OMP NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 12.01/34

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received JUL 1 5 1932 date entered

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

1. Na	me					, ,
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courthouse, re	egistry of deeds, etc.	Pawtuc	ket City H	la11		
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7. Description

Condition — excellent —X good — fair — unexposed Check one — unaltered — X altered	Check oneX original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Church Hill Industrial District is a compact, nineteenth-century industrial area located just west of downtown Pawtucket; it includes four mills and a small mill complex, located on four city blocks. Most of the structures are multi-storied, and of red brick. While alterations have been made on several of the buildings, the changes are, for the most part, consistent with their use as manufacturing sites. Set among busy streets, Church Hill retains the fabric and scale of a nineteenth-century manufacturing district.

At the center of the Church Hill Industrial District is the 1863 American File Company Mill (2; photos #3 and 4); its northern section is a long, 2-story, gable-roofed factory; its southern section presents a more jumbled appearance -- two short ells project from the main building; with an additional 2-story section, they create a jagged facade, broken by a number of entryways. On the western end of the block is a parking lot, excluded from this nomination. Anchoring the southern end of the district is the 1881 Slater Cotton Company Mill (1; photos #1 and 2), located just across Church Street from the American File Mill; the Slater factory is a long, 3- and 4-story red brick mill with a weave shed attached to its southeast corner facing South Union Street. The block north of the American File Mill (enclosed by Main, Pine, Bayley, and Commerce Streets) contains two crucial elements of the district. The 1848 James Brown Machine Shop (4; photo #9) is a long, red brick, 2-story factory, its short end facing Main Street. The Haskell Manufacturing Company Complex, built between the 1840s and 1920, consists of several red brick structures (3-1, 3-2, 3-3; photos #5, 6, and 8) erected around a small millyard, and a later, reinforced concrete mill (3-4; photo #7) set between the main complex and the Brown Shop. They create a handsome streetscape along Main Street. The narrow ends of the Brown Shop (4), the Haskell concrete building (3-4), the 1860 mill (3-2), and the 1885 mill (3-3), all face the street with a relatively uniform setback; the line of mills is complemented by the long facade of the American File Company Mill (2) across Just east of the Haskell plant is the 1888 Campbell Machine Shop (5; photo #10), a long, 5-story brick mill. With the 1885 section of the Haskell complex, it closes in Commerce Street, the long faces of the mills rising directly up from the sidewalk line.

(1) Slater Cotton Company Mill, 1881

Location: Church, Pine, and South Union Streets
Street Address: 40, 46, and 50 Church Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
Owner: Rowe Realty Company, c/o G. Simpso, 51 S. Union Street, Pawtucket/
Hutch Associates, 50 Church Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island

The Slater Cotton Company Mill is a long, flat-roofed, 3- and 4-story red brick mill, built on a high granite foundation, with a large 2-story

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 _X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education x engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c. 1845, 1848, 186 1863, 1881, 1885, 1888-1889, 1920	Builder/Architect N	. A .	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church Hill Industrial District is significant as an industrial area of moderate-sized textile and machining shops typical of nineteenth-century manufacturing in the nationally-important factory city of Pawtucket and as the site of several important engineering innovations and inventions; it is architecturally significant for its collection of buildings representing industrial construction over eight decades.

In the late eighteenth century Pawtucket had been an important industrial area -- the Wilkinson and Jenks families forged and molded a variety of iron products in addition to Samuel Slater's better-known success at introducing the factory system to textile manufacture. In the first half of the nineteenth century (particularly after 1829), the pace of factory development accelerated and, in Pawtucket especially, a symbiotic relationship continued between the textile and metal-working producers, a relationship exemplified in the Church Hill Industrial District. While Pawtucket's national reputation was, in large part, based on the presence in the city of major manufacturers who constructed huge plants, such as the Conant/Coats and Clark Thread Mills and the Manville-Jenckes Company Mills, manufacturing on a more moderate scale was, in fact, actually more typical of Pawtucket. Medium-sized factories were constructed in many areas of the city in the nineteenth century and The Church Hill Industrial District is the best premany remain today. served extant group of such modest industrial buildings.

The earliest building still standing in the Church Hill District was built for James S. Brown. The son of Sylvanus Brown, one of Pawtucket's noted machinists, James Brown was himself a skilled metal-worker -he had worked in the shops of Pitcher and Gay in the early 1820s and succeeded to partnership in the firm (afterward known as Pitcher and In 1842 he obtained full control of the company and de-Brown) in 1824. termined to move the shops from a site near the Blackstone River to Church Hill. He began construction there of the long, 2-story, red brick mill (4) standing at the corner of Main and Pine Streets. The building, carried on under the direction of master mason Israel Lee, was not completed until 1848. A small remnant of Brown's earlier building near the site is the tiny, 1-story brick building (3-1) east of the large mill. It was later sold to William H. Haskell and incorporated into the Haskell complex which was built around it. Probably dating from the mid-1840s, the building may have housed Brown's forge.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bayles, Richard M., ed. <u>History of Providence County, Rhode Island</u>. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Preston and Co., 1891.

40 Goograph	ical Data			
10. Geograph				
Acreage of nominated property 2 Quadrangle nameProvide UMT References	approx. 12 acrence and Pawtuck	es et	Quadrangl	e scale 1:24,000
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Verbal boundary description	and justification			
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state	code	county		code
state	code	county		code
11. Form Prep				
name/title Pamela A. Ke organization N.A.	ennedy, Consulta	ant dat	e March 1	982
street & number 30 Ha	rt Street	tele	ephone 40	1-521-6919
city or town Providence	e	sta	te Rhode	Island
12. State Hist	oric Preser	vation C	Officer C	ertification
The evaluated significance of this	s property within the state	e is:		
national	_X_ state	local		
As the designated State Historic 665), I hereby nominate this propaccording to the criteria and productions.	erty for inclusion in the N	ational Register a	nd certify that it ha	t of 1966 (Public Law 89– as been evaluated
State Historic Preservation Office	er signature	int Chi	Mansa	
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For NPS use only				
I hereby certify that this pro	operty is included in the N	ational Register		
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Chief of Registration				

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Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Statewide Historic Preservation Report, Report P-PA2; Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, October 1978.

Rhode Island, An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, OAHP, HAER, 1978.

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weave shed adjoining its southeast corner. The main 4-story mill runs parallel to Church Street; the 3-story section is at the south side. Two handsome mill towers are located on the north side -- their hipped roofs have been replaced by flat ones, but they retain their patterned brick cornices and freight doors. Granite courses separate the stories of the building. The windows have segmental-arch heads with paired, double-hung, 9-over-9 sash and, while many of the window openings are boarded over, most retain their original sash. A cast-iron fence (apparently dating from the nineteenth-century) runs along the north street side of the main mill.

The brick and wooden weave shed has a saw-tooth roof designed to provide soft northern light to the interior. The fenestration of the weave shed matches that of the main mill. Attached to the northeast corner of the main mill is a small, 2-story, brick section.

New freight door openings have been cut into the weave shed and a new entrance has been added to the west end of the main mill to accommodate modern industrial and commercial requirements but, as a whole, the Slater Cotton Company Mill is well-preserved and in good condition. (Photos #1 and 2)

(2) American File Company Mill, 1863, remodeled 1868 and 1930s

Location: Hill, Church, Pine, and Main Streets, Pawtucket, Rhode Island Street Address: 460, 470, and 480 Main Street
Owner: Joseph R. Paolino, Jr., 76 Dorrance Street, Providence, R.I.

The American File Company plant includes a small 2-story mill and a long, 2-story, red brick mill with ells which together fill the better part of a trapezoidal city block. The gable-roofed main factory building is about 300 feet long and has a short, 2-story tower with hipped roof on its south side and a second, 3-story flat-roofed tower at its southwest corner. The windows of the mill are rectangular and have granite lintels; most of the sash has been replaced, and several window openings have been filled with concrete blocks. Two short, wide ells extend from the south side, the eastern one joined to the small, 2-story, hipped-roof section of the mill, and a 1-story, flat-roofed addition has been constructed on the northeast corner of the main mill. In a 1930s renovation the first floor of the north facade of the mill was resurfaced in yellow brick, two new doors and large shop windows were added to convert the space to commercial use. The new doorways are rectangular, topped by black glass and marked by simple Art Deco cartouches. The second story of the north facade was painted yellow, but its dentil cornice and roofline were left intact, and the structure retains its industrial appearance. (Photos #3 and 4).

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(3) William H. Haskell Manufacturing Plant

Location: Commerce, Main, and Bayley Streets, Pawtucket, Rhode Island Street Address: 453 Main Street

Owner: Haskell Manufacturing Company, 24 Commerce Street, Pawtucket, RI

The William H. Haskell Manufacturing Plant is a red brick industrial complex constructed on three-quarters of a city block, roughly in a C-shape surrounding a small millyard on Main Street. A plain iron fence runs along the south side of the complex and closes the yard.

(3-1) A tiny, 1-story, gable-roofed brick structure located at the center of the complex and at the northwest corner of the mill yard, this structure is a remnant of the shop lames Brown operated on this site in the 1840s

- is a remnant of the shop James Brown operated on this site in the 1840s. The windows of the structure are set under segmental arches, but the sash has been replaced in all but the gable window. (c. 1845) (Photo #5) (3-2) A 2½-story, brick building, 162 X 40, the first Haskell factory has a gable roof, except at the south end where a mansard with heavy brackets
- has been added. (1860) (Photo #6)

 (3-3) A large, 1- and 2-story brick building, extending the length of Commerce and Bayley Streets, this structure has a gable roof on its Bayley Street side, and a flat roof on its Commerce Street side. The paired windows have double-hung, 6-over-6 sash and are set between brick piers. Large, freight doors open into the mill yard. (1885) (Photo #8)

 (3-4) A large, 2-story mill, set at the southwest corner of the plant and constructed of reinforced concrete and brick, this factory has a flat roof and a heavy, molded cornice. Most of its standard factory windows are now
- (4) James Brown Machine Shop, 1848

boarded over. (1920) (Photo #7)

Location: Main, Pine, and Bayley Streets, Pawtucket, Rhode Island Street Address: 483 Main Street

Owner: Baccari Realty Company, Inc., 483 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI

The James Brown Machine Shop is a long, 2-story brick structure whose ends face Main and Bayley Streets and whose long side runs along Pine Street. About 400' X 60', it has a slate, gabled roof, dentil cornice, and granite foundation. A basement runs half the length of the building. The windows have granite lintels and sills. Some of the original 12-over-12 sash has been replaced and other window openings have been boarded over. A short (only five bays long) ell extends from the east side. The south facade has been altered -- a stepped gable has been added and new brick and stucco cover the surface -- but on its other sides the structure is well preserved. (Photo #9)

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(5) Campbell Machine Shop, 1888-1889

Location: Bayley and Commerce Streets, Pawtucket, Rhode Island Street Address: 28 Bayley Street Owner: Five-Thirty Wellington, Inc., 19 Commerce Street, Pawtucket, RI

The Campbell Machine Shop is a long, 5-story red brick mill, its entrance facing Bayley Street, its length facing Commerce Street. The roof, above a dentiled cornice, is extremely low-pitched, almost flat; the windows have granite sills and are set under segmental arches; most of the original 12-over-12 sash remains in place. A windowless, flat-roofed stair tower is set on the east side. Large freight doors open into each story on the north end. (Photo #10)

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Even before the construction of the 1848 factory, James Brown had a substantial and well-deserved reputation as a machinist and inventor. In 1831 he invented a machine for cutting bevel gearing; in 1838 he patented a machine for boring the tubes of speeder flyers from solid iron; and in 1842, he patented a lathe for creating irregular metal forms. In the new shop on Church Hill, Brown built a variety of textile machinery, including mules and speeders, and cordage machinery; by the mid-nineteenth century, the factury employed three hundred hands. Here Brown continued the stream of innovations and inventions for machinery in 1852, he patented a rolling frame; in 1874 he invented a machine for grinding spindles; he was granted his last patent in 1876, only three years before his son James, Jr., succeeded to the business. The Brown Shop is today used for jewelry manufacture.

Like the Brown Shop, the origins of the Haskell Manufacturing Company reach back to Pawtucket's industrial beginnings. It is today the nation's oldest continually operating bolt and cold-punched nut producer. The Haskell Company developed from the small shop started by Stephen Jenks at the Pawtucket Falls; Jenks was making bolts by 1820 and he was the first in Pawtucket to cold-punch from bar iron. The Jenks Shop was acquired in 1835 by Tinkham, Haskell, and Company (Harvey Tinkham had been partner to Joseph Jenks, Stephen's son) and in 1836 William H. Haskell purchased the company. In 1860 Haskell moved his operation to Church Hill and began construction on a site purchased from James Brown whose machine shop (4) is located just west of the Haskell plant. From 1860 to present the Haskell Company has continued to manufacture machine parts at the Church Hill site.

From 1860 to 1920 the Haskell Company built the moderate-sized complex located on Main, Commerce, and Bayley Streets. The 1860 mill (3-2) is a long, 2-story brick building which incorporates on its east side a small, 1-story section (3-1) of James Brown's pre-1848 plant. In a major expansion of the 1880s, Haskell added a large 1- and 2-story section (3-3) running along Commerce and Bayley Streets. And in 1920, a 2-story structure of reinforced concrete (3-4) was completed on the southwest corner of the site.

No small part of the significance of the Haskell Company complex is owed to the fact that the company continues to use a unique collection of early twentieth century machinery (some of it Pawtucket-built) in its current production. In the 1860 mill, there are several c. 1912 double-tool-post shavers (built by the Pawtucket Manufacturing Company); a 1916, 15-inch universal shaper (built by Potter and Johnson, Pawtucket); and a 1918 ½-inch lag screw gimlet pointer (built by National Machine of Ohio). The forge room in the 1885 building houses a 1917, 7/8-inch hammer-heading forging machine (built by Pawtucket Manufacturing Company). The 1920

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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building contains several 1930s Landis threading machines and stamping and shearing presses (built by Haskell at this site). For its long history of manufacturing, in structures erected over a sixty-year span for that purpose, and for its unusual collection of machines still in daily use and production, the Historic American Engineering Record has cited the Haskell Company as "one of the most important operating industrial sites in the state."

The American File Company mill (2), set between Main and South Union Street, was built for a metal-working concern but early in its history was converted to textile production. In 1862, William F. Sayles purchased the Chapman patents for file-making machinery and organized the American File Company; the following year, the long brick mill paralleling Main Street was completed on land Sayles purchased from James Brown. Sayles was a member of one of Rhode Island's most politically and industrially active families, and was simultaneously building up the Sayles' Bleacheries in nearby Lincoln; by the end of the century it was the largest cloth bleachery in the world. His file works was not as successful as his textile factories -- it apparently never produced the anticipated profits and within two years file production at the Pawtucket mill had ceased and the building had been sold. The American File Company continued to operate (at least until the 1870s) but the Church Hill plant was converted to cotton fabric manufacture by 1869.

The Slater Cotton Company was organized in 1869, with William F. Sayles as president and one of the original incorporators. Sayles' Slater Company purchased the file factory from Mason and Moury who had held the property for the intervening years. The Slater Company enlarged the mill, set up 300 looms, and began production. By 1876, the company was running 455 looms, and 325 workers were producing fine shirtings.

In 1881, the company built a new mill (1) just south of the 1863 former file factory. Constructed by B.F. Smith and Company, the new mill is three and four stories, of red brick, with a large weave shed. The 1881 mill more than doubled the available floor space for Slater Cotton and, through the nineteenth century, the company continued to produce fine fabrics -- twills, sateens, apron goods, and their own brand, "Pride of the West" fine cotton. By 1890, 1475 looms were operated by 600 hands and four million yards were woven annually. The buildings of the Slater Company are today used by a variety of commercial and industrial concerns.

The last structure built in the Church Hill Industrual District is the Campbell Machine Shop (5), constructed in 1888-1889 for the Campbell Machine Company, organized in 1880. Still largely unchanged from its construction until today, the building was erected to house the manufacture of a sewing machine invented by Duncan H. Campbell. The Campbell sewing machine was the first of its kind -- able to form a lock-stitch with waxed thread and capable of 400 stitches per minute. It was widely used by

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harness and shoe manufacturers, and created enough demand for its manufacturing company to open a branch office in England. Campbell also produced knitting machines here. The Campbell Company's mill was used for yarn production for several decades in the twentieth century, but is today vacant. Together with the James Brown Shop, the Haskell Manufacturing Company's plant and (in a more minor fashion) the American File Company building, the Campbell Shop represents the moderate-sized metal-working concerns of nineteenth-century Pawtucket, as the Slater Cotton Company mill represents the importance of Pawtucket's textile manufacture. Together the two industries were the mainstays of Pawtucket's prosperity and helped to build Rhode Island's "second city" into a nationally-important industrial center.

Apart from the processes and products once (and still) housed in several mills of the Church Hill Industrial District, the buildings themselves are of architectural interest. They span eighty years of mill construction and represent important changes in industrial building in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most are multi-story, red brick buildings, successors of the earliest wooden and stone mills. James Brown Shop is of this type; its gable roof and narrow, flat-topped windows with granite lintels and sills identify it as a product of the mid-nineteenth century. The introduction of the segmental arch window which allowed larger openings in the brick wall is exhibited in the 1860 Haskell Mill, though the basic shape of the mill -- long, narrow, gableroofed -- remained unchanged. Several late-nineteenth century developments in factory construction are exemplified in the Slater Cotton Company Mill: the gable roof has been flattened; the large exterior towers provide an architectural focus to what is essentially a utilitarian strucutre; and the saw-tooth roof of its weave shed illustrates a specialized form designed to provide a soft, indirect light needed for weaving. It lacks the handsome towers, but the Campbell Machine Shop has a similar flat roof. The 1920 Haskell building illustrates the early twentieth-century use of a new material, reinforced concrete, which allowed the building's frame to be reduced to a minimum. In their size and scale this collection of industrial buildings represents the middle ground between the diminutive factories of Pawtucket's early history and the huge complexes (like Conant/ Coats and Clark Thread Mills) which covered tens of acres, as their scale of production represents the moderate-sized concerns which accounted for so much of Pawtucket's industrial prosperity.

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Page 2

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- Van Slyck, J.D. Representatives of New England Manufacturers. Boston: J.D. Van Slyck, 1879.

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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lot 589, then north along the east line of lot 589 to its NE corner then following the irregular shape of lot 588 along its south, west, and north lines to the SE corner of lot 590; then north to the NE corner of lot 590, then west along the north line of lots 590 and 591 to a point opposite the SE corner of lot 167; then north along the east line of lots 167 and 313 crossing Main Street; then east along the south lines of lots 310, 231, and 11; then north along the east line of lots 11 and 2 to a point opposite the SW corner of lot 23 (crossing Commerce Street), around lot 23's south, east, and north lines crossing Commerce Street again to the NE corner of lot 9; then west along the north lines of lot 9,457, 493, then south along the west line of lot 493 and 484, east along the south line of lot 494 for fifty feet; then to a point on the north line of lot 591 one hundred feet east of the NW corner of lot 591 (cutting through lots 313 and 167) then west along the north line of lot 591 and south along its west line to its SW corner, the point of beginning.

The Church Hill Industrial District includes the following lots of Plat 53B:

591, 589, 590 (Slater Cotton Company Mill) parts of lots 313, 167 (American File Company Mill) 494, 493 (James Brown Shop) 458, 457, 9, 310, 231, 11, 12 (Haskell Complex) 23 (Campbell Machine Shop)

The boundaries of the Church Hill Industrial District have been drawn to encompass the important resources whose significance is cited in Section 8, that is, the moderate-sized textile and metal-working factories located on Church Hill. For the most part, the district is surrounded by differing land uses (especially parking lots) which reinforce the visual impression that the buildings included are particularly connected to one another. The southern boundary (the northern side of South Union Street) is largely residential; on the west boundary are a parking lot, a small unrelated commercial building, and a large commercial structure at Main and Pine Streets; on the northern side of the district (along the southern side of Bayley Street) is a large parking lot; on the east boundary are two large parking lots; although there are some residential abuttors, they face away from the industrial buildings and toward Park Place.