

Statewide Survey of Historic Properties
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223-4905 (803) 896-6100

U / 7820
Status Site No.
Quadrangle Name: Charleston
Tax Map No.: 5020000034

Revisit: ☐

Survey Form

Identification

Historic Name: West Virginia Pulp and Paper Plant

Common Name: West Rock

Address/Location: 5600 Virginia Avenue

City: Mount Pleasant

Vicinity of ☐

County: Charleston

Ownership: Private

Category: District

Historical Use: Commercial

Historical Use (if Other):

Current Use: Commercial

Current Use (if Other):

SHPO National Register Determination of Eligibility:

Property Description

Construction Date: 1937

Construction: Steel

Historic Core Shape:

Exterior Walls:

Foundation:

Commercial Form:

Roof Shape:

Roof Materials:

Stories: other

Porch Width:

Porch Shape:

Construction (if Other)

Historic Core Shape (if Other):

Exterior Walls (if Other):

Foundation (if Other):

Commercial Form (if Other):

Roof Shape (if Other)

Roof Materials (if Other)

Stories (if Other):

Porch Width (if Other):

Porch Shape (if Other)

Description/Significant Features:

West Virginia Pulp and Paper Plant (Plant) in 1957. The image shows a series of The plant was historically (as of 1957 aerial) rail lines, roadways, storage tanks and seven (7) rows of buildings to the north east. The plant has expanded. There are new storage tanks, new manufacturing buildings, and large lots for container storage. Of the seven rows of buildings present in 1957, only smaller sections of three (3) remain. The roadways and rail lines remain largely intact.

Alterations (include date(s), if known)

Very little historic material remains, and there is a large amount of modern construction. The resource no longer retains integrity of design, material, or feeling.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Historical Information

Historical Information: West Virginia Pulp and Paper, Resource 7818, began operation in July 1937 on a five hundred-acre site along the Cooper River. Today it is north of I-526 and east of Virginia Avenue at 5600 Virginia Avenue in North Charleston. Historically, the plant manufactured bleached paperboard and conducted research and development in chemistry and engineering. West Virginia Pulp and Paper (which changed its name to Westvaco) added two additional paper-making machines in the mid-20th century. In 1996, in partnership with Scana Corp., they built and operated a power plant at the mill and planned a new research and development center. In 2008, Westvaco (which merged with Mead Corp to become MeadWestvaco) sold the paper mill and associated assets to KapStone Paper and Packaging. In 2018, the plant was again sold, this time to West Rock Co.

Source of Information: South Carolina Historical Society, Post and Courier

Digital Photo ID(s):

Digital Photo ID 01: 07820001
View 01 Facing East

Digital Photo ID 02:
View 02

Digital Photo ID 03:
View 03

Digital Photo ID 04:
View 04

Digital Photo ID 05:
View 05

Digital Photo ID 06:
View 06

Digital Photo ID 07:
View 07

Digital Photo ID 08:
View 08

Digital Photo ID 09:
View 09

Digital Photo ID 10:
View 10

Program Management

Recorded by: Rachel Bragg
Date Recorded: 08/2018

Organization: Rachel Bragg