

2753

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Linwood Cotton Millother names/site number Linwood Mill Historic District (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number Linwood Avenue, Maple Court, Pine Court

N/A not for publication

city, town Northbridge (Whitinsville Post Office)

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code 025county Worcestercode 027zip code 01588

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

## Contributing

## Noncontributing

151

buildings

2

sites

structures

171

Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Tachmaz  
Signature of certifying official10/24/88  
DateExecutive Director, Massachusetts Historical CommissionState or Federal agency and bureau State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

|                                                                                             |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6. Function or Use</b> <u>Linwood Mill Historic District, Northbridge, Massachusetts</u> |                                                        |
| Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)                                     | Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) |
| <u>Domestic/multiple dwelling</u>                                                           | <u>Domestic/multiple dwelling</u>                      |
| <u>Domestic/institutional housing</u>                                                       | <u>Domestic/hotel</u>                                  |
| <u>Industry/manufacturing facility</u>                                                      | <u>Work in progress</u>                                |
| <u>Domestic/secondary structure</u>                                                         | <u>Vacant/not in use</u>                               |
| (see continuation sheet)                                                                    | (see continuation sheet)                               |
| <b>7. Description</b>                                                                       |                                                        |
| Architectural Classification<br>(enter categories from instructions)                        | Materials (enter categories from instructions)         |
| <u>Mid 19th Century: Greek Revival</u>                                                      | foundation <u>stone</u>                                |
| <u>Late Victorian: Italianate</u>                                                           | walls <u>brick</u>                                     |
| <u>Late Victorian: Second Empire</u>                                                        | <u>weatherboard</u>                                    |
| <u>Other: Mid to Late 19th Century Industrial</u>                                           | roof <u>asphalt shingles, slate</u>                    |
|                                                                                             | other _____                                            |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Linwood Mill Historic District is a 37-acre area, now primarily residential and commercial in nature, located in the village of Linwood in the southernmost section of the town of Northbridge, fifteen miles southeast of Worcester. The district boundaries contain portions of Linwood Pond to the west and north and the tracks of the Providence & Worcester Railroad to the east. Bisected by Linwood Avenue, the original main axis through the mill village, the historic district consists of 18 elements, of which 17 contribute to its architectural and historic significance. One building is considered noncontributing due to its recent date of construction. All contributing elements are directly associated with the construction of the Linwood Cotton Mill in the third and fourth quarters of the 19th century, and include: the mill, a brick storehouse, an office, and associated water-related structures; workers housing to the north and east of the mill; the mill proprietor's residence to the northwest; and a railroad freight depot along the railroad tracks

#### Physical Development and Architectural Analysis

The Linwood Mill Historic District centers on a relatively flat plane adjacent to the manmade Linwood mill pond. The district area rises to a hill overlooking the pond to the northwest and a gradual incline created by ca. 1960s highway construction to the east. Before construction of the mill and associated structures, this area consisted of a small railroad depot and adjacent undeveloped land along the Mumford River. Completion of the mill complex served as a catalyst for the development of Linwood Village, the southeasternmost settlement in the town of Northbridge. The community of undetermined boundaries grew northeast along Main Street or Providence Road (now Route 122) and southeast of Linwood Street into the neighboring town of Uxbridge. Even during its peak period of development, however, Linwood Village was eclipsed by two older and larger manufacturing centers: Whitinsville; also Northbridge's civic focus, located one mile up Linwood Avenue to the northwest; and North Uxbridge, located one-half mile to the southeast in the town of Uxbridge. The Linwood Mill Historic District consists of those earliest industrial and residential buildings, which provided the area with a distinct identity in the third quarter of the 19th century. The following description of the district's elements is arranged according to building function.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 4 1988

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

Section number 6 Page 1

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6. Function or Use (cont'd)

Historic Functions (cont'd)

vacant/not in use  
transportation: rail related  
domestic: single dwelling  
industry: waterworks

Current Functions (cont'd)

commerce/trade: restaurant  
commerce/trade: warehouse  
industry: waterworks

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 4 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

## Industrial Building and Structures

The earliest mill-related construction in the historic district is evidenced by two structures, the dam on the Mumford River (Map #16) and the tail race (Map #17), both completed between the late 1850s and 1870. The dam, resulting mill pond, and tail race are important features in the district since they were integral to the operation of the mill. The main sluiceway leading from the mill is now partially blocked, and the tail race, though stagnant from lack of use, remains exposed. The original water gates located on the north side of Linwood Avenue are now closed; the head race, which once ran from the northernmost portion of the mill pond beneath Linwood Avenue and southwest into the mill complex, was infilled with poured concrete and concrete block in the late 20th century to create the present parking area between the mill and Linwood Avenue.

The original Linwood Cotton Mill at 666 Linwood Avenue (ca. 1866, Map #1), is a fine example of Italianate design and mid 19th-century mill construction. The 3 1/2-story brick mill has a granite basement and a slate mansard roof. Beneath the roof is a cornice with wood modillions and a frieze of a paneled brick design. The regular fenestration pattern consists primarily of oversized segmental-arched windows with wood double-hung sash of up to 24 lights each. Dormer windows are paired. Dominating the main (north) facade is a monumental 4 1/2-story central stairtower with four oculus dormer windows and an open octagonal cupola. The cupola and weather vane are reminiscent of those on Federal meetinghouses. A 1 1/2-story brick wing, the picker house, projects from the mill's east elevation and also dates to ca. 1866. Additions were made to the original building during an expansion period in the mid-1890s. A 2 1/2-story brick weave mill constructed along the mill pond provided more space for manufacturing activities. This wing has a skeletal appearance compared to the original mill due to its having windows with more attenuated proportions. Other ca. 1895 additions to the mill include construction of an engine house in the rear and expansion of the picker house.

A 1 1/2-story brick and cut stone storehouse (ca. 1870-1875, Map #3) is located south of the mill. The storehouse has a broad gable roof and dentillated brick cornice. A wood-frame shed-roof element that was attached to the north side of the building in the late 1890s has since been removed.

The last extant building in the mill complex originally served as an office for mill management (ca. 1866-1870, Map #2). The office is a 1 1/2-story brick Second Empire-style building. Keyhole windows lend a romantic Turkish aura to the first floor, and dormer windows are flanked by engaged columns in a bold Second Empire manner. The mansard roof of hexagonal slates is supported by paired Neo-Grec brackets. The building is in good condition and was last used as a gatehouse to the mill complex.

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 4 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 2

The railroad freight depot (ca. 1866-1870, Map #15) was constructed just west of the passenger depot (demolished) along the tracks of the Providence and Worcester (later New York, New Haven & Hartford) Railroad. Formerly very plain, the one-story brick depot has been altered with the addition of a third. Nevertheless, the building, now a restaurant, retains its rectangular massing and broad gable roof as originally designed. Members of the Northbridge Historical Commission believe that historic fabric remains intact and retrievable beneath the late 20th-century facade.

Residential Buildings

The size, design, and placement of residential buildings in the historic district illustrate the social hierarchy that reflected the mill's organizational structure.

The residence of James Fletcher Whitin, first proprietor of the Linwood Cotton Mill, stands apart from the mill complex and related worker housing on a hilly site on Linwood Avenue in the northwest portion of the district (ca. 1866-1870, Map #4). An exuberant 2 1/2-story wood-frame Second Empire mansion, the house in its scale and design reflects the prosperity of its first owner. Monumentality is achieved by the set-back of the building from Linwood Avenue, as well as the projection of the central pavilion on the main facade. A porch extending the width of the facade checks the verticality of the central pavilion. Similarities in the design and craftsmanship of the exteriors and interiors of this building and the aforementioned mill office suggest that the same craftsmen, and perhaps architect, worked on both buildings. The identities of the architect and craftsmen, however, are unknown. The Whitin residence also includes an Italianate carriage house (ca. 1866-1870, Map #6) and a less distinguished greenhouse (ca. 1875-1885, Map #5). The entire property is now maintained as the Victorian Inn.

Worker housing in the historic district is typical of mill housing found throughout central Massachusetts in the third quarter of the 19th century. Three building designs, all ornamented in the Greek Revival mode, are found at Linwood: a 3 1/2-story dormitory, a 1 1/2-story duplex, and a 2 1/2-story dormitory. All of these wood-frame buildings have rear ells, and some have front or rear porches (some screened) that were added at a later date. The largest dormitory (ca. 1866-1870, Map #7), now sheathed with asbestos shingles, occupies the southwestern corner of Linwood Avenue and Maple Court. Rakeboards, a full entablature with projecting cornice, regular fenestration, and pedimented door hoods over the two entrances give this building its architectural character.

Five mid-level management duplex houses on Maple Court (ca. 1866-1870; Map #s 8-12) adjacent to the mill complex are 1 1/2 stories and display the same

continued

NOV 4 1988

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 3

prominent entablature and rakeboards as the large dormitory at the end of the street. These five buildings each have end gables, double interior chimneys, and two frieze windows on the main facade above the paired center entrances. Frieze windows on three of these houses have been covered with siding. Original doorway surrounds (still evident on 19-21 and 27-29 Maple Court) consist of pilasters and prominent entablatures. Entrances of the five duplexes have undergone minor alterations, the most significant of which is the addition of a screened porch at 11-13 Maple Court. Two rear ells project from each of the three buildings on the east (odd-numbered) side of the street, resulting in those buildings' have U-shape footprints.

The two 2 1/2-story dormitories on Pine Court (ca. 1866-1870, Map #s 13 and 14) are identical in massing and detail. Only recently, synthetic exterior siding have covered frieze windows on the main elevations. Like the larger dormitory on Linwood Avenue, these dormitories each have end gables, two interior chimneys, and two front entrances. Unlike the Linwood Avenue dormitory, the entrances here are paired at the center of a six-bay rather than an eight-bay facade and shielded by a shed roof rather than a pedimented door hood. An 1870 atlas of Worcester County shows four of these dormitory houses to have existed on Pine Court originally. The 1870 tax valuation for Northbridge suggests that a fifth dormitory, which once occupied the southeast corner of the Linwood Avenue/Maple Court intersection and is now demolished, - was of a design similar to the Pine Court buildings, for the valuation of the Pine Court dormitories and the fifth dormitory was the same, at \$1,400 each.

Intrusion

The only noncontributing element in the historic district is a ca. 1970 carwash (Map A) on Linwood Avenue, northeast of the mill. The visual impact of this late 20th-century intrusion is mitigated by the imposing presence of the late 19th-century mill buildings across the street.

With the exception of one intrusion, the Linwood Mill Historic District maintains a high degree of physical and architectural integrity. The James Fletcher Whitin residence is in an excellent state of preservation, and is currently operated as an inn. Former worker housing, since converted to apartments, has sustained some minor alteration, mostly in the form of inappropriate siding and entrance ornamentation. The railroad freight depot has undergone more substantial alteration in its conversion to a restaurant. Rehabilitation of the vacant Linwood Mill complex, virtually intact since its major expansion in the mid-1890s, is pending.

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 4 1988

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

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Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. One known prehistoric site has been recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the district, river terraces along the Mumford River, a tributary of the Blackstone River, may have made this an attractive area for native settlement and subsistence activities. In general, however, the potential for prehistoric remains seems low as a result of river flooding and other historic development in the area.

There is significant historical archaeological potential within the district. Pre-1850 remains may exist of a railroad depot located in the area. Otherwise, most of the land near the Mumford River was undeveloped. Archaeological remains also likely exist associated with mill construction that began after 1850. Structural remains may exist for outbuildings and power facilities associated with extant mill structures. These structures include mill buildings, a storehouse, worker housing and transport facilities such as a carriage house and Railroad Freight Depot. Remains of the dam and tail race are also present which could provide information on their construction or changes through time. Occupation-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also be present in association with worker housing.

**8. Statement of Significance** Linwood Mill Historic District, Northbridge, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

IndustryArchitecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1857-1902

Significant Dates

ca. 1866-18701900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

James Fletcher Whitin

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Linwood Mill Historic District, Northbridge, is a physically and visually distinguishable entity, comprising the industrial and residential buildings of the original Linwood Mill complex constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century. The district buildings are architecturally significant as they reflect a distinct period in the town's physical development and its manufacturing history. The district attests to the contributions made by James Fletcher Whitin, Charles P. Whitin, and other members of the Whitin family to the growth of Northbridge's cotton manufacturing industry, a major force in the town's economy for over a century. The district is also important for its associations in the mid to late nineteenth century with regional and local transportation by rail. Possessing integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, the Linwood Mill Historic District meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

Historic Context

Located in the Blackstone Valley in the southeastern corner of Worcester County, the area which is now known as Linwood was a sparsely populated railroad depot village in the 1850s. Two roads crossed at this location. One road connected the village of Whitinsville to the northwest with the village of North Uxbridge (in the town of Uxbridge) to the southeast; this road is now Linwood Avenue but was known as Railroad Avenue in the 19th century. The other road, now State Route 122 and locally known as Providence Road, is an old road that linked the southernmost area of the town of Northbridge with Worcester 16 miles to the northwest and Woonsocket and Providence, Rhode Island (11 and 27 miles respectively), to the southeast.

NOV 4 1988

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 1

The Providence and Worcester Railroad, which opened in the Blackstone Valley corridor in 1847,<sup>1</sup> passed through this crossroads. A passenger depot at the crossing was one of three stations constructed in Northbridge by the railroad; the other two stations were Plummers Station at Plummer Corner and Northbridge Station at Riverdale, both further north on the line. Shortly after its construction, the depot became known as Whitin's Station, so-named for the Whitin family who purchased land in the vicinity of the depot in 1849. This area of Northbridge, then, was associated with the Whitin family at least fifteen years before it acquired an identity as Linwood with the completion of the Linwood Mill, constructed by members of the Whitin family in 1866.

The long-term association between the Whitin (formerly Whiting) family and industry in the town of Northbridge began with Paul Whitin, Sr., in 1809. At that time, Whitin became principle stockholder in The Northbridge Cotton Manufacturing Company, the first cotton mill established in Northbridge and the third in the Blackstone Valley north of Pawtucket.<sup>2</sup> Whitin left Northbridge Cotton ca. 1815 and formed a cotton-spinning partnership with his father-in-law James Fletcher. For about ten years, Whitin & Fletcher produced yarns from a 300-spindle mill (ca. 1815) constructed on the site of an old forge in the village of South Northbridge (now Whitinsville).<sup>3</sup>

Paul Whitin, Sr. brought out the one-half interest of his partner Fletcher ca. 1826 and established P. Whitin & Sons with two of his sons, Paul Jr. and John C., for the manufacture of cotton yards and cloth. The gradual infiltration of the Whitin family presence into every aspect of Northbridge's cotton manufacturing industry by the end of the century began with the formation of this firm. Soon after its establishment, P. Whitin & Sons erected a 1500-spindle brick mill (ca. 1828) at the same location as the Whitin & Fletcher mill in the South Northbridge (Whitinsville).

After Paul Sr.'s death in 1831, the family firm was reorganized and continued under the direction of his wife, Betsy Fletcher Whitin. At that time, another son, Charles P. Whitin, became a partner. So pervasive was the Whitin family influence in the village of South Northbridge by the mid-1830s that the village was renamed Whitinsville in memory of Paul Whitin, Sr. P. Whitin & Sons further enlarged the family cotton works at Whitinsville by building a stone mill of 7,500 spindles in 1845. Upon transfer of cotton manufacturing machinery from the older brick mill to the new stone mill, the brick mill was used to house John C. Whitin's activities relating to the construction of cotton machinery. Before that, John C. Whitin had repaired cotton machinery in an ell off the back of the same building.<sup>4</sup> Under his direction, this repair shop evolved into a highly successful cotton machine manufacturing business also owned by P. Whitin & Sons, and would later become an independent business known as the Whitin Machine Works.

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 4 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 2

P. Whitin & Sons expanded its land and mill holdings throughout Northbridge and the surrounding area in the 1840s and 1850s by acquiring properties principally through bankruptcy sales. The firm bought up the stock of the floundering Uxbridge Cotton Mills in nearby North Uxbridge in 1849, as well as property in the Northbridge villages of Riverdale and Rockdale in 1856. At Rockdale, the firm built for the manufacture of cotton goods a mill of 10,000 spindles, the largest single mill built by the Whitins to date. Finally, ca. 1857, the firm purchased a stone cotton mill of 8,000-spindle capacity in East Douglas.<sup>5</sup> During this period of expansion in the family business, James Fletcher Whitin, the youngest son of Paul Whitin Sr., was admitted to the firm (1847);<sup>6</sup> he was later to become the first proprietor of the Linwood Mill.

Two properties purchased by the Whitins were formerly associated with Robert Rogerson, a Boston merchant who constructed the Crown Mill (ca. 1825-1827), Eagle Mill (ca. 1830-1832), and surrounding worker housing (a/k/a Rogerson's Village) in the village of North Uxbridge [town of Uxbridge] one mile south of Linwood. Bankrupt as a result of a period of financial crisis, Rogerson ceased production at the Crown and Eagle Mills ca. 1837, and the mills stood idle for the next four years. In 1841 new owners reorganized the business, producing fine sheetings and shirtings under the name of the Uxbridge Cotton Mills. Both the Uxbridge Cotton Mills and Rogerson's water rights and undeveloped property on the Mumford River in Northbridge (the site of what later became Linwood Pond) were purchased by P. Whitin & Sons in 1849.<sup>7</sup> The Whitin firm was responsible for construction of the brick, three-story connector (ca. 1850-1851) that spans the Mumford River between the two formerly detached North Uxbridge mills.<sup>8</sup>

The firm of P. Whitin & Sons was dissolved in January 1864 following the death of Betsy Whitin.<sup>9</sup> By this time, the Whitin family owned every mill property of any consequence in the Northbridge area and was one of the leading mill families in the Blackstone Valley. The four Whitin brothers who had interests in the family's cotton manufacturing and cotton-machine manufacturing businesses divided among themselves the various area mills the firm had acquired or built. Each brother then founded his own manufacturing company. Paul, Charles P., and James F. Whitin became owners of the cotton mills and John C. Whitin became the sole proprietor of the machine works.

Paul Whitin Jr., Betsy Whitin's oldest son, inherited the cotton mills at Rockdale and Riverdale in Northbridge. Shortly thereafter the mill at Riverdale burned and Paul's attention was focused on the development of his Rockdale property.

By 1870 the Rockdale Mill had become known as the Paul Whitin Manufacturing

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 4 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 3

Company--a partnership of Paul Whitin Jr., and his son Charles E. Whitin. During their tenure, the mill was continuously upgraded and expanded. In 1884 Paul Whitin Jr., died and company ownership was transferred to Charles. Charles survived his father by only a few years and thus the company was passed to Charles' son Henry Thomas Whitin. Under Henry T.'s direction, the mill experienced its most expansive growth. Today, the mill stands substantially as it did in Henry T.'s time--representing the culmination of four generations of industrial growth.

To a certain extent, the Rockdale Mill of today suffers from its past successes. Unlike its cousin mill at Linwood, which had a more generous site on which to expand (and apparently less demand or desire to do so), the Rockdale Mill was confined to a rather narrow site between its water privilege and the adjacent street. This very real natural constraint, together with external pressures on the company to grow, caused a crowding of the site. Today, the Rockdale complex presents no cohesive face to the street, and does not embrace its associated worker housing as does the Linwood Mill. The sense of a self-contained community one finds at the Linwood Mill is not present here.

Charles P. Whitin, the second son, received the cotton mills in Whitinsville and East Douglas and founded the Whitinsville Cotton Mills. The stone mill in Whitinsville of which Charles P. supervised the building in 1845 remain to this day a prominent and handsome building despite the numerous alterations it has undergone.

Located in the civic heart of Whitinsville, the stone mill is today used as housing for the elderly. Recent modifications to the mill's 1864 appearance include the removal of the mill's original office, connecting ell and smokestack. Chimneys have also been removed and balconies have been cut into the mill's monitor roof. Original fenestration has remained more or less intact. A group of worker housing, together with early dependencies, remains in restorable condition just around the corner from the mill, and owners housing is in close proximity.

Upon the 1864 death of Betsy Whitin, John C. Whitin, the third son, took over the machine building branch of the family business based at the machine factory in Whitinsville. (This business was incorporated as Whitin Machine Works in 1871.) Founded in the 40' x 32' picker room of the old Northbridge Manufacturing Company, the machine works had by 1847 expanded into a "New Shop" (306' x 102', 2 stories and basement) on the south side of the river. On coming into his sole proprietorship, John C. Whitin erected another shop. This building, constructed in 1864, represents the first time the Whitins employed an architect to design one of their mill buildings.

continued

**9. Major Bibliographical References** Linwood Mill Historic District, Northbridge, Massachusetts

Primary Sources

Atlas of Worcester County, Massachusetts, 1870. Beers & Co., reprinted 1971.

Bachelor, Charles O. Northbridge Historical Notes 1660-1875. completed ca. 1876.

Marvin, Adigah P. et al. History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Volume II.  
Boston: C.F. Jewett and Col, 1879.

New Topographical Atlas of the County of Worcester, Mass. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards  
& Co., 1898.

Panoramic View of Whitinsville, Mass. G.H. Bailey & Co. 1891.

Map of Worcester County, Mass., 1857.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested HPCA # 11131MA
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☒ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

MA State Library, Boston, MA; Whitinsville  
Social Library, Whitinsville, MA

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately 37 acres

UTM References

A 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|

C 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|

B 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|

D 

|      |         |          |
|------|---------|----------|
| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Linwood Mill Historic District are indicated on the enclosed assessors map.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Linwood Mill Historic District were chosen to contain the greatest concentration of buildings and structures associated with the Linwood Cotton Mill and its owners during the third and fourth quarters of the 19th century. Alteration of the original street pattern

☒ See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, w/American Landmarks Preservation Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 1988

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

**LINWOOD MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Northbridge (Whitinsville P.O.), MA  
District Data Sheet**

| <u>MAP #</u> | <u>MHC</u> | <u>Historic Name</u>          | <u>Street Address</u> | <u>Date of Construction</u>   | <u>Style</u>                                  | <u>Resource</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1            | 100        | Linwood Mill                  | 666 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1866, additions<br>c. 1895 | Italianate/late<br>19C Indust./<br>Commercial | B               | C             |
| 2            | ---        | Mill Office                   | 666 Linwood Ave.      | 1866-1870                     | Second Empire                                 | B               | C             |
| 3            | ---        | Storehouse (brick)            | 666 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1870-1875                  | Mid-19c Indust./<br>Commercial                | B               | C             |
| 4            | ---        | James F. Whitin,<br>Residence | Linwood Ave.          | c. 1866-1870                  | Second Empire                                 | B               | C             |
| 5            | ---        | Whitin greenhouse             | Linwood Ave.          | c. 1875-1885                  | Late 19C<br>Utilitarian/<br>Commercial        | B               | C             |
| 6            | ---        | Whitin carriage house         | Linwood Ave.          | c. 1866-1870                  | Italianate                                    | B               | C             |
| 7            | ---        | Worker dormitory              | 680 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 8            | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 11-13 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 9            | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 18-22 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 10           | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 19-21 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 11           | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 27-29 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 12           | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 28-30 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 13           | ---        | Worker dormitory              | 38-40 Pine Court      | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 14           | ---        | Worker dormitory              | 42-44 Pine Court      | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 15           | ---        | Railroad Freight Depot        | 683 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1866-1870                  | Altered 19C<br>Utilitarian/<br>Commercial     | B               | C             |

| <u>MAP #</u> | <u>MHC</u> | <u>Historic Name</u> | <u>Street Address</u> | <u>Date of Construction</u> | <u>Style</u>         | <u>Resource</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A            | ---        |                      | 681 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1970                     | late 20C/<br>Moderne | B               | NC            |
| 16           | ---        | Dam                  | Linwood Pond          | c. 1857-1866                | N/A                  | St.             | C             |
| 17           | ---        | Tail Race            | South of mill & pond  | c. 1857-1866                | N/A                  | St.             | C             |

**Ration of contributing to noncontributing elements:**

|              | Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Buildings    | 15           | 1               |
| Structures   | 2            | 0               |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>17</u>    | <u>1</u>        |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Linwood Mill Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 11/04/88 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/15/88  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/01/88 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/19/88  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88002753

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ ACCEPT ☒ RETURN \_\_\_ REJECT 12/19/88 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return - see reverse  
REVIEWER Savage  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 12/19/88

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_ count \_\_\_ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_ historic \_\_\_ current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_ architectural classification

\_\_\_ materials

☒ descriptive text

*Please provide a brief description of proposed rehabilitation plans for the property.*

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_ summary paragraph

\_\_\_ completeness

\_\_\_ clarity

\_\_\_ applicable criteria

\_\_\_ justification of areas checked

\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource

\_\_\_ context

\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance

\_\_\_ justification of exception

\_\_\_ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *Please provide UTM's*

\_\_\_ acreage

\_\_\_ verbal boundary description

☒ UTM's

\_\_\_ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

*Please provide maps & photos*

\_\_\_ sketch maps

☒ USGS maps

☒ photographs

\_\_\_ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed

*Beth L. Savage*

Phone *(202) 343-9540*

Date

*12-19-88*

Data Collector Recommendation:

~~SLR~~

~~Clarification/Return~~

Lower Action:

~~SLR Final~~

~~Return~~

~~None~~

DOCUMENTATION ISSUES--DISCUSSION SHEET

State Name MA County Name Worcester

Resource Name Linwood Mill H. S.

Reference No. 8800275-3

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

Listed Date \_\_\_\_\_

Section of Nomination:

☐ Classification  
☐ State/Agency Certification  
☐ Function

☐ Description  
☐ Significance  
☐ Bibliographical References

☒ Geographical Data  
☒ Accompanying Documentation  
☐ Other

See Page \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

Solution:

NR Staff:

Date:

Data Collector's Explanation of Problem:

(A) No photos or maps included w/ nomination

(B) No UTM's provided. I entered dummy code.

Data Collector:

*Norman V. Clark*

Date:

11/14/88

Resolution in Data Base:

D.B. Corrected:

Date:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

FEB 21 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name LINWOOD COTTON MILLother names/site number LINWOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number LINWOOD AVE. MAPLE COURT, PINE COURTcity, town NORTHBRIDGE (WHITINSVILLE POST OFFICE)state MA code 025 county Worcester code 027 zip code 01588

N/A not for publication

N/A vicinity

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing  | Noncontributing          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| <u>15</u>     | <u>1</u> buildings       |
| <u>2</u>      | <u>      </u> sites      |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> structures |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> objects    |
| <u>17</u>     | <u>1</u> Total           |

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/ANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Falmagne  
Signature of certifying official

10/24/88  
Date

Executive Director of Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic  
State or Federal agency and bureau Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

John A. Savage  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

6-16-89  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: MULTIPLE DWELLINGDOMESTIC: INSTITUTIONAL HOUSINGINDUSTRY: MANUFACTURING FACILITYDOMESTIC: SECONDARY STRUCTURE(see continuation sheet)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: MULTIPLE DWELLINGDOMESTIC: HOTELWORK IN PROGRESSVACANT: NOT IN USE(see continuation sheet)**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century; Greek RevivalLate Victorian; ItalianateLate Victorian; Second EmpireOther; Mid to late 19th Century Industrial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls BrickWeatherboardroof Asphalt shingles, slate

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Linwood Mill Historic District is a 37-acre area, now primarily residential and commercial in nature, located in the village of Linwood in the southernmost section of the town of Northbridge, fifteen miles southeast of Worcester. The district boundaries contain portions of Linwood Pond to the west and north and the tracks of the Providence & Worcester Railroad to the east. Bisected by Linwood Avenue, the original main axis through the mill village, the historic district consists of 18 elements, of which 17 contribute to its architectural and historic significance. One building is considered noncontributing due to its recent date of construction. All contributing elements are directly associated with the construction of the Linwood Cotton Mill in the third and fourth quarters of the 19th century, and include: the mill, a brick storehouse, an office, and associated water-related structures; workers housing to the north and east of the mill; the mill proprietor's residence to the northwest; and a railroad freight depot along the railroad tracks

**Physical Development and Architectural Analysis**

The Linwood Mill Historic District centers on a relatively flat plane adjacent to the manmade Linwood mill pond. The district area rises to a hill overlooking the pond to the northwest and a gradual incline created by ca. 1960s highway construction to the east. Before construction of the mill and associated structures, this area consisted of a small railroad depot and adjacent undeveloped land along the Mumford River. Completion of the mill complex served as a catalyst for the development of Linwood Village, the southeasternmost settlement in the town of Northbridge. The community of undetermined boundaries grew northeast along Main Street or Providence Road (now Route 122) and southeast of Linwood Street into the neighboring town of Uxbridge. Even during its peak period of development, however, Linwood Village was eclipsed by two older and larger manufacturing centers: Whitinsville, also Northbridge's civic focus, located one mile up Linwood Avenue to the northwest; and North Uxbridge, located one-half mile to the southeast in the town of Uxbridge. The Linwood Mill Historic District consists of those earliest industrial and residential buildings, which provided the area with a distinct identity in the third quarter of the 19th century. The following description of the district's elements is arranged according to building function.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1985

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

Section number 6 Page 1

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6. Function or Use (cont'd)

Historic Functions (cont'd)

vacant/not in use  
transportation: rail related  
domestic: single dwelling  
industry: waterworks

Current Functions (cont'd)

commerce/trade: restaurant  
commerce/trade: warehouse  
industry: waterworks

FEB 21 1988

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

## Industrial Building and Structures

The earliest mill-related construction in the historic district is evidenced by two structures, the dam on the Mumford River (Map #16) and the tail race (Map #17), both completed between the late 1850s and 1870. The dam, resulting mill pond, and tail race are important features in the district since they were integral to the operation of the mill. The main sluiceway leading from the mill is now partially blocked, and the tail race, though stagnant from lack of use, remains exposed. The original water gates located on the north side of Linwood Avenue are now closed; the head race, which once ran from the northernmost portion of the mill pond beneath Linwood Avenue and southwest into the mill complex, was infilled with poured concrete and concrete block in the late 20th century to create the present parking area between the mill and Linwood Avenue.

The original Linwood Cotton Mill at 666 Linwood Avenue (ca. 1866, Map #1), is a fine example of Italianate design and mid 19th-century mill construction. The 3 1/2-story brick mill has a granite basement and a slate mansard roof. Beneath the roof is a cornice with wood modillions and a frieze of a paneled brick design. The regular fenestration pattern consists primarily of oversized segmental-arched windows with wood double-hung sash of up to 24 lights each. Dormer windows are paired. Dominating the main (north) facade is a monumental 4 1/2-story central stairtower with four oculus dormer windows and an open octagonal cupola. The cupola and weather vane are reminiscent of those on Federal meetinghouses. A 1 1/2-story brick wing, the picker house, projects from the mill's east elevation and also dates to ca. 1866. Additions were made to the original building during an expansion period in the mid-1890s. A 2 1/2-story brick weave mill constructed along the mill pond provided more space for manufacturing activities. This wing has a skeletal appearance compared to the original mill due to its having windows with more attenuated proportions. Other ca. 1895 additions to the mill include construction of an engine house in the rear and expansion of the picker house.

A 1 1/2-story brick and cut stone storehouse (ca. 1870-1875, Map #3) is located south of the mill. The storehouse has a broad gable roof and dentillated brick cornice. A wood-frame shed-roof element that was attached to the north side of the building in the late 1890s has since been removed.

The last extant building in the mill complex originally served as an office for mill management (ca. 1866-1870, Map #2). The office is a 1 1/2-story brick Second Empire-style building. Keyhole windows lend a romantic Turkish aura to the first floor, and dormer windows are flanked by engaged columns in a bold Second Empire manner. The mansard roof of hexagonal slates is supported by paired Neo-Grec brackets. The building is in good condition and was last used as a gatehouse to the mill complex.

continued

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National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 2

The railroad freight depot (ca. 1866-1870, Map #15) was constructed just west of the passenger depot (demolished) along the tracks of the Providence and Worcester (later New York, New Haven & Hartford) Railroad. Formerly very plain, the one-story brick depot has been altered with the addition of a third. Nevertheless, the building, now a restaurant, retains its rectangular massing and broad gable roof as originally designed. Members of the Northbridge Historical Commission believe that historic fabric remains intact and retrievable beneath the late 20th-century facade.

Residential Buildings

The size, design, and placement of residential buildings in the historic district illustrate the social hierarchy that reflected the mill's organizational structure.

The residence of James Fletcher Whitin, first proprietor of the Linwood Cotton Mill, stands apart from the mill complex and related worker housing on a hilly site on Linwood Avenue in the northwest portion of the district (ca. 1866-1870, Map #4). An exuberant 2 1/2-story wood-frame Second Empire mansion, the house in its scale and design reflects the prosperity of its first owner. Monumentality is achieved by the set-back of the building from Linwood Avenue, as well as the projection of the central pavilion on the main facade. A porch extending the width of the facade checks the verticality of the central pavilion. Similarities in the design and craftsmanship of the exteriors and interiors of this building and the aforementioned mill office suggest that the same craftsmen, and perhaps architect, worked on both buildings. The identities of the architect and craftsmen, however, are unknown. The Whitin residence also includes an Italianate carriage house (ca. 1866-1870, Map #6) and a less distinguished greenhouse (ca. 1875-1885, Map #5). The entire property is now maintained as the Victorian Inn.

Worker housing in the historic district is typical of mill housing found throughout central Massachusetts in the third quarter of the 19th century. Three building designs, all ornamented in the Greek Revival mode, are found at Linwood: a 3 1/2-story dormitory, a 1 1/2-story duplex, and a 2 1/2-story dormitory. All of these wood-frame buildings have rear ells, and some have front or rear porches (some screened) that were added at a later date. The largest dormitory (ca. 1866-1870, Map #7), now sheathed with asbestos shingles, occupies the southwestern corner of Linwood Avenue and Maple Court. Rakeboards, a full entablature with projecting cornice, regular fenestration, and pedimented door hoods over the two entrances give this building its architectural character.

Five mid-level management duplex houses on Maple Court (ca. 1866-1870; Map #s 8-12) adjacent to the mill complex are 1 1/2 stories and display the same

continued

FEB 21 1988

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 3

prominent entablature and rakeboards as the large dormitory at the end of the street. These five buildings each have end gables, double interior chimneys, and two frieze windows on the main facade above the paired center entrances. Frieze windows on three of these houses have been covered with siding. Original doorway surrounds (still evident on 19-21 and 27-29 Maple Court) consist of pilasters and prominent entablatures. Entrances of the five duplexes have undergone minor alterations, the most significant of which is the addition of a screened porch at 11-13 Maple Court. Two rear ells project from each of the three buildings on the east (odd-numbered) side of the street, resulting in those buildings' have U-shape footprints.

The two 2 1/2-story dormitories on Pine Court (ca. 1866-1870, Map #s 13 and 14) are identical in massing and detail. Only recently, synthetic exterior siding have covered frieze windows on the main elevations. Like the larger dormitory on Linwood Avenue, these dormitories each have end gables, two interior chimneys, and two front entrances. Unlike the Linwood Avenue dormitory, the entrances here are paired at the center of a six-bay rather than an eight-bay facade and shielded by a shed roof rather than a pedimented door hood. An 1870 atlas of Worcester County shows four of these dormitory houses to have existed on Pine Court originally. The 1870 tax valuation for Northbridge suggests that a fifth dormitory, which once occupied the southeast corner of the Linwood Avenue/Maple Court intersection and is now demolished, - was of a design similar to the Pine Court buildings, for the valuation of the Pine Court dormitories and the fifth dormitory was the same, at \$1,400 each.

Intrusion

The only noncontributing element in the historic district is a ca. 1970 carwash (Map A) on Linwood Avenue, northeast of the mill. The visual impact of this late 20th-century intrusion is mitigated by the imposing presence of the late 19th-century mill buildings across the street.

With the exception of one intrusion, the Linwood Mill Historic District maintains a high degree of physical and architectural integrity. The James Fletcher Whitin residence is in an excellent state of preservation, and is currently operated as an inn. Former worker housing, since converted to apartments, has sustained some minor alteration, mostly in the form of inappropriate siding and entrance ornamentation. The railroad freight depot has undergone more substantial alteration in its conversion to a restaurant. Rehabilitation of the vacant Linwood Mill complex, virtually intact since its major expansion in the mid-1890s, is pending.

continued

FEB 21 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 4

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. One known prehistoric site has been recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the district, river terraces along the Mumford River, a tributary of the Blackstone River, may have made this an attractive area for native settlement and subsistence activities. In general, however, the potential for prehistoric remains seems low as a result of river flooding and other historic development in the area.

There is significant historical archaeological potential within the district. Pre-1850 remains may exist of a railroad depot located in the area. Otherwise, most of the land near the Mumford River was undeveloped. Archaeological remains also likely exist associated with mill construction that began after 1850. Structural remains may exist for outbuildings and power facilities associated with extant mill structures. These structures include mill buildings, a storehouse, worker housing and transport facilities such as a carriage house and Railroad Freight Depot. Remains of the dam and tail race are also present which could provide information on their construction or changes through time. Occupation-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also be present in association with worker housing.

Continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MA

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The present rehabilitation project of the Linwood Cotton Mill proposes to use the property for 75 units of housing. The project involves: roof repairs, exterior cleaning, removal of a loading dock, lowering of window sills for new egress, repair and repainting of trim, skylight installation, interior chemical cleaning of ceilings, and demolition of 20th century additions.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1857-1902

Significant Dates

ca. 1866-1870

1900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

James Fletcher Whitin

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Linwood Mill Historic District, Northbridge, is a physically and visually distinguishable entity, comprising the industrial and residential buildings of the original Linwood Mill complex constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century. The district buildings are architecturally significant as they reflect a distinct period in the town's physical development and its manufacturing history. The district attests to the contributions made by James Fletcher Whitin, Charles P. Whitin, and other members of the Whitin family to the growth of Northbridge's cotton manufacturing industry, a major force in the town's economy for over a century. The district is also important for its associations in the mid to late nineteenth century with regional and local transportation by rail. Possessing integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, the Linwood Mill Historic District meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

### Historic Context

Located in the Blackstone Valley in the southeastern corner of Worcester County, the area which is now known as Linwood was a sparsely populated railroad depot village in the 1850s. Two roads crossed at this location. One road connected the village of Whitinsville to the northwest with the village of North Uxbridge (in the town of Uxbridge) to the southeast; this road is now Linwood Avenue but was known as Railroad Avenue in the 19th century. The other road, now State Route 122 and locally known as Providence Road, is an old road that linked the southernmost area of the town of Northbridge with Worcester 16 miles to the northwest and Woonsocket and Providence, Rhode Island (11 and 27 miles respectively), to the southeast.

state MA zip code 02116

FEB 21 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 1

The Providence and Worcester Railroad, which opened in the Blackstone Valley corridor in 1847,<sup>1</sup> passed through this crossroads. A passenger depot at the crossing was one of three stations constructed in Northbridge by the railroad; the other two stations were Plummers Station at Plummer Corner and Northbridge Station at Riverdale, both further north on the line. Shortly after its construction, the depot became known as Whitin's Station, so-named for the Whitin family who purchased land in the vicinity of the depot in 1849. This area of Northbridge, then, was associated with the Whitin family at least fifteen years before it acquired an identity as Linwood with the completion of the Linwood Mill, constructed by members of the Whitin family in 1866.

The long-term association between the Whitin (formerly Whiting) family and industry in the town of Northbridge began with Paul Whitin, Sr., in 1809. At that time, Whitin became principle stockholder in The Northbridge Cotton Manufacturing Company, the first cotton mill established in Northbridge and the third in the Blackstone Valley north of Pawtucket.<sup>2</sup> Whitin left Northbridge Cotton ca. 1815 and formed a cotton-spinning partnership with his father-in-law James Fletcher. For about ten years, Whitin & Fletcher produced yarns from a 300-spindle mill (ca. 1815) constructed on the site of an old forge in the village of South Northbridge (now Whitinsville).<sup>3</sup>

Paul Whitin, Sr. brought out the one-half interest of his partner Fletcher ca. 1826 and established P. Whitin & Sons with two of his sons, Paul Jr. and John C., for the manufacture of cotton yards and cloth. The gradual infiltration of the Whitin family presence into every aspect of Northbridge's cotton manufacturing industry by the end of the century began with the formation of this firm. Soon after its establishment, P. Whitin & Sons erected a 1500-spindle brick mill (ca. 1828) at the same location as the Whitin & Fletcher mill in the South Northbridge (Whitinsville).

After Paul Sr.'s death in 1831, the family firm was reorganized and continued under the direction of his wife, Betsy Fletcher Whitin. At that time, another son, Charles P. Whitin, became a partner. So pervasive was the Whitin family influence in the village of South Northbridge by the mid-1830s that the village was renamed Whitinsville in memory of Paul Whitin, Sr. P. Whitin & Sons further enlarged the family cotton works at Whitinsville by building a stone mill of 7,500 spindles in 1845. Upon transfer of cotton manufacturing machinery from the older brick mill to the new stone mill, the brick mill was used to house John C. Whitin's activities relating to the construction of cotton machinery. Before that, John C. Whitin had repaired cotton machinery in an ell off the back of the same building.<sup>4</sup> Under his direction, this repair shop evolved into a highly successful cotton machine manufacturing business also owned by P. Whitin & Sons, and would later become an independent business known as the Whitin Machine Works.

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 2

P. Whitin & Sons expanded its land and mill holdings throughout Northbridge and the surrounding area in the 1840s and 1850s by acquiring properties principally through bankruptcy sales. The firm bought up the stock of the floundering Uxbridge Cotton Mills in nearby North Uxbridge in 1849, as well as property in the Northbridge villages of Riverdale and Rockdale in 1856. At Rockdale, the firm built for the manufacture of cotton goods a mill of 10,000 spindles, the largest single mill built by the Whitins to date. Finally, ca. 1857, the firm purchased a stone cotton mill of 8,000-spindle capacity in East Douglas.<sup>5</sup> During this period of expansion in the family business, James Fletcher Whitin, the youngest son of Paul Whitin Sr., was admitted to the firm (1847);<sup>6</sup> he was later to become the first proprietor of the Linwood Mill.

Two properties purchased by the Whitins were formerly associated with Robert Rogerson, a Boston merchant who constructed the Crown Mill (ca. 1825-1827), Eagle Mill (ca. 1830-1832), and surrounding worker housing (a/k/a Rogerson's Village) in the village of North Uxbridge [town of Uxbridge] one mile south of Linwood. Bankrupt as a result of a period of financial crisis, Rogerson ceased production at the Crown and Eagle Mills ca. 1837, and the mills stood idle for the next four years. In 1841 new owners reorganized the business, producing fine sheetings and shirtings under the name of the Uxbridge Cotton Mills. Both the Uxbridge Cotton Mills and Rogerson's water rights and undeveloped property on the Mumford River in Northbridge (the site of what later became Linwood Pond) were purchased by P. Whitin & Sons in 1849.<sup>7</sup> The Whitin firm was responsible for construction of the brick, three-story connector (ca. 1850-1851) that spans the Mumford River between the two formerly detached North Uxbridge mills.<sup>8</sup>

The firm of P. Whitin & Sons was dissolved in January 1864 following the death of Betsy Whitin.<sup>9</sup> By this time, the Whitin family owned every mill property of any consequence in the Northbridge area and was one of the leading mill families in the Blackstone Valley. The four Whitin brothers who had interests in the family's cotton manufacturing and cotton-machine manufacturing businesses divided among themselves the various area mills the firm had acquired or built. Each brother then founded his own manufacturing company. Paul, Charles P., and James F. Whitin became owners of the cotton mills and John C. Whitin became the sole proprietor of the machine works.

Paul Whitin Jr., Betsy Whitin's oldest son, inherited the cotton mills at Rockdale and Riverdale in Northbridge. Shortly thereafter the mill at Riverdale burned and Paul's attention was focused on the development of his Rockdale property.

By 1870 the Rockdale Mill had become known as the Paul Whitin Manufacturing

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 3

Company--a partnership of Paul Whitin Jr., and his son Charles E. Whitin. During their tenure, the mill was continuously upgraded and expanded. In 1884 Paul Whitin Jr., died and company ownership was transferred to Charles. Charles survived his father by only a few years and thus the company was passed to Charles' son Henry Thomas Whitin. Under Henry T.'s direction, the mill experienced its most expansive growth. Today, the mill stands substantially as it did in Henry T.'s time--representing the culmination of four generations of industrial growth.

To a certain extent, the Rockdale Mill of today suffers from its past successes. Unlike its cousin mill at Linwood, which had a more generous site on which to expand (and apparently less demand or desire to do so), the Rockdale Mill was confined to a rather narrow site between its water privilege and the adjacent street. This very real natural constraint, together with external pressures on the company to grow, caused a crowding of the site. Today, the Rockdale complex presents no cohesive face to the street, and does not embrace its associated worker housing as does the Linwood Mill. The sense of a self-contained community one finds at the Linwood Mill is not present here.

Charles P. Whitin, the second son, received the cotton mills in Whitinsville and East Douglas and founded the Whitinsville Cotton Mills. The stone mill in Whitinsville of which Charles P. supervised the building in 1845 remain to this day a prominent and handsome building despite the numerous alterations it has undergone.

Located in the civic heart of Whitinsville, the stone mill is today used as housing for the elderly. Recent modifications to the mill's 1864 appearance include the removal of the mill's original office, connecting ell and smokestack. Chimneys have also been removed and balconies have been cut into the mill's monitor roof. Original fenestration has remained more or less intact. A group of worker housing, together with early dependencies, remains in restorable condition just around the corner from the mill, and owners housing is in close proximity.

Upon the 1864 death of Betsy Whitin, John C. Whitin, the third son, took over the machine building branch of the family business based at the machine factory in Whitinsville. (This business was incorporated as Whitin Machine Works in 1871.) Founded in the 40' x 32' picker room of the old Northbridge Manufacturing Company, the machine works had by 1847 expanded into a "New Shop" (306' x 102', 2 stories and basement) on the south side of the river. On coming into his sole proprietorship, John C. Whitin erected another shop. This building, constructed in 1864, represents the first time the Whitins employed an architect to design one of their mill buildings.

continued

FEB 21 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 4

By 1910 there were an astonishing 20 acres of floor space, all connected, and a foundry floor of more than two acres. Today, the Whitin Machine Works is a sprawling manufacturing/industrial complex noteworthy for its sheer magnitude. Massive 20th century additions have diluted the 19th century grandeur of the original complex and new residential construction in the area has altered the rhythm and scale that once unified the worker housing. Utility, too, has distracted from the complex, as whole elevations of windows have been bricked in and the entire mill yard has been filled with loading docks and other dependencies to suit the present needs of business.

The youngest of Betsy Whitin's sons, James Fletcher Whitin, received the Uxbridge Cotton Mills in North Uxbridge and the water rights and undeveloped land in Northbridge. With his older brother Charles, who lent financial backing to the endeavor, James founded the Whitin Brothers Company.

The Whitin Brothers partnership erected a cotton mill (the nominated property, Linwood Mill) on James Whitin's Northbridge property and water rights ca. 1866. It is not known precisely who was responsible for the damming of the Mumford River (a branch of the Blackstone River) that led to the creation of the Linwood Mill Pond. However, Charles Whitin is known to have been interested in the improvement of water power on the Mumford River.<sup>10</sup> The Linwood Pond, which does not appear on an 1857 map of Worcester County, was probably created by Whitin Brothers in conjunction with completion of the mill.

Today, the Linwood Mill and its associated buildings are the best preserved of the Whitin brothers' numerous holdings. A comparison with the other Whitin brother mills in the area shows the Linwood Mill to be a truly outstanding complex both aesthetically-- in terms of its generous and unspoiled setting, cohesive and architecturally distinguished design, and superior level of preservation--and historically, in the overall picture it presents of life in a late 19th century mill village.

The Linwood Mill was constructed at a time when the central Massachusetts region had completed a shift in its economic focus from an agrarian to a primarily manufacturing economy. The town of Northbridge had become a focal point in the highly industrialized Blackstone Valley region of Massachusetts by the 1870s. When construction of the Linwood Cotton Mill was underway, there were two other cotton mills already in operation in Northbridge. The number of Northbridge cotton mills had decreased from five in 1845, and a fire at Rockdale ca. 1851 brought the total number to two by 1855.<sup>11</sup> These are presumably the same two cotton mills operating in 1865 at Whitinsville and Rockdale, both of which were owned by Whitin family members at the time. The two mills employed a total of 225 workers, had a combined capacity of roughly 17,000 spindles, and produced 1,269 million yards of cotton cloth in 1865.<sup>12</sup>

continued

FEB 21 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 5

Despite a mid-19th century decrease in the number of Northbridge's cotton manufacturing establishments, as well as their combined spindle capacity and the number of workers they employed, production levels rose, with 2.7 million yards of sheetings and 832,000 yards of printing goods in the ten years before 1955.<sup>13</sup> This increase in production was undoubtedly made possible by improvements in the design and efficiency of many cotton manufacturing machines--including in "Whitin Improved Picker," cards, ring-spinning frames, spoolers, warpers, dressers, looms, and combers--then being assembled in John C. Whitin's machine works.<sup>14</sup>

A regional shift in favor of woolen production over cotton textile production by the end of the Civil War<sup>15</sup> was not in evidence in Northbridge, perhaps due to the domination of the Whitin family and its cotton interests in that town. In the neighboring town of Uxbridge, however, woolen mills consistently outnumbered cotton mills from 1845 to 1865. In fact, the only cotton mills operating in Uxbridge at the time of the Linwood Mill construction were the Uxbridge Cotton Mills, also owned by James Fletcher Whitin. Despite their 10,720-spindle capacity, the Uxbridge Cotton Mills employed 95 persons and produced a mere 214,500 yards of cotton cloth in 1865.<sup>16</sup>

The Linwood Cotton Mill, also known as the Whitin Brother Cotton Factory, produced fine cambrics, sateens, and shirtings. The original mill (ca. 1866) consisted of the 3 1/2-story main block and a one-story picker house projecting from the east elevation of the main block. Spindle capacity was increased from 10,160 spindles in 1870 to 15,080 spindles in 1875.<sup>17</sup> Accordingly, the assessed value of the mill property increased during the same period, from \$118,140 in 1870 to \$165,810 in 1875. The mill machinery was driven by water from the Mumford River, dammed to create the mill pond and the mill raceway (of the raceway, only the tailrace is extant). The ca. 1870 addition of a one-story boiler house (extant) on the south wall of the mill<sup>18</sup> reflected period technological advances in motive power that prompted mill owners to install steam power facilities to supplement their waterpower, thus enabling them to increase production. A steam power plant had been installed at the Whitinsville Cotton Mill, owned by James Whitin's partner and brother Charles, only a few years before. By 1875 the mill complex included a waste house and blacksmith shop (neither extant), and the brick storehouse directly south of the original mill.<sup>19</sup>

As the original core of the Linwood Mill village, the Linwood Mill Historic District also contains mill-related residential development completed ca. 1870. On Linwood Avenue, west of the mill complex and across Linwood Pond from the Pine Court housing, was the mill proprietor's residence. In October 1868, James Fletcher Whitin noted in his daybook that he had "commenced grading for [the] new house at Linwood Grover."<sup>20</sup> Many Irish and French Canadians were listed as paid workers on the house account, with a substantial

continued

FEB 21 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 6

reduction by early 1871 in the number of workers paid, at which time it is presumed work on the house was largely complete. The mansion is an impressive high-style Second Empire building set in landscaped surroundings with sweeping views of the pond and the mill complex on lower ground to the east. Complementing the proprietor's house is a carriage house (ca. 1870) and a wood-frame and glass greenhouse (ca. 1875-1885).

Worker housing was constructed closer to the mill complex and railroad tracks. Two dormitories, or tenements, one 3 1/2 stories and the other 2 1/2 stories (the latter has been demolished) were constructed on the south side of Linwood Avenue at Maple Court. Four 2 1/2-story dormitories (two are extant) were constructed in a row on Pine Court facing the mill. Six duplexes (five are extant) were constructed on Maple Court east of the mill (see enclosed sketch map of Linwood Mill Historic District ca. 1870). The duplexes and 2 1/2-story tenements are very similar in design to those constructed in Whitinsville, particularly for the Whitin Machine Works, between 1845 and 1864.

The arrangement of buildings in the Linwood Mill Historic District clearly reflects the social spectrum inherent in the mill's organized management, which was based on the so-called Rhode Island system: a relatively small mill generally owned by a family and managed directly by the owners, who employed entire families as mill workers and housed them in company-built housing in the vicinity of the mill. The placement of James Fletcher Whitin's residence in relation to the mill and mill village below also suggests a paternalism that was typically associated with the Whitin family and their Northbridge mill villages in the 19th century. Of the worker housing in the historic district, the duplexes may have housed skilled and clerical workers, as was the case at the mills in Whitinsville, while the multi-family tenements closer to the railroad tracks most likely housed unskilled laborers.

The architectural styles of the residential buildings in the historic district also reflect a social and organizational hierarchy. The design of worker housing at Linwood had changed little from the design of the mill housing constructed at Whitinsville as much as two decades earlier, with duplexes at Linwood designed in a modest Greek Revival style and the larger tenements of a more vernacular nature. The proprietor's residence at Linwood is not only the most architecturally elaborate of the district's residential buildings, but the most up-to-date stylistically as well. As was also the case at the Whitinsville mills, the Linwood proprietor's residence is a house of palatial proportions in comparison to the related mill-worker housing, and is indicative of the grand lifestyle of James Fletcher Whitin as a cotton mill owner in the post-Civil War years. Finally, the James Fletcher Whitin residence, as well as the Linwood Mill itself, take on additional significance by virtue of the fact that these buildings hail from an era of mill construction that is not otherwise represented in the town of Northbridge, at

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

ED 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

least stylistically.

While production figures for the Linwood Mill are not available, the entries in a daybook kept by James Fletcher Whitin from 1864 to 1883 shed some light on the markets of the cotton cloth produced at the Linwood Mill during that period.<sup>21</sup> Linwood products are not known to have been produced under a particular brand name, or label. It appears, however, that the mill produced "grey goods," or unfinished cloth sold to bleacheries over a twenty-year period: W.F. & F.C. Sayles on Lincoln, Rhode Island (1864 to ca. 1882); Lowell Bleachery of Lowell, Massachusetts (1867 to ca. 1882); and Fall River Bleachery of Fall River, Massachusetts (1878 to 1883 and presumably later). Each establishment bleached, dyed, and finished cotton goods.

The Sayles Bleachery account (and Whitin's daybook) predates the construction of the Linwood Mill; therefore, Whitin's notations of payments from Sayles totaling \$2,305.05 in 1864 and \$5,639.44 in 1865 can probably be attributed to production at his Uxbridge Cotton Mills in North Uxbridge. (It should be noted, however, that the daybook records of bales of cotton purchases for the Uxbridge Cotton Mills ceased in August 1864, suggesting a change in the organization of that mill's management, or at the very least its bookkeeping, at that time.) Payments from the Sayles Bleachery jumped in the years immediately following the Civil War to \$12,485.80 (1866) and \$10,129.64 (1867). This rise is more likely attributable to the commencement of operations at the newly completed Linwood Mill, rather than a post-war production boom.

Payments from the Sayles Bleachery dropped sharply in 1868 (\$3,180.34), with the most notable slack-off evident between March and April. About this time, the first entry for receipt of payments from the Lowell Bleachery appeared in Whitin's daybook. While total payments from the Sayles Bleachery remained steady at roughly \$4,500 per year in the early 1870s, receipts from the Lowell Bleachery were much higher, with a high of \$11,684.20 (1868) and a low of \$9533.67 (1870) during the period from 1868 to 1873. Receipts from both bleacheries became more sporadic into the late 1870s, and appear to have been phased out entirely by ca. 1882. In September 1878, an entry for receipt of payment from the Fall River Bleachery first appeared in Whitin's daybook. The Fall River Bleachery, established in 1872,<sup>22</sup> was the primary recipient of cotton cloth produced at Linwood into the early 1880s.

The direct markets for Linwood goods do not appear to have been Worcester, Woonsocket, or Providence, as the railroad through Linwood would suggest. However, the Lowell, Fall River, and Lincoln destinations were accessible from Linwood by rail connections via Worcester and Providence. The railroad freight depot and two spurs along the Providence and Worcester railroad tracks first appear on a map of the Linwood Mill vicinity in 1870. At that time, the

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 8

road from Whitinsville to North Uxbridge (now Linwood Avenue) was known as Railroad Avenue, perhaps because it led from these two older factory villages to Whitin's Station. The village of Whitinsville, a major developing industrial center throughout the 19th century, lacked immediate access to the railroad which ran through the eastern half of Northbridge. The station at Linwood was significant, therefore, for its role in the growth not only of the mill at Linwood, but the growth of the Whitin Machine Works at Whitinsville as well (see below). The freight depot, converted for use as a restaurant in the late 1970s, is especially significant in light of the demolition of the original passenger depot, which occurred probably as a result of mid-20th century highway construction immediately east of the mill.

Given James Fletcher Whitin's advancing years, his son Albert H. Whitin's involvement with the Uxbridge Cotton Mills as director (another son, George M. Whitin, died suddenly in 1883), and the death of his older brother and partner Charles in 1887, it was Charles's sons who assumed primary responsibility for managing the Linwood Mill on behalf of the Whitin Brothers firm by the 1890s. In 1895 Edward Whitin, Charles' eldest son, directed an expansion of the Linwood Mill, assisted by his uncle James. Two additions to the rear of the main block, an engine house and a 2 1/2-story weave mill along the pond, were built as well as an addition to the south side of the picker house. These additions permitted an increase in the mill's spindle capacity from about 15,000 to 26,500 spindles.<sup>23</sup>

In the absence of production figures for the Northbridge mills during this period, spindle capacity has been used for comparative purposes. With its mid-1890s expansion, Linwood became the second largest cotton mill in Northbridge, following the Rockdale mills with 55,000 spindles and preceding the Whitinsville Cotton Mills with 13,300.<sup>24</sup> The fact that large additions were made to both the Linwood (ca. 1895) and Rockdale (1884, 1895-1896)<sup>25</sup> mills in the midst of a cotton textile industry slowdown is significant. The Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics evaluated the industry in an 1898 report, and concluded that the depression experienced by New England textile mills in general during the 1890s was due to a rapid extension of the industry during a period of unprecedented business depression. The number of spindles in operation in cotton textile mills in Massachusetts increased 46% between ca. 1888 and 1897,<sup>26</sup> and the additions to the Linwood and Rockdale mills reflect this period increase.

Also in the 1890s, more worker housing of the duplex type extant on Maple Court was constructed northeast of the historic district separated from the mill complex by Providence Road (now also known as State Route 122). The boundaries of the historic district exclude this 1890s worker housing development, due to three factors that have compromised the cohesiveness and physical integrity of the original mill village: the ca. 1960s construction

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 9

of the Route 122 highway overpass and the resulting drastic change in the grading and street configuration; substantial noncontributing late 20th-century development along Providence Road (Route 122); and the mid- to late 20th-century alterations made to the original 1890 duplexes.

There was also continued development in rail transportation in the historic district at that time. A freight connector between the then-New York, New Haven & Hartford depot at Linwood and the Whitin Machine Works in Whitinsville was built along Linwood (Railroad) Avenue ca. 1890. Trolley service to Whitinsville on this same line was available from 1899 to 1935.<sup>27</sup> The decision to connect Whitinsville to the railroad line at the Linwood location to the southeast, rather than at Plummer Corner to the northeast, is perhaps best explained by the familial ties between mill owners in the first two villages. Additional period railroad construction included a spur track leading from the railroad tracks north of the freight depot directly into the Linwood Mill complex.

Two years before his death in 1902, James Fletcher Whitin enlarged the Uxbridge Cotton Mills, increasing its capacity to 17,000 spindles<sup>28</sup> from 10,896 spindles in 1880.<sup>29</sup> Despite improvements, the Uxbridge mill apparently never provided the cotton mills in Northbridge with any significant competition. It appears that James Fletcher Whitin's primary association was always with Linwood, where he not only built the mill but chose to make his home as well. The Uxbridge and Linwood cotton mills and their related housing were constructed at different times--primarily in the 1820s and the late 1860s, respectively--and although both mill complexes expanded at the turn of the twentieth century, no documentation has been located that indicates that the two mills shared facilities or that the employees of the two mills shared housing, be it in Northbridge or Uxbridge. Passing to Whitin's grandsons, Frederick B. and James Earle Whitin, after their grandfather's death, the Uxbridge Cotton Mills were kept in operation by the latter under his firm of James Whitin, Inc. into the 1920s.<sup>30</sup>

After their uncle's death in 1902, Edward Whitin and his brother Arthur F. Whitin assumed full control of the Linwood Mill, buying out the interests of Albert H. Whitin and Frederick B. Whitin, son and grandson respectively of James Fletcher Whitin.<sup>31</sup> Continuing the production of cotton goods, the Linwood Mill survived the depression that hit many New England textile mills in the post-World War I years. Massachusetts Textile Directories for the early 1930s reveal, however, a decrease of 7,000 spindles in operation at Linwood between 1931 and 1933, although the number of employees remained constant at 300.<sup>32</sup> At that time, the Linwood Mill was still producing fine shirtings and cambrics. By comparison, the Paul Whitin Manufacturing Co. at the Rockdale Mills, which produced silk goods and yarns in addition to cotton goods, employed 900 people and had roughly 65,000 spindles in operation during

continued

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 10

the same period. While Linwood Mill was for more than sixty years the second largest cotton mill in the town of Northbridge, it never came close to Rockdale Mills in terms of size of facilities or production. The fate of Charles Whitin's cotton mill is uncertain; neither the Whitinsville Cotton Mill nor the Uxbridge Cotton Mills appear to have still been in operation in the early 1930s.<sup>33</sup>

The Linwood Mill finally closed in July 1940, at which time the cotton manufacturing machinery was sold.<sup>34</sup> After remaining idle during two transfers of ownership, Linwood Mill was sold in 1949 to Whitin Machine Works, and was thereafter known as the Linwood Division of that company. The original mill and weave mill last housed a specialty textile company, and the picker house contained a furniture showroom. The brickhouse was until recently a facility used in the production of concrete coffin liners.

All buildings in the mill complex are now vacant. The worker housing and proprietor's mansion continue to serve residential uses, while the railroad freight depot is now used as a restaurant. One dormitory on Linwood Avenue and two on Pine Court were demolished at an unknown date, and their lots remain vacant. National Register designation for the Linwood Mill Historic District would encourage the preservation of this group of historic buildings which have played such a vital role in Northbridge's economic and industrial development since the third quarter of the 19th century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 11

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### Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Northbridge are poorly understood, any surviving sites would be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area have the potential for increasing our understanding of prehistoric settlement and subsistence along the Blackstone River drainage, which is also poorly understood.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized life in a mid to late 19th century mill village. The property offers the potential for study of not only structures themselves but each of the auxiliary components as well, such as worker housing, transportation, and water power.

FEB 21 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 1

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FEB 21 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 9 Page 2NOTES

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 9 Page 3NOTES (Cont'd)

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Linwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, Massachusetts

Section number 10 Page 1

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10. Geographical Data (cont'd)

Boundary Justification (cont'd)

occurred in the easternmost portion of the district with mid-twentieth-century construction of a highway overpass, and the historic district boundaries encompass the area the least fragmented by this and other mid- to late twentieth-century intrusions.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetLinwood Mill Historic District  
Northbridge, MassachusettsSection number 10 Page 2UTM References

|    | <u>Zone</u> | <u>Easting</u> | <u>Northing</u> |
|----|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A. | 19          | 281007         | 4664200         |
| B. | 19          | 281240         | 4663990         |
| C. | 19          | 281210         | 4663960         |
| D. | 19          | 281310         | 4663890         |
| E. | 19          | 281230         | 4663700         |
| F. | 19          | 281070         | 4663680         |
| G. | 19          | 280990         | 4663830         |
| H. | 19          | 280940         | 4663780         |
| I. | 19          | 280880         | 4663820         |
| J. | 19          | 280940         | 4663840         |
| K. | 19          | 280830         | 4663960         |

LINWOOD MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Northbridge (Whitinsville P.O.), MA  
District Data Sheet

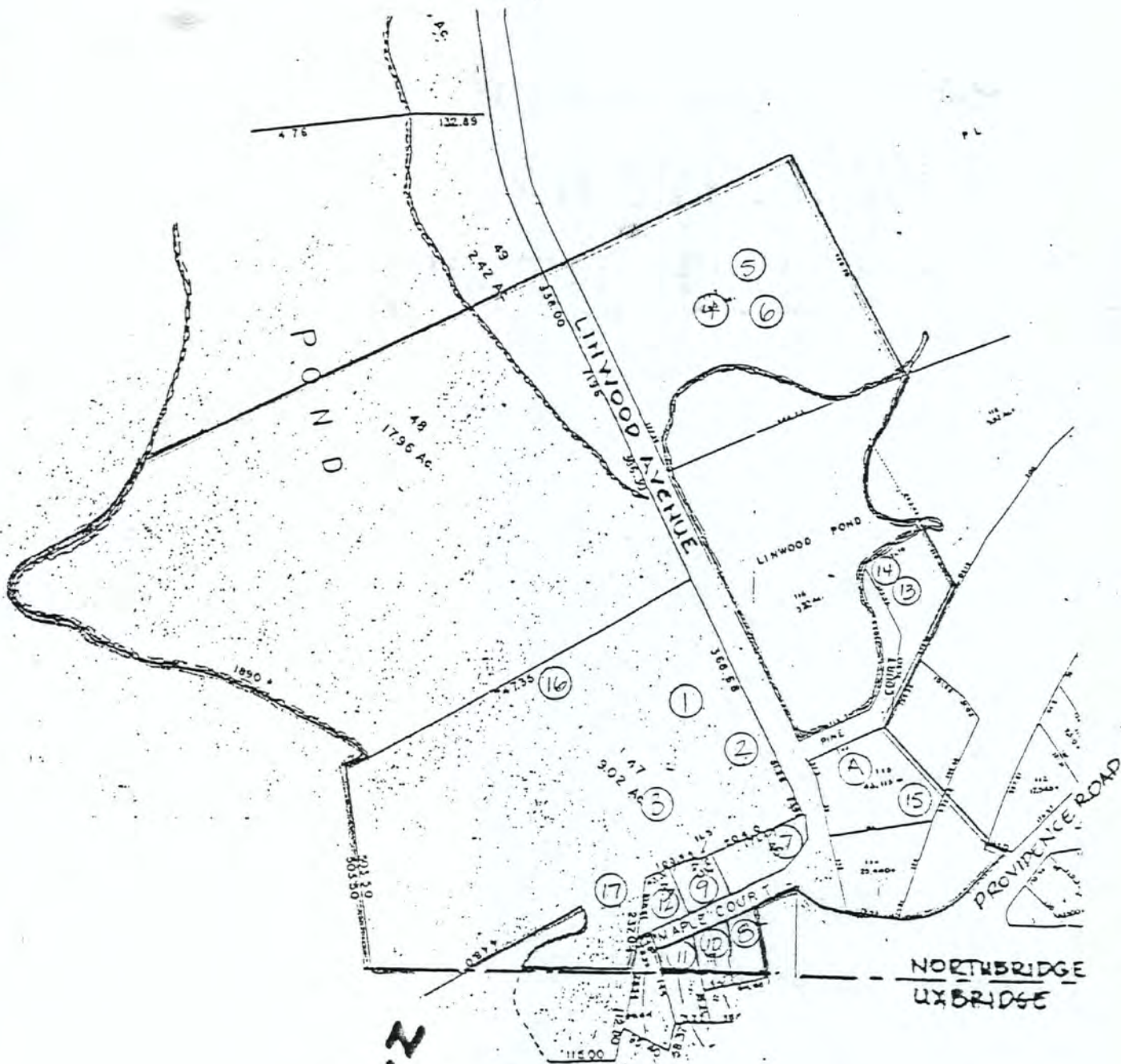
| <u>MAP #</u> | <u>MHC</u> | <u>Historic Name</u>          | <u>Street Address</u> | <u>Date of Construction</u>   | <u>Style</u>                                  | <u>Resource</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1            | 100        | Linwood Mill                  | 666 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1866, additions<br>c. 1895 | Italianate/late<br>19C Indust./<br>Commercial | B               | C             |
| 2            | ---        | Mill Office                   | 666 Linwood Ave.      | 1866-1870                     | Second Empire                                 | B               | C             |
| 3            | ---        | Storehouse (brick)            | 666 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1870-1875                  | Mid-19c Indust./<br>Commercial                | B               | C             |
| 4            | ---        | James F. Whitin,<br>Residence | Linwood Ave.          | c. 1866-1870                  | Second Empire                                 | B               | C             |
| 5            | ---        | Whitin greenhouse             | Linwood Ave.          | c. 1875-1885                  | Late 19C<br>Utilitarian/<br>Commercial        | B               | C             |
| 6            | ---        | Whitin carriage house         | Linwood Ave.          | c. 1866-1870                  | Italianate                                    | B               | C             |
| 7            | ---        | Worker dormitory              | 680 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 8            | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 11-13 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 9            | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 18-22 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 10           | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 19-21 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 11           | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 27-29 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 12           | ---        | Worker duplex                 | 28-30 Maple Court     | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 13           | ---        | Worker dormitory              | 38-40 Pine Court      | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 14           | ---        | Worker dormitory              | 42-44 Pine Court      | c. 1866-1870                  | Greek Revival                                 | B               | C             |
| 15           | ---        | Railroad Freight Depot        | 683 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1866-1870                  | Altered 19C<br>Utilitarian/<br>Commercial     | B               | C             |

| <u>MAP #</u> | <u>MHC</u> | <u>Historic Name</u> | <u>Street Address</u> | <u>Date of Construction</u> | <u>Style</u>         | <u>Resource</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A            | ---        |                      | 681 Linwood Ave.      | c. 1970                     | late 20C/<br>Moderne | B               | NC            |
| 16           | ---        | Dam                  | Linwood Pond          | c. 1857-1866                | N/A                  | St.             | C             |
| 17           | ---        | Tail Race            | South of mill & pond  | c. 1857-1866                | N/A                  | St.             | C             |

**Ration of contributing to noncontributing elements:**

|              | <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Buildings    | 15                  | 1                      |
| Structures   | 2                   | 0                      |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>17</u>           | <u>1</u>               |

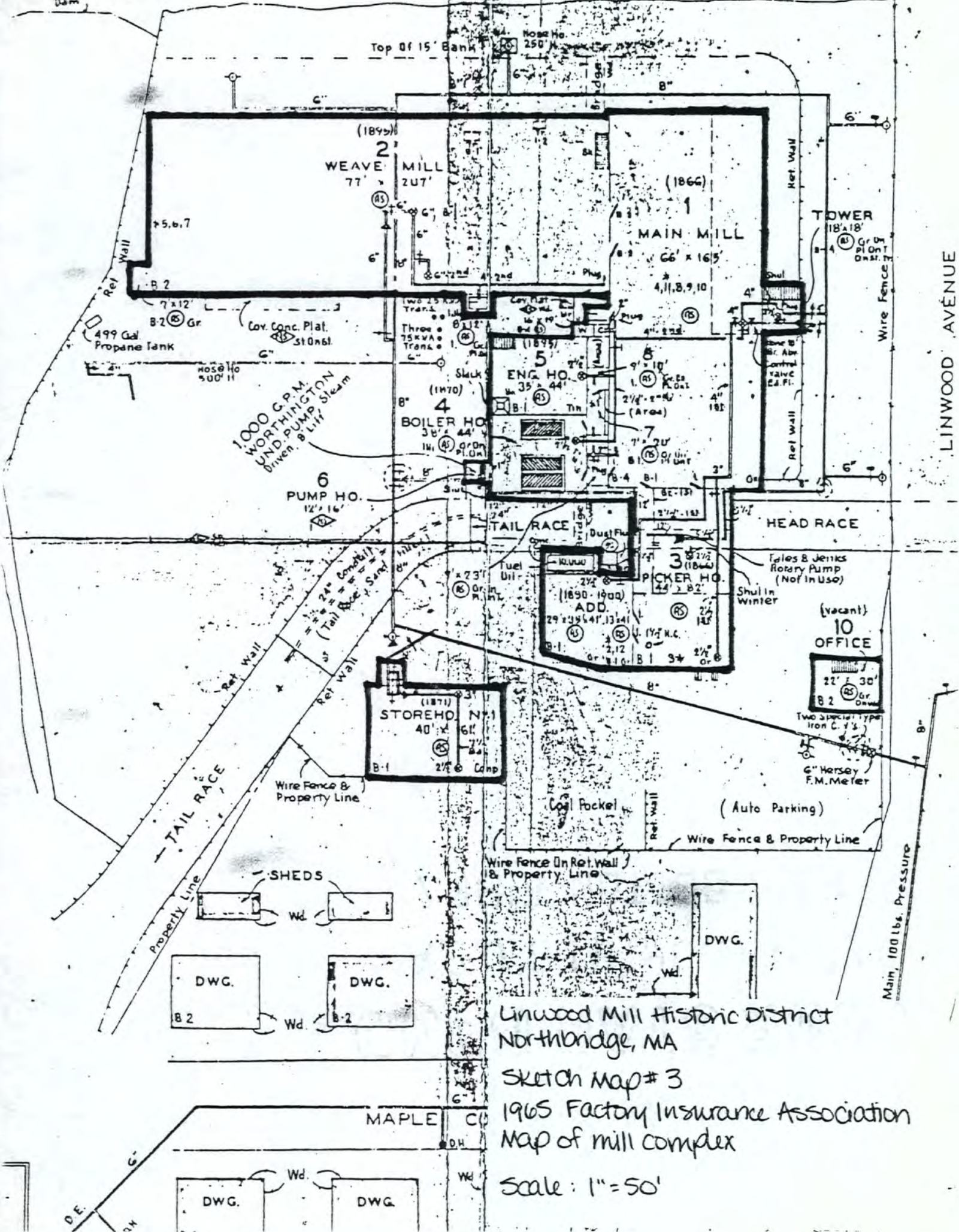
FEB 21 1999



# LINWOOD MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT Northbridge, MA

Detail of Northbridge assessors  
map, showing boundaries of historic  
district.

1" = 285'



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Linwood Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 2/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/07/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88002753

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

\_\_\_ACCEPT ☒ RETURN \_\_\_REJECT 4/6/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return  
REVIEWER Swasey  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 4/6/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

---

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

---

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification  
☐ materials  
☐ descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period                      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ applicable criteria  
☐ justification of areas checked  
☐ relating significance to the resource  
☐ context  
☐ relationship of integrity to significance  
☐ justification of exception  
☐ other

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description  
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☒ *no assessment map* USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Linwood Historic District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 5/03/89

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

6/17/89

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88002753

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/16/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically and architecturally  
significant well complex importantly  
associated with James Fletcher Whitin  
and other members of the Whitin family.*

*Initial and secondary return comments  
have been addressed.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+B+C

REVIEWER George

DISCIPLINE Architectural History

DATE 6/16/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

---

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count      ☐ resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

☐ historic      ☐ current

---

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification  
☐ materials  
☐ descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ applicable criteria  
☐ justification of areas checked  
☐ relating significance to the resource  
☐ context  
☐ relationship of integrity to significance  
☐ justification of exception  
☐ other

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage      ☐ verbal boundary description  
☐ UTM's      ☐ boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps    ☐ USGS maps    ☐ photographs    ☐ presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



LINWOOD MILL, 666 LINWOOD AVE, LINWOOD MILL HIST, DIST  
NORTH BRIDGE, MA  
AMERICAN LANDMARKS  
FEB 1987  
NEGATIVE TAKEN AT AMERICAN LANDMARKS  
VIEW SW ACROSS LINWOOD POND FROM PINE COURT  
PHOTO #1

FEB 21 1989



LINWOOD MILL - 666 LINWOOD AVE - HIST. DIST.  
NORTH BRIDGE MA  
AMERICAN LANDMARKS

1986

NEGATIVE: AMERICAN LANDMARKS

VIEW: SO. SHOWING C. 1895 ADDITIONS TO EXTREME LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT  
PHOTO # 2

FEB. 21 1989



LINWOOD MILL (666 LINWOOD AVENUE), LINWOOD MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

NORTHBRIDGE MA

AMERICAN LANDMARKS

1986

NEGATIVE FILED AT: AMERICAN LANDMARKS

VIEW: NE, SHOWING MILL, 1898 WING, 1940'S LOADING DOCK;

WORKER FORMATOR ON COURT IN DISTANCE

PHOTO # 3

FEB 21 1989



LINWOOD MILL WORKER DORMATORY (LEFT) & OFFICE (RT)

LINWOOD MILL HIST DIST

NORTH BRIDGE, MA

AMERICAN LANDMARKS

1986

NEGATIVE: AMERICAN LANDMARKS, INC

VIEW: SO. FROM LINWOOD AVE, SHOWING WORKER DORM

WORKER DORMS (CENTER) MILL OFFICE (RT)

A.C. 1815 ADDITION TO MILL (EXTREME RT, REAR)

PHOTO #4



18-22 & 28-30 MAPLE CT, LINWOOD MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
NORTH BRIDGE, MA

AMERICAN LANDMARKS, INC.  
1986

NEGATIVE FILED AT AMERICAN LANDMARKS, INC.

VIEW: SW ALONG MAPLE COURT (2 OF 5 WORKER DUPLEXES)

PHOTO #6

FEB 21 1989



JAMES FLETCHER WHITIN MANSION LINWOOD MILL HIST. DIST.  
NORTH BRIDGE, MA  
AMERICAN LANDMARKS, INC.  
1987  
NEGATIVE MADE AT: AMERICAN LANDMARKS, INC.  
VIEW NE  
PHOTO #7

FEB 21 1989



RAILROAD FREIGHT DEPOT, LINWOOD MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
NORTH BRIDGE, MA  
AMERICAN LANDMARKS, INC.

1987

NEGATIVE FILED AT AMERICAN LANDMARKS, INC.

VIEWS SHOWING MID 20C. HIGHWAY OVERPASS, RISES BELOW  
BRIDGE (IN DISTANCE) ARE IN NIXBRIDGE, MA

PHOTO #8

## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**

Linwood Historic District

**County, State**

Worcester County,  
Massachusetts

**Reference Number**

88002753

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☒ Photographs (missing #5)

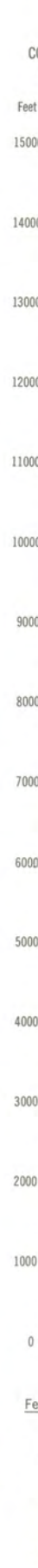
☐ USGS Map

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

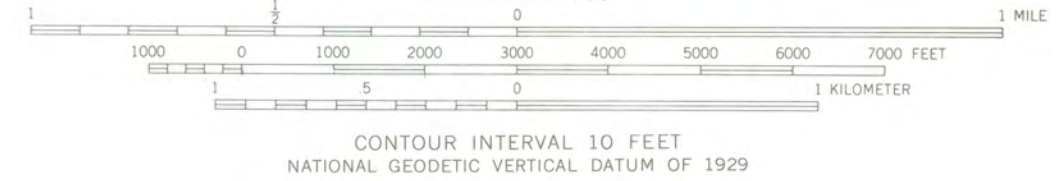
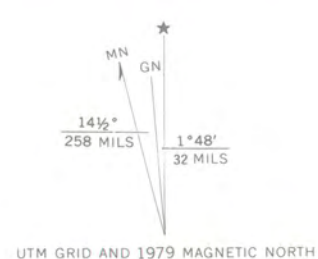
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

UXBRIDGE QUADRANGLE  
MASSACHUSETTS—RHODE ISLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6668 II SW (MASS.)  
6671 NE (RHODE ISLAND)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1942-1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
State Route

UXBRIDGE, MASS.—R. I.  
N4200—W7137.5/7.5  
1969  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6668 II SW—SERIES V814



October 21, 1988

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

**RECEIVED**

NOV 4 1988

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Lowell, Varnum Building; 401-405 Bridge Street (HPCA # 10187MA)

Boston (Roxbury), Mount Pleasant Historic District

Northbridge, Linwood Mill Historic District; Linwood Avenue, Maple Court, Pine Court  
(HPCA # 11131MA)

They have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

*Betsy Friedberg*

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/bq

Enclosure

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Valerie A. Talmage, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*

February 14, 1989



FEB 21 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Linwood Historic District, Northbridge : HPCA # 11131 MA  
Lenox Rail Road Station, Lenox  
Joseph K. Manning House, Medford  
Fort Hill Historic District, Northampton

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

BF/rc

DATE WED, NOV 16, 1988, 12:11 PM  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY REPORT  
REFERENCE No.: 88002753

Page: 57

Control No.: 881114/NVM

PROPERTY NAME: Linwood Mill Historic District

OTHER NAME/ Linwood Cotton Mill  
SITE No. :

MULTIPLE NAME: NOT APPLICABLE

ADDRESS/ Roughly Linwood Ave., Maple Ct., and Pine Ct.  
BOUNDARY :

CITY: Northbridge

COUNTY: Worcester

STATE: MASSACHUSETTS

Restricted Location Information: Owner: PRIVATE Resource Type: DISTRICT

Contributing Noncontributing

|            |    |   |
|------------|----|---|
| Buildings  | 15 | 1 |
| Sites      | 0  | 0 |
| Structures | 2  | 0 |
| Objects    | 0  | 0 |

Nomination/Determination Type: SINGLE RESOURCE

Nominator: STATE GOVERNMENT

Nominator Name:  
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal NOT APPLICABLE  
Agency:

NPS Park Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Date: 11/04/88

Other NOT APPLICABLE  
Certification:

Historic DOMESTIC  
Functions: INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION  
TRANSPORTATION

Historic MULTIPLE DWELLING  
Subfunctions: INSTITUTIONAL HOUSING  
MANUFACTURING FACILITY  
SECONDARY STRUCTURE  
SINGLE DWELLING  
RAIL-RELATED  
WATER WORKS

Current DOMESTIC  
Functions: WORK IN PROGRESS  
VACANT/NOT IN USE  
COMMERCE/TRADE  
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

Current MULTIPLE DWELLING

Subfunctions: HOTEL  
RESTAURANT  
WAREHOUSE  
WATER WORKS

Level of Significance: LOCAL

Applicable Criteria: EVENT  
PERSON  
ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: Whitin, James Fletcher

Criteria Considerations: NOT APPLICABLE

Area of Significance: INDUSTRY  
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of: 1850-1874 1875-1899 Circa: Specific Sig. Years:  
Significance: 1900-1924

C 1866  
C 1870  
1900

Architect/Builder/Engineer/  
Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:

NOT APPLICABLE

Unknown

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A

HAER No. N/A

Architectural Styles: GREEK REVIVAL  
LATE VICTORIAN  
OTHER

Describe Other Style: Mid--Late 19th C. Industrial

Foundation Materials: STONE  
Wall Materials: BRICK WEATHERBOARD  
Roof Materials: ASPHALT  
Other Materials: SLATE

Acreage: 37.0

| UTM          | Zone | Easting    | Northing   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|--------------|------|------------|------------|------|---------|----------|
| Coordinates: | 01/  | /9 99 999/ | /99 99 999 | / /  | / /     | / /      |