

FORM A - AREA

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

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
H-20-7/16	17

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

Photo number MP-8-35/36

Town Fall River, Mass.

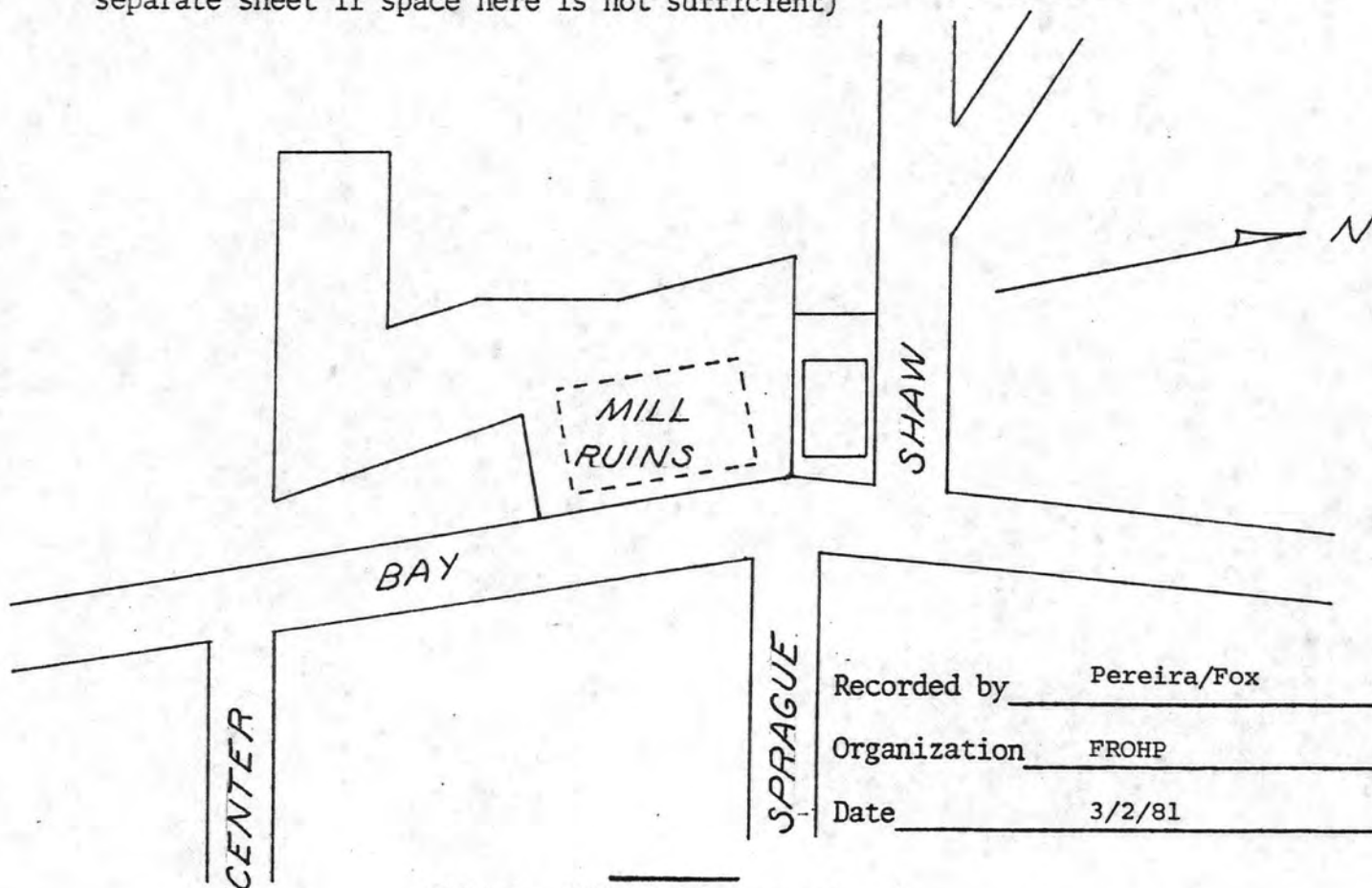
Name of area (if any) Oliver Chace's

Thread Mill (later the Mt. Hope Mill,
later the Conanicut)

505 Bay Street

General date or period 1840's

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 Pereira/Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 3/2/81

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The granite mill ruins on this site probably date from about 1840 and are architecturally significant as fragments of the oldest remaining textile manufactory in the city. In addition, the Greek Revival office building is the city's earliest surviving mill office. The mill was located in the southern "Globe Village" area and water was supplied from a canal which had as its source a stream flowing from Laurel Lake. The mill's water wheel was still used as a supplementary power source in 1920. Historical accounts differ as to whether Oliver Chace erected this thread mill in 1835 or 1840., but the later date appears to be more likely. An engraving dating from 1854 labeled "Oliver Chace's Thread Mill" shows a 3½-story mill with a gable roof and small cupola at the south end. It measured 195' X 45'. The ruins of the basement and first story still remain and indicate that the mill was constructed of random rubble granite with heavily parged joints and cut granite lintels. The ruins are presently covered with vines and the scene has a distinctly picturesque quality. The Greek Revival style of the office building suggests that it, too, was erected in the 1840's. The 3-bay, 2½-story gable front building is constructed (continued)

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

The early mill now in ruins on this site was built by Oliver Chace, probably in 1840. According to Hurd's History of Bristol County (1883), Chace established a company in 1838 under the name of Chace and Anthony for the manufacture of cotton yarns, and then in 1840 he erected a mill. This establishment was originally referred to as Oliver Chace's Thread Mill (not to be confused with Augustus Chace's Thread Mill--the Wyoming Mill--on Chace Street). Oliver Chace was sole proprietor and business manager for over 25 years. Chace (1812-1874) came to Fall River as an infant and was educated here and in Providence. He worked as a clerk in the cotton mill of Chace and Luther, where his brother was a senior partner, before starting his own business. He also had a large farm, was active in local and state government, and was among the directors or founders of the National Union Bank, Citizens Savings Bank, Pocasset National Bank, and Fall River Manufacturer's Mutual Insurance Company. In 1867 the mill was taken over by the Mount Hope Mill Company, which was organized that year with a capital of \$200,000. The mill had a capacity of 9,024 spindles and was engaged in the manufacture of cotton shirtings. It was owned and operated by the American Print Works, then under the direction of treasurer Jefferson Borden. An illustration in the 1876 insurance plans shows that the earlier mill had been greatly expanded; but it is the early portion which has survived. The Mt. Hope Mill shut down in 1878. In 1880 Crawford E. Lindsey and others purchased the property and established a new company under the name Conanicut Mills, for the production of fine cotton goods. The company was capitalized at only \$80,000 and was at that time one of the 3 smallest of the 33 Fall River mills. Lindsey was elected treasurer and under his leadership the property was greatly improved and enlarged. Lindsey was a prominent local industrialist and (continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- History of Bristol County (1883) p. 322-3, 378-9, 395
Phillips' History of Fall River, Fascicle II, p. 127, 130
Fenner's History of Fall River (1911), p. 18
1858 Map of Fall River
1854 Map of Tiverton by Wm. G. Borden (illustration)
1869 Fall River City Directory, p. 207 (adv.)
Barlow Insurance Plan #4104, 1876
1901 Yarn Trade Index, p. 115
1920 Corporate Millyard Plans
1920 American Wool and Cotton Reporters Year Book

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

H-20-7/16

Property Name: Oliver Chace's Thread
Mill (later the Mt.
Hope Mill, later the Conanicut)

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation)

of granite rubble with a stucco covering. It extends back 7 bays and has a trabeated granite doorway at offset left and cut granite lintels. Later granite additions to the mill are no longer standing.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFANCE (Continuation)

spirited public servant who was married to Oliver Chace's daughter. He was instrumental in the founding of the King Philip Mill, where he served as president. The first president of the Conanicut was Edmund W. Converse. In 1901 the company had 18,204 spindles and 414 broad looms for the production of wide fine goods. Water power was still being used in addition to steam. In 1920 the company reached 29,408 spindles and 776 broad looms and was run with electricity supplemented by one water wheel. It remained in business until 1926. Its picturesque ruined state was not due to fire, according to local historians, but merely to time. Abandoned for over fifty years, Oliver Chace's Thread Mill still conveys the overpowering mill construction of the early nineteenth century and as the only remaining example of this early period, the mill office and mill ruins meet Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 1/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Chace Mills

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 *Barbara J. Doyle*

Attest

22. Chace, A. B., Rowhouses

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

23. Chace's, Oliver, Thread Mill

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

24. Charlton Mill

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

25. Chase-Hyde Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

26. Children's Home

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

27. Church of the Ascension

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

28. Collins, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

29. Connell, William M., School

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

30. Cornell Mills

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 *Helene Byers*

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Chace's, Oliver, Thread Mill (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83

Action: ACCEPT 2/16/83

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

☐ 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unspoiled	☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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-8-35

Oliver Chace's Thread Mill
(also Mt. Hope Mill, later
Conanicut Mills)

Mill Ruins

Bay Street, looking east



Fall River MRA, Ma

MP-8-36

Oliver Chace's Thread Mill
(also Mt. Hope Mill, later
Conanicut Mills)

Former Mill Company Office

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279

505 Bay St.
Fall River, Mass. 02724
Oct. 8, 1982

*Object
Oliver Chace's Thread Mill*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary of State
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington St.
Boston, Mass. 02108

RECEIVED

OCT 18 1982

Gentlemen:

MASS. HIST. COMM.

This will acknowledge your letter of August 26, 1982 in which you stated the interest in obtaining my property at 505 Bay Street, Fall River, Massachusetts.

However, I would like to inform you that I am not interested in selling said property as I need it for my business at the present time.

Yours very truly

Joseph A. Desrosiers
Joseph A. Desrosiers

Subscribed and duly sworn to, before me, this 8th day of October, 1982 at Fall River, Massachusetts.

[Signature]
Notary Public.

My Commission Expires September 9, 1988