole in its heyday.

<sup>14</sup> Davis, 22 (noted that more modern, high speed and automated equipment installed after WWII required less labor), 31 (prior to mill’s closure the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift had been eliminated in an attempt to turn the business around, although it is not stated when this occurred), Strawn (does not mention layoffs specifically, but refers to the “demise of the mill” at this time), Williamson.

<sup>15</sup> Williamson.

<sup>16</sup> Strawn.

<sup>17</sup> Davis, 12, 23, 32, 44, Roth, 120. (In Davis, page 44 the year is specified as 1966, while the others citations refer to the sale as taking place in the 60s or the mid 60s).

<sup>18</sup> Davis, 32.

<sup>19</sup> Davis, 32.

