

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 22 1985**

date entered **JUN 20**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Farwell Mill

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Route 196 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lisbon, \_\_\_ vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Androscoggin code 001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

**4. Owner of Property**

name Charles Carroll, Realty Development Group

street & number 75 Market Street

city, town Portland, \_\_\_ vicinity of state Maine 04101

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Auburn, \_\_\_ vicinity of state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? n/a yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Farwell Mill is a large sprawling complex located in the center of the village of Lisbon and along the Sabattus River. Constructed of brick, the mill consists of an L-shaped three story main section with wings one to two stories high. Each section has a shallow-pitched roof and a simple corbelled cornice. The windows are double-hung sash with twelve-over-twelve lights and flat granite lintels. Only the four story tower on the southwest corner of the wing fronting Lisbon Street has notable ornamental treatment. For the upper story paired windows are round arched and set beneath Italianate corbelling.

Included in this nomination is a small one story gas works building at the north side of the mill. This structure is ornamented with brick pilasters and corbelling delineating each recessed bay containing a window with a flat stone lintel.

Brick and concrete additions were made to the west and south sides of the mill in 1948 and circa 1953. These four story wings are non-contributing and are scheduled for demolition. These additions did minimal damage to the historic fabric of the original mill and when removed will expose sections long obscured from public view.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1872 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Farwell Mill in Lisbon, Maine is an example of a "state of the art" cotton mill built at the height of the Industrial Revolution. The overwhelming central structure in the small, rural town of Lisbon Village, the mill has long been the economic backbone of the village and the surrounding area.

Begun in 1872, the mill was the only full-scale textile operation owned by Nathaniel W. Farwell. Farwell's interest and holdings in the textile industry were many: he was responsible for starting or operating bleacheries in four states; he was on the board of directors of numerous textile manufacturing concerns in New England; and as a banker he helped finance the textile industry.

Located on the Sabattus River, tributary to Maine's mighty Androscoggin, the upper of the two water privileges at this site was the location of Maine's earliest recorded woolen mill, begun by John Mayall around 1808. Mayall's property was purchased by Farwell in 1867 as Farwell amassed property along both sides of the Sabattus River at what was then known as Factory Village. After Farwell bought the mill, he "repaired and enlarged it, and...occupied it as a cotton mill."

Farwell then looked to the lower, or "Moody's" privilege to expand his operations. This power had been utilized as early as 1800 for a grist mill on its east side by Gideon and Abel Curtis, from whom the early name of the town "Curtis's Mills" was derived. By the time Farwell purchased the site, there was a small saw and grist mill on the western shore, but it had not recently been improved.

Despite the Panic of 1873, plans for construction of the New Farwell Cotton Mill went ahead. Incorporated on January 29, 1872, construction of the new building must have been rapid, as it appears in the 1873 Atlas of Androscoggin County. The Atlas describes the mill as "a first-class cotton mill, built of brick, three stories in height, 346 feet long, and 52 feet wide, with a working capacity of 12,000 mule spindles.

A feature of interest in the newly constructed mill complex was the square, one-story gas works located just below the bridge on the property. Not especially common on a mill site in a small separate building such as this, the well-proportioned brick structure is one of the few such gas houses remaining in Maine.

Nathaniel W. Farwell himself stands as an exemplary New England success story for the Industrial Revolution.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Plummer, Francis W., Lisbon, The History of a Small Maine Town. Lewiston, 1970.  
Merrill, O.D., History of Androscoggin County. Boston, 1891.  
Sanford, E. F., and Everts, W. P., Atlas of Androscoggin County. Philadelphia, 1873.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Lisbon Falls North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	9
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 Zone 

4	1	1	5	2	0
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 Easting 

4	8	7	5	7	0	0
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 Northing

B 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map U13, Lot 43

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1985

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eula S. Fitts*

title S. H. P. O. date 5/10/85

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6-20-85

*Shelores Byer*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration