

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

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

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received APR 18 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Hebronville Mill Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Knight Avenue, Read Street, Phillip Street N/A not for publication

city, town Attleboro N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 11 Court Street P.O. Box 248

city, town Taunton state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August, 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Hebronville Mill Historic District, Attleboro, MA

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hebronville Mill Historic District is situated in the southwesterly section of Attleboro near the boundary with Seekonk, MA. It is a quiet, residential district, linear in form and removed from the hustle and traffic of South Main Street (Route 152) to the east. The district consists of approximately 10.5 acres. It contains 38 properties, of which 36 contribute to the district's historic and visual integrity. Only two buildings are modern intrusions.

The focal point of the district is the Hebron Manufacturing Company mill complex (#1A-1H) which includes the 3-5 story Second Empire style mill, the adjoining company office, powerhouse, and cotton storage warehouses. All are associated with the community's cotton textile industry, the lifeblood of the district's economic vitality from the early 19th century until the 1920's. The Hebronville Methodist Church (#34) and parsonage were built with assistance from the mill's owners for their employees' religious needs and continue to serve in these uses today. The balance of the properties are residential. These include the mill superintendent's house (#28) and the Hebron Store and Post Office (#12), now a four-unit residence. The majority of residential structures were built and owned by the mill as company tenements and were erected between 1854 and 1874. They range from one and two to four-family units.

The district's topography is fairly level, with a slight downward slope towards its northern edge on Knight Avenue and a drop of 10-15 feet at the west side of the mill complex. The Ten Mile River runs north-south through the center of the district and provides a scenic backdrop to the properties along its banks, particularly the rear (west) side of the mill complex. Knight Avenue, the main street through the district, is the central axis off of which several short cross streets create clusters of housing. The tracks of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad cross Knight Avenue at a southwest-northeast diagonal directly south of the mill. The on-grade crossing has been removed, except for a pedestrian path, visually separating the southerly section of the street from the rest of the district. The 1895 construction of the South Main Street overpass above the railroad tracks today creates a visual barrier between the Hebron Methodist Church and the rest of the district. Historically, Church Street served as the main connection from Knight Avenue to the church.

The Hebron Manufacturing Company mill dominates the district not only in its size and scale but also in its elaborate decorative detailing and high style Second Empire design. The sheer size of this three, four and five-story brick factory complex with its tall mansard stairtowers (one removed) and smokestack calls attention to the mill. The residential properties are nestled around the mill and somewhat dwarfed by its contrast to their own small scale, wood-frame construction and simple utilitarian designs. Only the church begins to compete in scale with the mill, its tall spire rising above a large wood-frame structure with delicate Stick Style detailing.

The district is both visually and geographically distinct from surrounding areas. The bulk of through-traffic on Knight Avenue was removed when the South Main overpass was constructed, turning the district into a quiet enclave. To the east, South Main Street extends north and south and is lined by a mixture of 20th century single-family homes and commercial buildings, mostly more spread out than in the district. To the west are several parcels used as farmland and wooded hillsides with a scattering of newer, single-family homes.

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The mill complex is presently vacant and in deteriorated condition. It grew incrementally over a fifty-year period in a manner which largely preserved the original facades. One of the original mansard stairtowers lost its roof in the 1938 hurricane, and the facade windows were inappropriately replaced in 1964, following an explosion at a nearby chemical plant which shattered most of the original windows on the Knight Avenue elevation. However, the major design features, detailing, landscape, setting, and visual integrity of the mill are fully intact. The later rear additions include additional mill wings, picker house, powerhouse and a row of storage warehouses, at least one of which is structurally unsound.

Substantial rehabilitation of the mill for elderly housing is proposed by a private development group. The intent is to complete a historically appropriate rehabilitation which would qualify for the federal historic tax certification, thus assuring preservation of the mill's historic integrity.

The original double-arched raceway leading from the Ten Mile River passed through the basement of the five story, 1860 north wing of the mill and exited to an open tailrace which eventually rejoined the river. Some years later the tailrace was covered over and new building additions were erected above it. The northern edge of the headrace is partially collapsed. A major change in the power system took place ca. 1918 when a new water power system was installed in a basement addition between the five-story mill and powerhouse. This installation is typical of its period. The original 19th century turbines and gates in the adjacent basement have been removed, probably at the time the new system was installed.

The Hebron Manufacturing Company mill, built and operated as a cotton textile mill by the B.B. & R Knight Co. is the largest and most prominent structure in the district. The oldest portion is the eleven bay, four story brick building along Knight Avenue (#1A), designed in the Second Empire style and put into operation in July, 1854. It features a gambrel roof with pedimented dormers in each bay. This treatment gives the appearance of a mansard roof when viewed from the front. Beneath the roof is a fine brick corbelled cornice. The five story central stairtower was designed with a dormered mansard roof, subsequently destroyed during the 1938 hurricane. The large round-arched and segmental-arched panelled wood doors at each story served as loading doors. At the tower's fifth story, a tall round-arched lite is flanked by two smaller lites, a treatment repeated on each elevation of the tower. The entire facade features segmental-arched window openings with granite sills and metal sash with horizontal mullions (replacement of original wood sash).

The second oldest portion of the mill is the brick, five story rear wing at the northern end of the original structure (#1B). This wing was added by 1860. It bears the same gambrel roof and corbelled cornice as the earlier mill, although the original dormers have been removed. A two bay section of the south elevation was replaced with concrete block. The mill's raceway passes beneath this wing.

A third mill building was erected in 1861, the eleven bay, three story structure (#1C) to the south of the original mill and also fronting on Knight Avenue. The design is nearly identical to the original mill, except that it is one story lower. The dormered

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gambrel roof, brick corbelling and segmental-arched windows repeat the earlier detailing schemes. The central stairtower is four stories, capped by a dormered mansard roof. Its round-arched loading doors and upper-story windows also repeat the earlier stairtower motifs. The present dormer and roof designs for this mill and stairtower appear to have been completed between 1891 and 1895. Prior to that, the building had a ridge roof with four large dormers, and the stairtower roof was hipped. A rectangular three story rear (west) addition was completed sometime after 1895 and matches the original building in its window design and exterior detailing.

The two-story company office (#1D) is located between the east facades of the two mill buildings which front on Knight Avenue. It was built in 1874 in the Italianate style. Nearly square in shape with three-bay facades and a door in the west bay of the north elevation, it has a hip roof with wide overhangs. The bracketed cornice has a high entablature. Windows are the original 6/6 double-hung sash. A simple, one story brick addition spans the east facade. One bay deep and three bays wide with a center entrance, it has a flat roof and a modillioned cornice.

A picker house, completed in 1866, forms the three-story brick wing at the north side of the five-story rear ell (#1E). It features two square corner towers with round-arched windows and flat roofs. The tops of these towers are deteriorated and partially removed. A fire in this wing has caused considerable damage to the west wall and one-bay connecting passageway.

The first powerhouse and smokestack were completed in 1868. The present ca. 1900 powerhouse (#1F) is a rectangular, two-story brick structure in the rear (west) yard of the mill. The west bay appears to be a remnant of the earlier powerhouse. A simplified corbelled cornice, segmental-arched windows and several large wooden doors at each story of the south elevation provide visual interest to this utilitarian design. The rectangular-shaped stack is located along the north elevation. A one-story brick addition of simple utilitarian design was later added along the east side. A 1½ story brick wing extends from the east addition to the west elevation of the 1854 mill, probably dating from ca. 1918.

A row of one-story brick warehouses (#1G, 1H) lines the western edge of the site for a distance of 332 feet. They are separated from the mill by a narrow, granite-faced bed of the Ten Mile River. These warehouses were built in 1882 and 1884, beginning with the center section which has a low ridge roof and, on its west facade, a pair of panelled wood doors beneath a later shed canopy with four diagonal braces. Four small loading windows with wood doors are spread along the length of this facade, which also has a row of diamond-shaped tie-rod ends midway up the wall. The northern warehouse is taller, with a large pair of wood doors set in a segmental-arched opening near its southern end. Three small loading windows are situated within the plain brick facade.

The majority of residential structures in the district are company-built tenements of two- and four-unit design. The east side of Knight Avenue south of the railroad tracks exemplified the two-unit design which pre-dominates in the district. Typical of this early tenement design which was built in the 1850s and 1860s is #190-92 Knight Avenue

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(#26). It is a 1½-story, Greek Revival structure faced in wood shingles and capped by a ridge roof with returns at the corners. The eight-bay facade is treated as two, four-bay units, each with a door in the second bay from center and three 6/6 double-hung wood sash in the remaining openings. The entrances are raised above the brick foundation by two steps and feature multilite rectangular transoms and architrave moldings. The roof is pierced by a small, centered shed-roof dormer with two small, six lite windows. There is a small brick chimney near each end of the ridge.

Typical of the larger four-tenement houses in the district is #160 Knight Avenue (#24). This 2½-story Greek Revival design has its entrance in the center bay of the seven-bay facade. Above the entrance is a simple projecting architrave molding. The ridge roof is treated with a plain frieze and returns at the eaves. The roof has two pedimented dormers and two chimneys near the center of its ridge. The original 6/6 wood windows were later replaced by 2/2 sash, and asbestos shingles now cover the exterior walls.

The Hebron Store and Post Office, now a four-unit residence (#12) dates from the early 1860s and is Italianate in its design. The building consists of the main two-story structure with its gable-ended, three-bay facade and side elevations adorned by a large impressive bracketed cornice with returns. To the north of the main block are two 1½-story ells, one built to house company tenements and the other a large barn originally used for the store's delivery horses and wagons.

A small architectural gem within the district is #98 Knight Avenue (#15), a Gothic Revival cottage built by A.J. Goff in 1853. The facade is five bays wide with a center entrance which includes sidelites and a bracketed hood. Above the entrance is a large gable with a pair of tall, round-arched windows with pointed wood frames. One-story wings are set back from the facade at each side and feature "gingerbread" trim at the eaves.

The Hebron Methodist Church (#34) is another district landmark, built upon a knoll overlooking the district from the east. Built in 1883, the Stick Style structure rests upon a high brick foundation and has a tall corner tower with a conical spire. The clapboard exterior is embellished by patterned, half-timber decoration of the tower and north elevation, and by carved wood trim at the pedimented tower entrance and at the southwest portico entrance.

The stone-arched bridge which spans the Ten Mile River at Bridge Street (#36) has a single elliptical arch and is built of fieldstone and granite. It appears to be an unaltered example of early-mid 19th century engineering.

The impact of intrusions on the district is minimal. Nearly all of the buildings date from the late 19th century and early 20th century, and most were built between 1854 and 1874. There are only two intrusions, both located on Knight Avenue. One is a flat-roofed two-story brick and vinyl apartment building built in the 1970s (#A) and the other is a small modern ranch house (#B). Several of the tenement houses have been inappropriately renovated and/or covered by siding which is unsympathetic to the original designs, but these changes could be corrected readily to restore the historic appearances.

8. Significance Hebronville Mill Historic District, Attleboro, MA

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

Specific dates 1854 + **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hebronville Mill Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. Historically, it is significant as one of two 19th century industrial villages which were developed by the prominent Rhode Island based firm of B.B. & R. Knight Company to support Attleboro's growing textile industry. Architecturally, the district contains an excellent example of a mid-19th century textile mill and associated workers' housing forming a distinctive planned industrial community. The Hebronville Mill Historic District thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The town of Attleboro was incorporated in 1694 as a community of 7,577 people. It also included the present geographic boundaries of North Attleboro and Cumberland, RI. The early economy was largely agricultural with occasional saw and grist mills located along the various rivers and falls within the town. These water-power sites formed the foundations for many of the villages which evolved during the 19th century, including Dodgeville and Hebronville. The present city boundaries were defined in 1887 when North Attleboro and Attleboro separated. Attleboro formally adopted its city charter in 1914 with a population of 18,840 and an evaluation of \$20,000,000. The legal name was shortened from Attleborough to Attleboro at that time.

A settlement at Hebronville was established during the 18th century when several water-powered saw-mills and grist-mills were built along the Ten Mile River, close to the present mill site. The area was commonly referred to as Chaffee's Mills. Not until 1827 did the community gain its present name. The name of Hebronville was selected for the area near the mill in 1827 by Rev. Thomas Williams, first minister of the Hebron Baptist Church which was built at that time and located nearby.

In 1812, the first textile mill was built at this site by the Atherton family. It was acquired four years later by Thomas Harkness and Thomas J. Stead of Providence. The Atherton Manufacturing Co. produced 400,000 yards of printed cloth in 1828, the year the original mill was expanded by Messrs. Harkness and Stead. They continued their operation until 1853, when the company was acquired by the B.B. & R. Knight Co. of Providence.

The B. B. & R. Knight Co.'s acquisition of the mill reflected a growing textile industry throughout southeastern Massachusetts which emanated from expansion of the Pawtucket and Blackstone Valley mill systems in Rhode Island. Advances in machine technology and identification of good water-power sites were combined with improved rail transportation to create an unprecedented industrial boom, not unlike the growth of the textile industry in the Merrimack Valley to the north. The Boston and Providence Railroad was completed in 1835 with a stop at Attleboro Center and stations were opened in 1847 in Dodgeville and Hebronville on the Old Colony Route of Boston.

Attleboro's textile industry developed simultaneously with other manufacturing interests. At mid-century, it was one of several successful industries in the town. Only towards the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bayles, Richard M., ed., History of Providence County, RI: NY: W.W. Preston Co; 1891; vol. 1, pp. 716-727.
Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Taunton, MA. Deeds and Plans for B.B. & R. Knight Co.
Daggett, John, A Sketch of the History of Attleboro; Boston: Samuel Usher; 1894; p. 340.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 10.5

Quadrangle name Attleboro, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	0	7	6	6	0	4	6	4	1	9	9	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

B

1	9	3	0	7	7	8	0	4	6	4	1	9	3	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

C

1	9	3	0	7	6	8	0	4	6	4	1	4	0	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

D

1	9	3	0	7	4	1	0	4	6	4	1	2	1	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

E

1	9	3	0	7	4	2	0	4	6	4	1	7	2	0
Zone	Easting						Northing							

F

Zone	Easting						Northing							

G

Zone	Easting						Northing							

H

Zone	Easting						Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southernmost edge of the district at the intersection of Knight Avenue and South Main Street, the boundary following the east side of Knight Avenue and runs in a northerly direction to the northern edge of Parcel #23-34 where it turns west across

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission with
name/title Margo B. Webber, Preservation Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January, 1984

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

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 *Patricia L. Weslow*

State Historic Preservation Officer

title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 4/10/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/17/84

J. Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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last quarter of the 19th century did the local jewelry industry surpass all other fields to begin the heyday of Attleboro's reign as "Hub of the Jewelry World," a title the city retained well into the 20th century.

The Hebronville Mill District as it exists today dates from the time it was acquired in 1853 by the B.B. & R. Knight Co., a growing young firm which was destined to become one of Rhode Island's leading industrialists by century's end. Initially, the ongoing textile operation was maintained, but the mill was soon thereafter struck by lightning and burned. The mill was rebuilt and reopened in July, 1854, commencing the district's major period of significance which extended until 1920. In addition to the Hebronville mill, the failing Dodgeville textile mill was acquired at auction in 1854 by the Knight Co.

The firm not only built and expanded its mill operation at Hebronville over the next 50 years but also erected company-owned tenements for its employees, a company store, and post office and contributed to the construction of churches, streets, public services, tree planting, etc. in the village as it did in many of its mill communities. This type of company-sponsored community development was fairly common in some of the remote village locations, as mill owners sought to attract and maintain a stable work force for their mills by providing good, affordable housing and the promise of a better way of life in a quiet village setting. The village grew quickly and by the turn of the century its population had grown to 1000.

The success of the B.B. & R. Knight Co. resulted largely from the efforts of its partners: the founding brothers, Benjamin Brayton Knight and Robert Knight and another brother who joined them soon thereafter, Stephen A. Knight. The Knight firm was started in 1851 with the acquisition of the Pontiac, RI bleachery and cotton mill. This was followed by purchase of the Hebronville and Dodgeville mills in Attleboro and of several other textile mills in Rhode Island. In 1871, the Hebronville and Dodgeville mills and the Grant Mill in Providence were incorporated as the Hebron Manufacturing Company, the name by which the Hebronville mill was known for most of its existence. The Knight brothers were the officers of this company as well whose sole products were "Fruit of the Loom" cotton cloths. The first superintendent of the Hebronville mill was Stephen A. Knight, who moved to the Village in 1853 and resided in the Superintendent's House (#28). He later served as the mill's agent and president.

Early on, the firm began selling goods directly to its buyers, without commissioned merchants. This practice led to the trade name "Fruit of the Loom" for which the firm became famous:

"It was while the firm was beginning to sell the goods direct to the trade that one of the customers, Rufus Steel, who was an extensive grower of fruit, had a picture made of an apple called the 'Swar.' This was given a tinge of color and sent to the Knights to be put on the goods sold to Mr. Steel. It was this incident that shortly after caused the firm to conceive the idea of the "Fruit of the Loom" labels with designs of various kinds of fruit upon them and it was not long before the "Fruit of the Loom" attained its enviable reputation which it has maintained to the present time in spite of all competition."¹

1. Providence Board of Trade Journal, November, 1912, p. 471.

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By the 1890's the Knight Co. owned 21 cotton mills in the region and operated 15 separate mill villages, employing a total of over 7,000 operatives. Many of the mills were secured at low figures and turned around to produce profitable ventures under the Knight brothers' close supervision.

The Hebron Manufacturing Company began facing economic hardship in the post- World War I years, as did the New England textile industry as a whole. Competition from southern mills whose lower costs for labor, materials, and transportation could not be matched was primarily to blame. The company first declared bankruptcy in 1920 and in 1926 the mill was closed and sold to the Ray Cotton Co. of Franklin, a cotton waste (rag) company. Tenements were sold at auction, with preference given to current residents. The mill has subsequently declined physically, its last user being a garden hose recycling operation. The residential structures in the district range in condition from excellent to fair, and a few of the homes have been inappropriately modernized. Only one property is vacant, (#19) which last housed the Hebronville branch library.

The Hebron Manufacturing Co. mill (#1A-1H) creates the major architectural statement of the district. It is an excellent example of Second Empire style industrial design, highlighted by its mansard stairtower, dormered gambrel roofs and elaborate corbelled cornice details. Most of the later additions, such as the southwest and north wings, company office and powerhouse contribute to the mill's integrity and industrial character while also illustrating the logical expansion of a successful textile operation.

The company-built tenements range from the smaller two-unit dwellings to larger four-unit buildings. Historically, the tenements were a crucial part of the company's success in developing an economically-viable village. The tenements reflected the firm's willingness to provide a decent standard of living for their employees. The two-unit dwellings are scattered throughout the district but create the most striking rhythm where a row of seven of these homes lines the southeast side of Knight Avenue (#25-32). Their paired entrances, returned eaves, wide cornices, and shed cormers create a nearly identical Greek Revival cottage design.

The larger tenements reflect a similar Greek Revival interpretation to 2½ story residential structures. The interior plans vary primarily in the placement of entrances, either paired or single, while the exteriors share typical Greek Revival details which include returned eaves, wide cornices, architrave doorway moldings, and often pedimented cormers. Several of these tenements were adorned with wooden brackets and entry hoods in later years.

Other individual structures of note include the Hebron Store and Post Office (#12). Its ornate bracketed cornice and gabled facade recall the Italianate/Bracketed style in which it was designed. The company operated two stores in the building, a market and general store, as well as the local post office. Above the market was Hebron Hall, a large meeting room where civic and religious groups often met. The large barn attached at the north side is original and housed the store's delivery teams. Company employees were required to purchase their goods here with expenses deducted directly from their pay. Receipts found in the basement indicate that sometimes only a few pennies were left to the worker's name.

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The A.J. Goff House, a Gothic Revival cottage (#15) is noteworthy for its elaborate architectural embellishments in a fanciful style not seen elsewhere in the district. The peaked gable in the facade with lancet-shaped openings, bracketed entrance hood (added later) and cut-out wood porch details creates a fine example of vernacular Gothic Revival design. Its original owner ran a small store nearby.

To the east of the A.J.Goff House is the original home of the Hebron Building and Improvement Association, now a private residence (#16). This group was organized in 1906 by several people associated with the mill. Its objectives were to offer financing for individuals wishing to build homes in the village while also providing a conservative investment for its members. In its first year, six new homes were built and funds committed for four more with loans granted at 5% interest. The building is a tiny Victorian Commercial structure.

The Hebron Methodist Church (#34) is significant for its Stick Style design and as the only remaining church in Hebronville of the four which once supported the community's spiritual needs. Completed in 1883, the wood-frame building features a striking corner tower with half-timber veneer, a carved wood triangular pediment and a tall spire. The raised entrance porch features a fancy-cut wood balustrade. The church was organized in 1875 as the Hebron Methodist Episcopal Church, with 27 members. Its first meetings were held in Hebron Hall. The building lot was donated by the Hebron Manufacturing Co., and Stephen A. Knight was one of the early members. Shortly after the church was completed in 1883, eight horse sheds were built at the rear (now demolished) and leased to members for \$5 per year. In 1911 a parsonage was built adjacent to the church (#35) on land also donated by the Hebron Manufacturing Co. Four of the horse sheds were demolished and the lumber was reused to build the parsonage. This church was one of four in the community which illustrated the village's ethnic diversity among Irish, French-Canadians, Baptists, and Methodists. Many of the workers in the 1860s and 70s were Irish, followed in the 1890s and later by French-Canadians. The French-Canadians dominated the community at the time the mill closed and remained in the area, even today comprising its dominant composition.

The stone arched bridge which spans the Ten Mile River at Bridge Street (#36) dates from the 19th century. It is a typically fine and apparently unaltered example of bridge engineering from the period when the village experienced its major development.

An architect for the Hebron Manufacturing Co. mill and tenements has not been identified. These buildings were most likely designed and built by masons and carpenters attracted to the village by the Knight Co.'s offer of decent wages and housing. Particularly in its later years, many of the village's residents were French-Canadians, some of whom were experienced carpenters and lumbermen. The only known architect to have designed in the district is Gould and Angell, the Providence firm which designed the Hebron Methodist Church.

The effect of intrusions on the district is minimal. A large 7-unit tenement/boarding house on Knight Avenue was demolished in the 1970s and replaced by a two-story, L-shaped apartment block. Fortunately, it is set back from the street considerably more than its historic neighbors (#A).

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Continuation sheet Hebronville Mill Historic District
Item number 8

Page 4

Another early house on Knight Avenue was recently replaced by a one-story wood and brick ranch house (#B) whose scale and massing are compatible with the early two-unit tenements nearby. Several of the buildings have been modernized insensitively but the extent of most renovations has been inappropriate windows and asbestos or aluminum siding.

The Hebron Manufacturing Co. mill was built on the site of an earlier textile mill which utilized falls of the Ten Mile River as a power source for its machinery. This was typical of mid-19th century textile mills throughout New England. The particular industrial technology does not appear to have been exceptional, based on a review by industrial archaeologists. In an effort to modernize and upgrade the mill, new waterpower machinery was installed ca. 1918 and the original equipment was apparently removed at this time. The mill also no longer contains any textile machinery.

The textile industry played an essential role in the economy of the village and of Attleboro as a whole, employing upwards of 500 people in its peak years. The potentially-disastrous impact of the local textile industry's collapse in the 1920s was moderated by the highly-successful jewelry industry which soon hired most of the laid-off workers. Though residents no longer work within their own village mill, a sense of community has been maintained in this residential area until the present day.

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet Hebronville Mill Historic District 9 & 10 Page 1
Item number

9. Major Bibliographical References (Con't)

- Gaudett, Pauline, private historical collection, reviewed October, 1983.
Greene, Welcome Arnold, The Providence Plantations for 250 Years; Providence; 1886; pp. 252-3.
Grieve, Robert and John P. Fernald, The Cotton Centennial 1790-1890; Providence: J.A. and R.A. Reid; 1891; pp. 129-39.
Hurd, D. Hamilton, History of Bristol County, MA; Philadelphia: T.W. Lewis; 1883; pp. 536+.
Providence Journal of Commerce, vol. 4, April, 1896, pp. 17-18; vol. 18, January 1906, p. 15-16; vol. 19, August 1907; p. 475; vol. 24, November 1912, pp. 471-3; vol. 32, November 1920, pp. 556-7.
Representative Men and Old Families of RI; Chicago: J.H. Beers; 1908; pp. 35-6.
Tedesco, Paul, Attleboro, Hub of the Jewelry World; Danvers: Bradford and Bigelow; 1979.

10. Verbal boundary description and justification (Con't)

Knight Avenue and proceeds along the southerly edge of #23-39 to its western edge. It then proceeds northward, crossing the tracks of the NY, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad and along the western edge of #29-56 until reaching the southern edge of #29-02 where it crosses Read Street to the west and runs westerly along the southern edge of #29-02. It then follows the rear property lines of #29-03, 29-04, 29-05, and 29-06 and the northern edge of #29-07 easterly to the west side of Phillip Street. It then proceeds southerly for a distance of approximately 159', crosses Phillip Street to the east and follows the northern edge of #29-37 to the edge of the Ten Mile River, where it follows the riverbank southerly to Bridge Street where it then runs eastward to the easterly bank.

The boundary then runs northerly along the river's east bank to the northern edge of #29-46, crosses eastward along the northern edge of #29-46 and 24-48C and thence southward along the rear property lines on the eastern side of Knight Avenue to the southern edge of #21-281. Here it runs southward across the school playground and Webber Street, adjoining the rear property line of #21-01 and again proceeding southward along the rear property lines of Knight Avenue's eastern side to the railroad tracks. The boundary passes southward across the tracks and again resumes its path along the rear property lines of #21-08 and 21-09 where it then turns eastward on the north side of Church Street and proceeds in this direction to the east side of South Main Street. It then follows the northern, eastern, and southern edges of #21-54 and then the southern and western edges of #21-57, returning to South Main Street where it crosses this street to the west and proceeds westerly along the southern side of Church Street to the rear edge of #23-38. Here it turns southward along the rear property line of #23-38 and continues southerly along the eastern property lines of #23-34, 23-33, 23-32 23-31, and 23-30 to the corner of South Main Street and Knight Avenue, the point of beginning. Please refer to Assessor's map.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Hebronville Mill Historic District
Item number 10

Page 2

This boundary has been defined to include the historic Hebron Manufacturing Company mill, all of the tenements and related buildings erected by the mill owners, additional homes built as worker's housing during the mill's major period of growth, and a church and parsonage also built as integral elements of the community. Historically, the district formed the central core of Hebronville as it developed along the banks of the Ten Mile River, with Knight Avenue as its principal thorough-fare. Visually, the district is identified by its neat rows of cottages lined along the main streets and the huge mill complex near the center of the district.

The areas surrounding the district are quite different in character, including open fields and wooded areas to the west with small homes spread out along the streets, the South Main Street corridor of mixed commercial and residential properties to the east, north and south, and to the east of the Hebron Methodist Church, an area of single and multi-family homes of mixed 20th century vintage.

OWNERSHIP LIST

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Assessor's #</u>	<u>Owner's Name/Address</u>
9	53 Knight Ave.	29-46	Burgess, Asahel, Mildred & Helen 53 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
10	73 Knight Ave.	29-45	Belanger, David, Scott & Debra MacPheters 73 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
13	84 Knight Ave.	24-47	Gagner, Peter F. & Lillian M. 84 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
14	86 Knight/2 Goff	21-277	Gagner, Cynthia C. 86 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
15,16	98,104 Knight Ave.	21-278	Leedham, Thomas R.Jr., Trustee c/o R.&I. Grenier 98 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
11	109 Knight Ave.	29-41	Parker, Robert J. & Amelia K. 109 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
17	110 Knight Ave.	21-279	Pelland, Robert W. & Irene A. 110 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
18	114 Knight Ave.	21-280	Choiniere, Ernest E. & Marion 114 Knight Avenue Attleboro, MA 02703
12	137 Knight Ave.	29-38	Gaudet, Elizabeth 137 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
20	140 Knight Ave.	21-01	Lebeau, Roland O. & Claire E. Box 67 North Anson, ME 04958
21	144 Knight Ave.	21-02	Rocha, Vasco P. & Leah Matthews 144 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
22	150 Knight Ave.	21-03	Ainsworth, Clinton & Pamela Heinz c/o W. Jr. & D.A. Dietzl 150 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703

OWNERSHIP LIST (Page 2)

Map #	Street Address	Assessor's #	Owner's Name/Address
23	154 Knight Ave.	21-04	Governo, Evelyn 154 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
24	160 Knight Ave.	21-05	Daneau, Joseph and Marion J. 403 South Main St. Providence, RI 02903
1	169 Knight Ave.	29-56	Rabinovitz, Frank Trustee 34 Livingston Rd. Sharon, MA 02067
25	182 Knight Ave.	21-08	Harwood, Barbara J. 182 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
26	190 Knight Ave.	21-09	Ruel, Kenneth J. & Deborah V. 190 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
27	196 Knight Ave.	23-38	Daneau, Roger A. & Vivian M. 110 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
28	201 Knight Ave.	23-39	Messier, Henry G. & Adrienne 201 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
29	202 Knight Ave.	23-35	Bailey, Otis & Joan 6 Hebron Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
30	210 Knight Ave.	23-34	Gaouette, Clinton & Dorothy 21 Wilson St. Seekonk, MA 02771
31	216 Knight Ave.	23-33	Gaudet, Ernest Francis 226 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
32	224 Knight Ave.	23-31	Gaudet, Ernest Francis 226 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
2	988 Read St.	29-02	Nelson, Douglas S. 988 Read St. Attleboro, MA 02703
3	1006 Read St.	29-04	Beaudoin, Dennis & Suzzane M. 1006 Read St. Attleboro, MA 02703

OWNERSHIP LIST (Page 3)

Map #	Street Address	Assessor's #	Owner's Name/Address
4	1 Read St.	29-05	Koski, Edward & Mary A. 1 Read St. Attleboro, MA 02703
5,6	4,8 Phillip St.	29-06	Emond, George C. & Irma J. 8 Phillip St. Attleboro, MA 02703
7	10 Phillip St.	29-07	Collette, Ernest W. & Rose M. 12 Phillip St. Attleboro, MA 02703
8	23 Bridge St.	29-37	Poncin, Omer L. & Viola M. 23 Bridge St. Attleboro, MA 02703
33	1247 S. Main St.	23-30	Daneau, Lydia D. 1247 S. Main St. Attleboro, MA 02703
34	S. Main St.	21-55	Hebronville Methodist Church South Main Street Attleboro, MA 02703
35	2 Bourne Ave.	21-57	Hebronville Methodist Church South Main Street Attleboro, MA 02703
A	119 Knight Ave.	29-39	Nason, Douglas J. Box 322 Chartley, MA 02712
B	101 Knight Ave.	29-42	Maynard, Kenneth & Jeanette 101 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
36	Stone-arch bridge	-	City of Attleboro Dept. of Public Works City Hall Annex Attleboro, MA 02703
V1	Read St.	29-03	Nelson, Robert E. & Howard High St. Plainville, MA 02762
V2	Knight Ave.	29-40	Ousley, Gordon 182 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
V3	Knight Ave.	29-42	Maynard, Kenneth & Jeanette 101 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703

OWNERSHIP LIST (Page 4)

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Assessor's #</u>	<u>Owner's Name/Address</u>
V4	Knight Ave.	29-44	Maynard, Kenneth & Jeanette 101 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
V5	Knight Ave.	29-46A	Province of the Immaculate Heart of Mary 947 Park St. Attleboro, MA 02703
V6	Knight Ave.	24-48C	Burgess, Asahel, Mildred & Helen 53 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
V7	Knight Ave.	21-282	City of Attleboro School Dept. Rathburn Willard Drive Attleboro, MA 02703
V8	Knight Ave.	23-32	Ernest F. Gaudet 226 Knight Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703
19	120 Knight Ave.	21-281	City of Attleboro Public Buildings Dept. 29 Park Street Attleboro, MA 02703
-	off Knight Ave.	--	NY, New Haven & Hartford Railroad New Haven, CT 06506

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Hebronville Mill Historic District
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. APR 18 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 5/17/84 - 6/2/84
Action: ACCEPT 5/17/84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair		
<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated		
<input type="checkbox"/> ruins		
<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection



Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View looking west towards district
from South Main Street overpass

Photo 1 of 11



Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View looking north towards east
facade of Hebron Manufacturing Co.
mill complex (1C, 1D)

View 2 of 11



Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View looking west towards front of
Hebron Manufacturing Co., with
company office at center

Photo 3 of 11





Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View southeast towards west eleva-
tion of Hebron Manufacturing Co.
cotton warehouses (1H, 1G)

Photo 4 of 11



Hebronville, Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View southeast towards row of identical 2-unit tenements on Knight Ave. (25, 26)

View 5 of 11



Hebronville Mill District

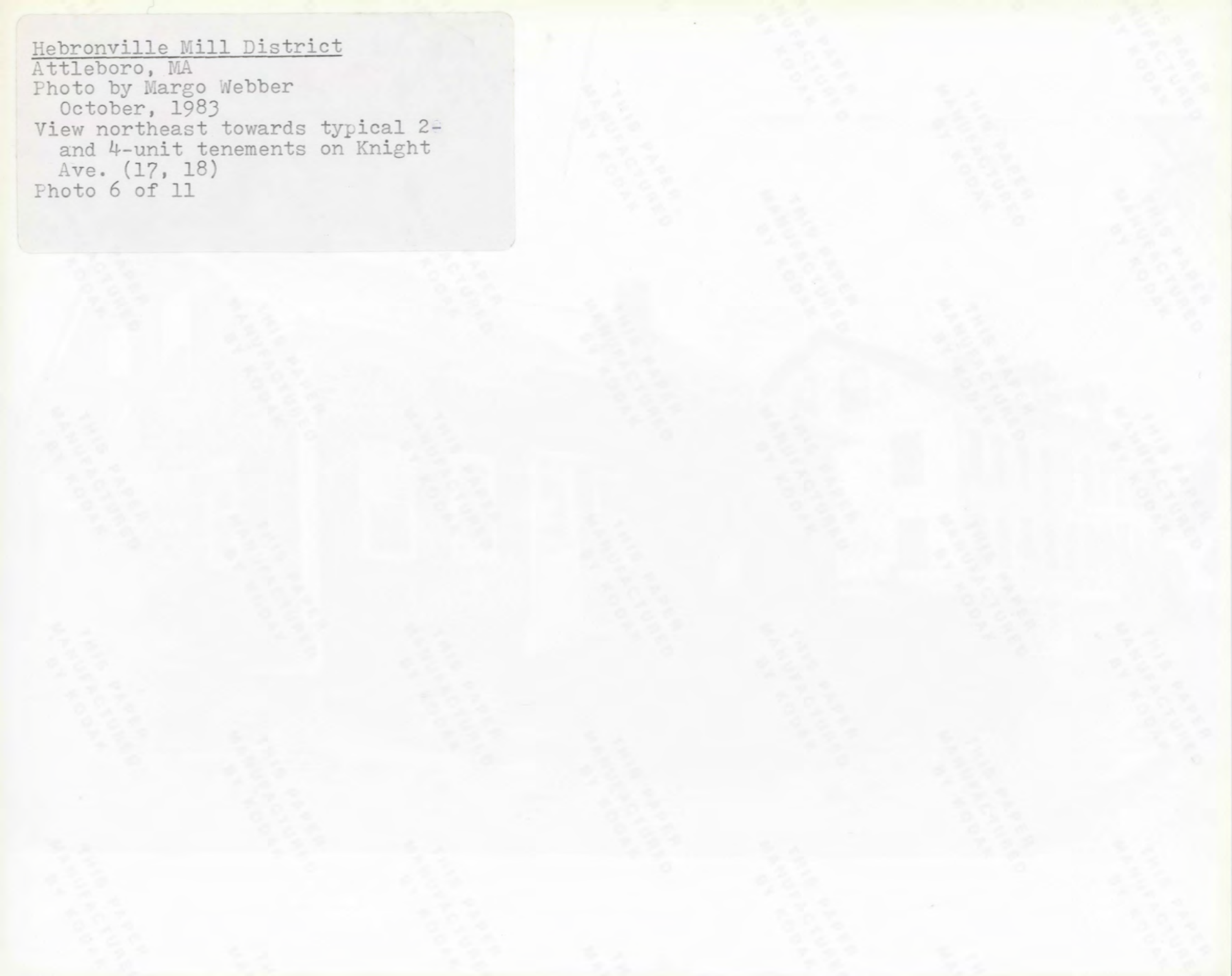
Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View northeast towards typical 2-
and 4-unit tenements on Knight
Ave. (17, 18)

Photo 6 of 11





Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View northwest towards worker's
cottages on Phillip St. (5,6,7)

Photo 7 of 11



Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

View northeast towards facade of

A.J. Goff House (15)

Photo 8 of 11



Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

Hebron Methodist Church facade
and north elevation from northwest
(34)

Photo 9 of 11



Hebronville Mill District

Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

East facade of intrusive apartment
block (A) from Knight Ave.

Photo 10 of 11



Hebronville Mill District

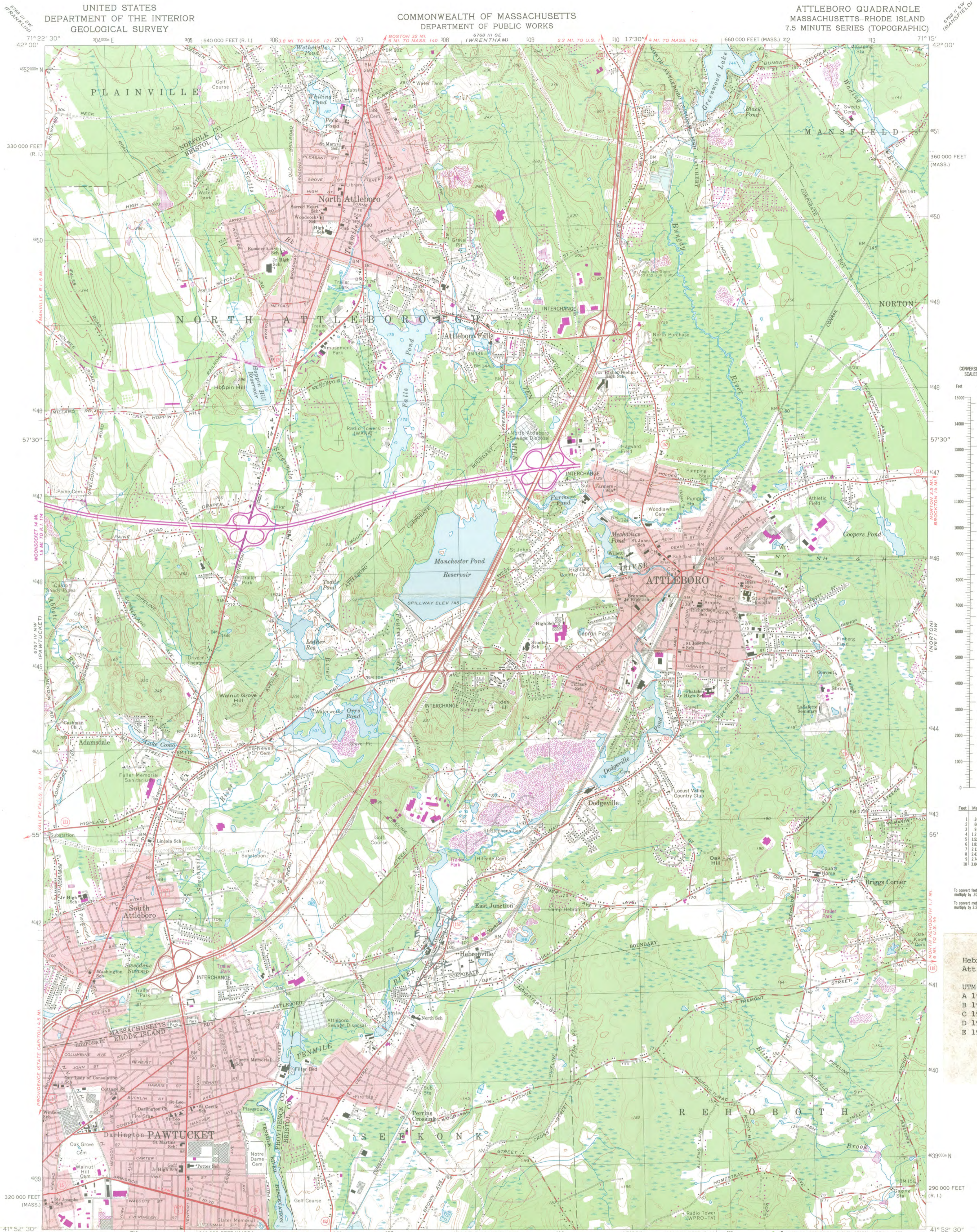
Attleboro, MA

Photo by Margo Webber

October, 1983

Modern ranch house (B) from southeast.

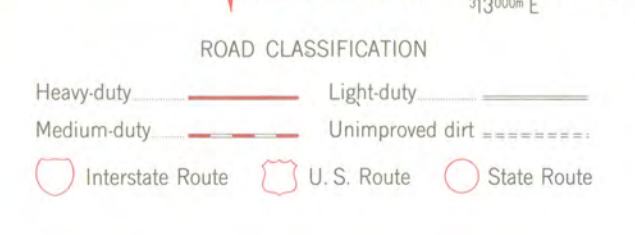
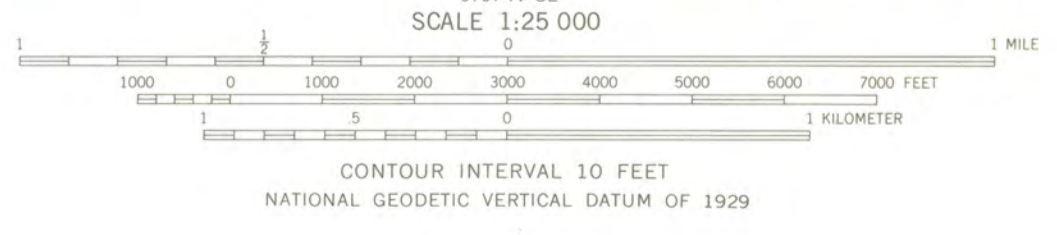
Photo 11 of 11



Hebronville Mill Historic
Attleboro, Ma. District

UTM:
A 19/307660/4641990
B 19/307780/4641930
C 19/307680/4641400
D 19/307410/4641210
E 19/307420/4641720

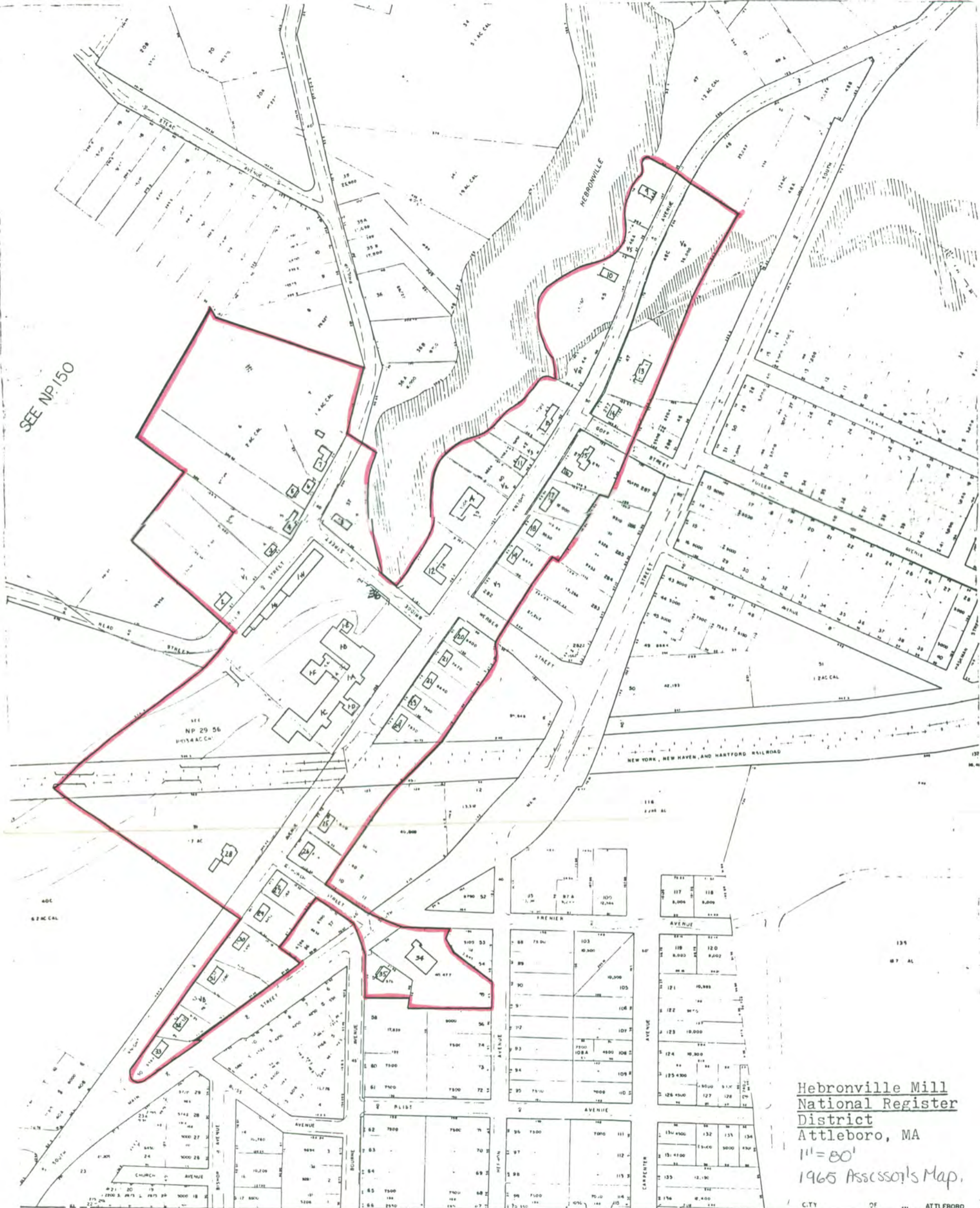
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1935 and 1938-1939
Revised 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



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ATTELBORO, MASS.—R. I.
N4152.5—W7115.7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6767 IV NE—SERIES V814

SEE NP 150



Hebronville Mill
National Register
District
Attleboro, MA
1" = 80'
1965 Assessor's Map.

CITY OF ATTLEBORO
TOWN OF SEEKONK

LEGEND	
ROAD R/W	STREAM
EDGE OF PAVEMENT OR ROADWAY	DEED LOT NUMBER
PROPERTY LINE	PARCEL NUMBER
ORIGINAL LOT LINE	DEED DIMENSION
	SCALED DIMENSION

CITY OF ATTLEBORO
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

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NOT TO BE USED FOR CONVEYANCE
AMERICAN AIR SURVEYS, INC.

LEGEND	
CITY LINE	STREAM
ROAD OR RAILROAD R/W	DEED LOT NUMBER
EDGE OF PAVEMENT OR ROADWAY	PARCEL NUMBER
PROPERTY LINE	DEED DIMENSION
ORIGINAL LOT LINE	SCALED DIMENSION

REVISIONS	
1	10/1/65
2	10/1/65
3	10/1/65
4	10/1/65



PLAT NO 21,23,24,29
SCALE 1" = 80'

Hebronville H.D.
VES 11

CV 6F

98 Knight Avenue
Attleboro, MA 02703

February 6, 1984

RECEIVED

FEB 11 1984

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Attention: Ms Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Re: Property 98, 104 Knight Avenue, Hebronville
Mill District Attleboro, Massachusetts

Dear Ms Talmage;

We are pleased to be informed that above listed property is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It would be an honor to the memory of my Grandparents and Parents who occupied this house from the year 1901 until their death. We have a deed dated 1853 which listed names of former owners as Reed and Goff who also have local streets named for them and were both prominent families in Attleboro history.

We look forward to being kept informed of your progress in this exciting project and thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Irene A. Grenier

(Mrs) Irene A. Grenier

Carl J. [Signature]
Notary Public

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JAN. 23, 1987



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

April 10, 1984

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th & C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

- ✓ Attleboro - Hebronville Mill Historic District (local)
- ✓ Lowell - Hoyt-Shedd Estate (state)
- ✓ Monson - Town Hall (local)
- ✓ New Bedford - Bradford Smith Building (local)
- ✓ Peabody - Southwick-Strauss Tannery (state) owner objection
- ✓ Wrentham - Roebuck Tavern (local)

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 forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Preservation Planning Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/hi
Enclosures