

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
S-17-1	509

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number MP-6-25/26/27/28

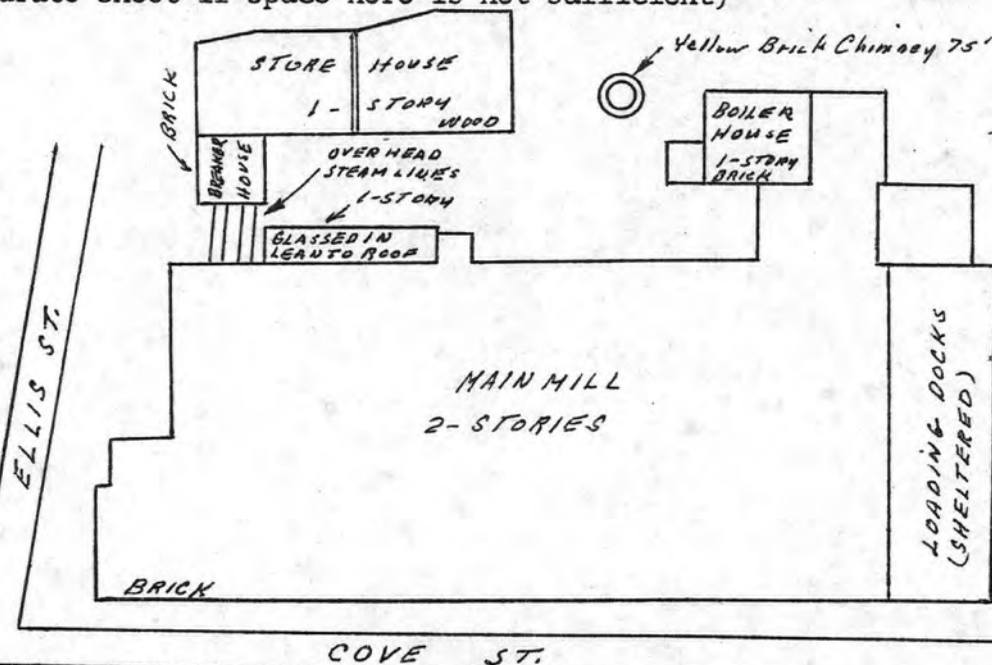
Town Fall River, Mass.

Name of area (if any) Foster

Spinning Co., Cove Street

General date or period 1916-1919

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Vielmetti/Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 7/16/81

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The Foster Spinning Mill of 1916 was the last new textile complex to be established in Fall River. Although not architecturally distinctive, it is a solidly constructed and largely intact example of early 20th century mill design. The site in the northern section of the city is part of a heavily industrial area convenient to railroad lines and water transportation via the Taunton River. Typical of the period are the low, 2-story scale, wide proportions (134' X 286'), large T-cross sash (2/10) and use of brick as the main material. The wide cornice is supported on cantilever brackets, and the brick piers curve at the corners and project slightly from the window bays. The piers are similar to those in the Pilgrim complex of 1911, which was built by the same contractor, Beattie and Cornell. All the original buildings in this small complex are still in place, i.e., the main mill, attached boiler house, chimney and wooden storehouse.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The Foster Spinning Company, incorporated in 1916, was the last new textile company in Fall River to construct a large mill. Although this post-World War I period of rising demand and inflation had brought prosperity to Fall River, it was apparent to many that the city's dominance of the textile market was over. Despite huge profits often earned during those years, little new building or investment in machinery was taking place. The new plant, originally only 13,312 spindles, was erected to specialize in supplying fine yarn to the mills. It was located adjoining the large Sagamore complex and was backed by the local Brayton interests. Francis A. Foster was the first president and James A. Burke, Jr. the first treasurer. The company was capitalized at \$300,000. In 1920 the capacity had increased to 25,000 spindles. Perhaps because of its modern plant and location near several large mills, the company remained in business until 1962. At that time it was bought by the Sagamore Manufacturing Company which went out of business in the mid-1960's. It is presently used by a florist supplier.

As the last new textile complex to be established in the city, the Foster Spinning Mill is an intact example of 20th century brick mill construction that meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places individually.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1920 Corporate Millyard Plans
Phillip's History of Fall River, Fascicle II, p. 133.
American Wool and Cotton Reporter, 1920
Building Permit #168.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 7/10/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 5 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. ~~Foster Spinning Co.~~

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 Bruce Van Dyke

Attest

42. Globe Yarn Mills

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

43. Granite Mills

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible
Keeper

2/16/83 Bruce Van Dyke

Attest

44. Greany Building

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

45. Hargraves Mill #1

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

46. Hathaway, James D., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

47. Highlands Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

48. Hiker, The, (statue)

Substantive Review

Keeper

RS

Attest

49. House at 108-112 Quarry Street

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

50. Jesus Marie Convent

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceCHECKED
SIGN

Substantive Review

Foster Spinning Co. (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTSWorking No. 115/83-15
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appealSubstantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria AHC
Reviewer Max Porter
Discipline A.H.
Date 2.16.83
see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unsurveyed	☐ original site
		☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☒ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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 *PROVIDED IN COVER*
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ____ Maps
____ Photographs
____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Fall River MRA, Ma

MP-6-25a
Foster Spinning
Main Mill
(northwest view)



Fall River MRA, Ma

MP-6-26a

Foster Spinning
looking north



Fall River MRA, Me

MP-6-27a

Foster Spinning

South view of Store
House & Main Mill



Fall River MRA Mc

MP-6-28a

Foster Spinning

3/4 View, Main Mill

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279