

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 36

Spring 2007

Number 2

AMERICAN TEXTILE HISTORY MUSEUM MOVES MACHINES SOUTH

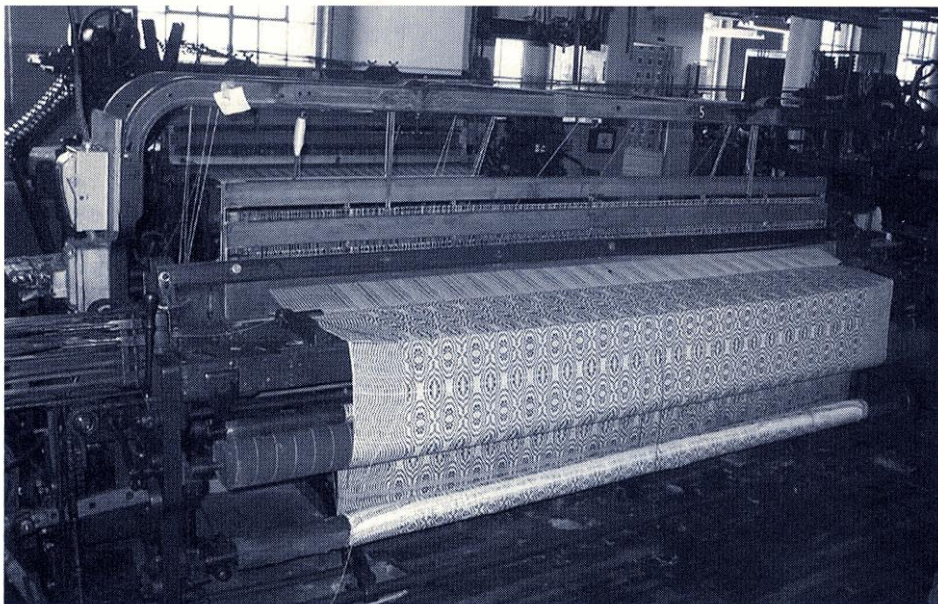
In a striking parallel to the pullout of New England's textile industry over a century ago, the American Textile History Museum (Lowell, MA) is moving its industrial machinery collection—arguably the largest and most significant in the U.S.—to Franklinville, NC. In a related development, ATHM has named Southern textile historian Lowell McKay (Mac) Whatley to the new position of Adjunct Curator of Machinery.

According to ATHM's President and CEO, James Coleman, Whatley joins the museum in connection with the long-term goal of establishing a satellite museum in North Carolina where there is a strong history of textile production. This is seen as part of a strategy of becoming more of a "national" museum with greater public access to

the museum's collections. Richard M. Candee [SIA], Advisor and Chairman of the ATHM Collections Committee, said, "This move greatly increases the survival and interpretation of the museum's world-class collection of large industrial machinery. We welcome Mac Whatley as a skilled and knowledgeable colleague and look forward to a much expanded use and interpretation of these collections." The museum is actively seeking out potential partnerships in North Carolina and around the South.

ATHM will be moving the machines over the coming months. Franklinville has a rich textile history. The first mill on the Deep River was established in 1836, making it one of the earliest textile mill towns in North Carolina's Piedmont. The 1836 mill does not survive, but a portion of a subsequent mill dating to the 1840s does. There are no

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ATHM photos

Crompton & Knowles Loom, Model W-3, made in Worcester, MA, ca. 1890. The loom is among the many textile machines that ATHM is moving from Lowell, MA to Franklinville, NC.

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