

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Naushon Company Plant

Other names/site number: Tilton Mills; Hansahoe Mfg. Co.; Worcester Textile Co.; Sidney Blumenthal, Inc.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 32 Meeting Street

City or town: Cumberland State: RI County: Providence

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

	<u>10/20/2016</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>RI Historical Preservation &amp; Heritage Commission</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Joe Edison H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*12.13.16*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local:
- Public – State:
- Public – Federal:

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s):
- District:
- Site:
- Structure:
- Object:

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: industrial storage

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Industrial

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, CONCRETE, BRICK, WOOD/clapboard, SYNTHETICS, ASPHALT, OTHER/gravel

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The **Naushon Company Plant** (1902-1904, 1945, 1952) is a textile manufacturing complex located on a 3.5-acre riverfront site in the Valley Falls section of Cumberland, Rhode Island; the complex is composed of five contributing 1-and 2-story buildings, four of brick and one wood frame, and one noncontributing late-20th century concrete building. The early-20<sup>th</sup> century structures were designed by mill engineer and architect William T. Henry of Fall River, Massachusetts in 1902-1904 as a weaving and finishing mill for cotton wash goods. The Main Building (No. 1), a two-story brick building that measures 339 feet by 170 feet including additions through 1952, is adjoined by a small 1-and 2-story frame Office (No. 2). In the rear of, and connected to, the Main Building are a single-story Engine/Pump House (No. 3) and a tall, single-story Boiler House (No. 4). Unattached and adjacent to the Boiler House is a 2-story brick Carpenter Shop/Store House (No. 5). The Main Building is noteworthy for the survival of most of its original wood-frame, segmental arch windows, sawtooth roof, and a series of evenly-spaced brick heating/ventilation pilaster flues spaced along the south (river) elevation. This building has had only one major alteration since 1904: a steel-frame, brick and concrete-block 62 foot x 170 foot east addition built by owner Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. in 1945, to which was added a concrete loading dock in 1952. A frame building (originally a dyeing/finishing building constructed in 1906) attached to the rear wall of the Main Building (No. 1) was demolished circa 2008. A brick vault attached to the original Office (No. 2) is a contributing structure. The Naushon Company Plant buildings retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## Narrative Description

### Inventory

#### Building 1

Naushon Company Main Building (No. 1), 1902-1904, 1945, 1952

The Naushon Company Main Building (No. 1) is a two-story, brick pier-and-spandrel building of slow-burning construction; it comprises about 115,000 square feet of floor space. The foundation is comprised of a single course of granite ashlar (at grade) resting on a sub-foundation of wetlaid granite rubble. Interior framing is of round-section iron columns supporting a plank-on-timber floor system. Although the original dimensions as built in 1902-1903 were 170 feet wide by 153 feet long (14 bays along Meeting Street), the Naushon Company almost immediately expanded the building eastward to a total length of 276 feet (adding 12 additional bays) in 1903-1904. It is likely that this easterly expansion was anticipated from the beginning, with the original east wall built of wood frame to facilitate this expansion and obviate the cost of partial demolition of brick walls.<sup>1</sup> The roof is flat or near-flat with exposed rafter ends and a plain wood cornice. A 13-foot square, windowless, two-story rear tower housed toilets and washrooms on each floor; the roof of this tower supported a wooden water tank, now removed. Although there are some variations, all original frame windows are set in segmental arch openings. These are typically paired, 15-light fixed sash with 6-light fixed transoms milled to fit the profile of the segmental arch and wooden sills. Although a few windows have been adapted to open on steel hinges, the plant's original B.F. Sturtevant forced draft ventilation system (see Section 8) required non-operable windows. The second floor is also lit by a series of sawtooth skylights oriented to maximize diffused northern light and eliminate glare; seven of these are in the original 1902 section of the building; the remaining five are in the 1903-1904 expansion. Unlike their earlier counterparts, the latter windows are set back several feet from the edge of the building. Generally intact, the north (glazed) slope of these skylights is now planked over, and the sawtooth structures are covered in rubber membrane.

There are two entrances on the Meeting Street facade. A main, two-story entrance and stairwell built in 1945 project from the facade at the extreme east end of the 1902-1904 block; it has paired wooden doors set in a segmental arch opening. A secondary, non-projecting entrance at the extreme west end of the Meeting Street façade (1902) is comprised of paired wooden doors set in a segmental arch opening. A third entrance (1902), also set in a segmental arch opening, is found on the west elevation; the original door on the west elevation has been replaced with a modern one of metal and glass. Above this entrance on the second floor is a segmental arch freight doorway with paired wooden doors (these appear to be original) and a timber hoist.

The Main Building (No. 1) was constructed for the Naushon Company for the manufacture<sup>2</sup> of predominantly gingham wash goods, a class of fabric made with colorfast dyes. The first floor was used for quilling, slashing, beaming,<sup>3</sup> dyeing, finishing, and some weaving (see Section 8). The second floor, used almost exclusively for weaving, at one point housed 1,000 broad and narrow looms. Nine 42-inch-wide tapered, brick pilaster flues

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<sup>1</sup> The 276 foot length of Building 1 is shown in Cumberland Plat Book 5, Page 7, *Plan and Profile of Meeting Street, Cumberland, Rhode Island*, J. E. Judson, Engineer (July 1904). Similar expansions occurred at the Lymansville Mill in North Providence, RI., (NR-listed 2012) in which wood framing and sheathing was used on the elevation planned for expansion, at the Bernon Worsted Mill in Woonsocket, RI, and at Greenwich Mills in West Warwick, RI.

<sup>2</sup> Naushon purchased cotton yarn for this purpose; none was spun in-house.

<sup>3</sup> *Quilling* refers to the process of winding filling yarn onto a bobbin-like tapered tube called a quill. *Slashing* is a process by which a liquid sizing mixture is applied to yarns. *Beaming* is the winding of warp yarn onto a beam preparatory to slashing or weaving. Source: *Callaway Textile Dictionary* (La Grange, GA: Callaway Mills, 1947).

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rising the full height of the building are evenly spaced along the piers of the rear (south) wall.<sup>4</sup> These were built as a component of a B.F. Sturtevant Co. forced draft heating and ventilation system.<sup>5</sup> Each flue rises from an underground masonry duct running along the rear elevation routing warm air or ventilation to each floor (see Figure 3). The taper of the flue assured that the upper floor (at a greater distance from the source of airflow) received an equal volume of air. This flow is further regulated by a mechanically-operated interior vent at each flue. Most of these vent controls survive. Similar to the rest of the building, the flue footings comprise a single course of granite ashlar atop wetlaid rubble.

There is significant evidence, both physical and documentary, as to the plant's system of power transmission. The 1902 Sanborn Map, depicting the plant while still under construction (see Figure 2), describes both lighting and power as electrical. A 1909 equipment inventory described "two motor-generator sets," early electro-mechanical devices for converting one form of electricity to another (e.g., alternating to direct current or alternating current of one voltage or phase to another).<sup>6</sup> The absence of a steam engine in this inventory suggests that power was supplied from the beginning by the nascent electrical grid, with AC motors driving fifteen overhead shafts<sup>7</sup> mounted the length of the first floor ceiling. Visible from the ground floor, timbers supporting the second floor retain pairs of threaded studs that once supported the bearing brackets for shafting. Machinery on both floors drew motive power from these shafts by way of pulleys and leather belting. A pattern of wood floor patches on the second floor corresponds to thin metal patch plates visible from the floor below that indicate where slots had been cut to route belting to the second-floor looms.

Three mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century additions along the east and south (rear) elevations are discussed below.

**Addition A:** In 1945, then-tenant Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. purchased a lot to the east of Building 1 and added a two-story, 62 foot by 170 foot steel frame, brick and concrete block addition with basement to the east elevation. The front and rear elevations are of brick to match the original construction; the east (loading dock) wall is concrete block, and the floors are concrete. Although window openings in this addition adhere to the original opening size, frame construction, pairing, and segmental arch form, these frame windows have paired, double-hung 2/2 sash with paired 2-light transoms above. This addition permitted a new freight entrance on Meeting Street and another facing into the newly-acquired property with a loading dock accessible by a long ramp. There are no sawtooth skylights on this addition. Interior columns are steel, and the roof is made up of reinforced concrete panels set in a steel frame.

**Addition B:** Between 1947 and 1952, Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. widened the original 14 foot rear toilet/washroom tower to a total length of 72 feet. The brick addition expanded the tower by 19 feet on the west side and 39 feet on the east side. This additional space was used for locker rooms and storage. Windows in this addition are 12-light, rectangular steel frame. The original water tank was removed by 1928.

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<sup>4</sup> Two of these flues are now partially enclosed within the mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century east and west concrete block additions to the original toilet tower.

<sup>5</sup> Henry also designed the American Printing Company (Fall River Iron Works) Mill No. 7 in Fall River, Massachusetts in 1906. This three-story building (NR-listed, 1983) employs a similar Sturtevant system of exterior pilaster flues. This mill was photographed by HABS in 1968 as part of a broader survey of the Metacomet Mill complex. See photo No. 19 of HABS MA-983: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=Photograph:ma0121&fi=number&op=PHRASE&va=exact&co=hh&st=gallery&sg=true> (accessed June 9, 2016).

<sup>6</sup> See Cumberland Land Evidence Book 56:119. A closet at the southwest corner of Building 1 and adjacent to the Engine/Pump House houses a defunct Westinghouse fuse and switching panel that appears to date to the 1920s. Although most of the copper has been removed for scrap, this unit retains most of its electromechanical components.

<sup>7</sup> These fifteen shafts, documented precisely in the 1928 auction catalog, were about 250 feet in length, with a cumulative length of 3,750 feet.

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**Addition C:** In 1952, Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. built a single-story, 39 foot by 51 foot concrete block loading dock at the southeast corner of the 1945 addition (Addition A, above).

## **Building 2**

Naushon Company Office (1903)

This is a 40 feet by 23 feet, one- and two-story frame building with a brick foundation and wood-clapboard sheathing. It was built as the company office in 1903 and is attached to the northwest corner of Building 1. Enclosed walkways link the two buildings: the first-floor walkway is original, while the second-floor walkway was added by Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. after 1947. There were originally eleven window openings, all now clapboard-filled, though the casements appear to be intact. Access to the interior of this building is currently limited because of a partially failed floor. The interior is divided to provide four rooms on the first floor and two on the second. Some of the interior beadboard and paneled walls appear to date to original construction.

## **Building 3**

Naushon Company Engine and Pump House (1903)

Connecting the southwest corner of Building 1 and the north wall of the Boiler House (Building 4, q.v.), this is a single-story brick building comprising a 33 foot by 34 foot main chamber and a 16 foot by 7 foot smaller chamber providing a stairwell into Building 1. The foundation is granite ashlar and wetlaid rubble. Similar to Building 1, the roof is a shallow-pitched gable with exposed rafter ends and a plain cornice. Round-section steel columns support the timber roof structure. There are three segmental arch openings on each exposed elevation: two are windows with paired 12-light fixed sash; the third, larger (southernmost) opening provides a doorway. Both doors are altered and partially filled. This building, while generally intact, is in poor condition.

Building 3 served as the engine and pump house, but no machinery survives. The siting of this building below the grade of Building 1 provided access to the underground masonry duct feeding the Sturtevant ventilation and heating flues. A brick, segmental arch opening on the north wall of the main chamber opens into this duct. This would appear to be the point where the steam engine and attached blower were mounted. In typical circa 1900 Sturtevant installations, a steam engine was directly coupled to a large blower forcing air into a below-grade duct that was, in turn, routed to a system of vented pilaster flues that forced air throughout the factory (see Figure 4 for a depiction of the likely configuration of this engine and blower). While the 1909 equipment inventory made no mention of a steam engine, a 50 horsepower Nichols and Langworthy<sup>8</sup> steam engine was listed in a 1928 bankruptcy auction catalog. This 10 inch x 12 inch engine (10 inch diameter cylinder and a 12 inch stroke) had likely been used to power the forced draft Sturtevant heating/ventilation system.

Surviving sub-floor piping for a Peerless 500 gallon/minute centrifugal pump described in a 1965 insurance drawing (see Figure 10) is visible in an open trench. Access to this building is currently limited, but a closer examination may reveal machine beds or markings providing evidence of machinery location. See Section 8 for a discussion of the evolution of the plant's power system. The 1923 Sanborn Map shows a 10 inch underground water pipe leading from this building directly to the Blackstone River. This water line appears to have been the feed for fire pumps located in this building until at least the 1960s.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Nichols and Langworthy was established in Hope Valley, R.I. in 1824 as Nichols and Thayer, fabricators of cotton mill machinery. In 1869 Amos G. Nichols formed a corporation with George Babcock and Stephen Wilcox for the manufacture of steam engines paired with Babcock and Wilcox boilers. These were marketed under the name New York Safety Steam Power Company.

<sup>9</sup> The 1923 Sanborn Map shows a Warren Underwriters fire pump with a capacity of 750 gallons per minute (gpm). In the 1965 Factory Mutual drawing this has been replaced with a 500 gpm Peerless centrifugal pump.

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## **Building 4**

### **Naushon Company Boiler House (1902)**

Attached to Building 3, this is a tall single-story, brick building measuring 46 feet by 37 feet. The foundation is granite ashlar and wetlaid rubble. The original shallow-pitched gable roof and its structural timbers have failed; access is limited. Similar to the rest of the original construction, sections of the exposed rafter ends and molded wooden cornice survive. There is no longer a boiler in the building; the original coal-fired boiler<sup>10</sup> was likely replaced by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. There are four door openings with frame doors in various states of repair. On the west and south elevations there are four paired, angled plank doors dating to the building's original construction. Frame windows and sills in various states of repair are set in segmental arch openings. These include three 10/10, double-hung windows; paired 9/9 windows with 6-light fixed transoms; and two small segmental arch windows now plywood-filled. A large window opening on the west elevation (likely of the original 9/9 configuration) is now filled with vinyl clapboard siding. On the south elevation, there is a roughly 40-inch-diameter finished opening in the brick wall; this replaced an original segmental arch window that appears in a 1911 photograph. The original 70-foot-high metal boiler stack stood within the footprint of the Boiler House until sometime after 1947. By 1965, a new stack (now demolished) had been built about 8 feet from the rear (south) elevation of the Boiler House. Waste gasses were sent to the stack by means of a roughly 40 inch pipe set within the finished opening.

## **Building 5**

### **Naushon Company Carpenter Shop, later Store House (1903)**

Freestanding and located to the west of Buildings 3 and 4 at the rear of the property, this is a two-story brick building measuring 65 feet by 25 feet. The foundation is granite ashlar and wetlaid rubble. The shed roof is shallow-pitched with exposed rafter ends and a molded wooden cornice. Windows are set in segmental arch openings; all rear elevation windows are plywood filled. The remaining windows are 6/6, double-hung, wood sash. Unlike those on the rest of the complex, these have rectangular upper sashes that do not conform to the segmental arch. All doors are on the east elevation. Two wood doors and an upper-story freight door are angled plank; they are in generally good condition and appear to be original. Two recessed overhead garage doors appear to date to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The combined opening for these doors is supported by a steel I-beam lintel, which is supported by two steel columns similar to the interior columns of Building 1. Although its historical function is unknown, an arched foundation opening provides access to a partial basement at the southwest corner of the building. This may have had some relation to either process water or fire prevention.<sup>11</sup> The 1923 Sanborn Map shows a 10 inch pipe drawing water directly from the Blackstone River to Building 3 (Engine/Pump House). Likely linked to this underground water pipe east of Building 4 (Boiler House) was a 6 inch line leading to Building 5 (see Figure 6).

## **Contributing Structure**

### **Naushon Company Vault (1903)**

Attached to the west wall of the Naushon Office (Building 2) by way of an enclosed frame passage, this is a single-story brick structure measuring 12 feet-square. There are no windows. The foundation is a combination

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<sup>10</sup> The 1928 Hansahoe auction catalog lists a 100 HP Kendall 100 HP horizontal tube boiler. Naushon and subsequent occupants fired this single boiler with coal until at least 1947. By 1965 a conversion had been made to fuel oil with two tanks sunk in the vicinity of the Boiler House. It appears that a second boiler was added by 1965; the Factory Mutual drawing of that year describes "boilers."

<sup>11</sup> The 1965 Factory Mutual drawing identifies this chamber as used for "record storage."



of granite ashlar and wetlaid rubble. The roof is shallow-pitched gable with a plain wooden cornice. Access to the interior is limited because of the condition of the neighboring office. An examination of physical fabric may offer additional information as to what valuables were kept in this vault and the manner in which they were secured. The 1965 Factory Mutual drawing lists its use as “record storage.”

### **Non-contributing Building**

#### **Building 6**

Sewer System Building (circa 1997, non-contributing)

This is a 6-foot square, single story, concrete block structure with an overhanging, flat, concrete slab roof sited near the bank of the Blackstone River. This building is a component of a water quality/sewer system maintained by the Narragansett Bay Commission.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property.
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1902-1952

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1902, 1903-1904, 1945

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

William T. Henry, Fall River, MA, architect/engineer

Beattie and Wilcox, Fall River, MA, builders

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Naushon Company Plant is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A in the area of industry and Criterion C in the area of architecture. The Naushon Company built the substantial mill complex at 32 Meeting Street, Valley Falls (Cumberland), R.I. in 1902-1904. Successive owners expanded and adapted it for other types of textile manufacture until the early 1950s. This plant, comprising five contributing buildings and one contributing structure, is significant under **Criterion A** as the physical expression of six decades of textile manufacture, transitioning through several owners from cotton goods to cotton-silk blends and, later, to camel hair, mohair, worsteds and synthetics. From 1902 to 1909 the Naushon Company wove and finished cotton (predominantly gingham) wash goods. Labor strife—including full walkouts—occurred with some regularity. By 1905 the plant housed 100 broad and 700 narrow looms and employed 350 operatives. The Naushon Company failed in 1909; later that year the plant was acquired by a New York corporation, Tilton Mills, for \$1. From 1909 to 1914, Tilton continued to produce cotton wash goods as well as blends of cotton and silk. Tilton struggled through continued labor strife and changing market trends until its collapse in 1914, when the mill was purchased by the Hansahoe Manufacturing Company, which continued to produce cotton and cotton-silk blends until its failure in 1925. Vacant for a few years, the complex was purchased at public auction in 1928 by Worcester Textile Company and converted for the spinning, knitting, and weaving of mohair and camel hair yarn. Sidney Blumenthal Co., originally a tenant of Worcester Textile, purchased the plant in 1937 as a division of its home plant in Connecticut. Blumenthal also produced worsted, mohair, and fancy mixed yarns—adding a line of synthetics in the late 1950s when the company was acquired by Burlington Industries. The plant was purchased by G&S Realty in 1962, leasing space to light industrial tenants. Notable among these was the Standard Romper Company in the 1960s, makers of children’s clothing marketed nationally under the brand name, Health-tex. The International Textile Manufacturing Company produced braided rugs on the first floor of the main building until two years ago. Apart from some limited industrial storage on the first floor, the plant is now vacant.

The Naushon Company plant, designed by well-known Fall River, Massachusetts architect and mill engineer William T. Henry, is also significant under **Criterion C** as an example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century, electrically powered textile plant. The Main Mill (Building 1), and defining feature of the plant, is a two-story building; the upper story was designed for weaving, and the surviving sawtooth roof provided diffused light for the weaving process. This building also retains significant elements of a B.F. Sturtevant Co. forced draft ventilation system in a series of tapered brick pilaster flues rising from an underground masonry duct running along the rear of the building. These sturdy structures provided heated air and ventilation to both floors.

The period of significance extends from the construction of the Naushon Company plant in 1902 to 1952.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

## History

The Naushon Company, weavers and finishers of gingham wash goods, was incorporated in New Jersey in 1901 as a stock company under the direction of Rhode Island-born Malcolm Greene Chace (1875-1955). Chace was the grandson of Samuel B. Chace (1800-1870), a co-founder of the Valley Falls Company, a major cotton goods producer and extensive landowner in the Valley Falls section of Cumberland, R.I. Establishing themselves in business as H. and S.B. Chace, Samuel and his brother Harvey acquired land on both sides of the Blackstone River in 1839 and were incorporated as the Valley Falls Company in 1852. In 1868, the brothers divided their industrial holdings; Samuel took control of the Valley Falls property, and Harvey took control of the Albion Company (in present-day Lincoln, R.I.), which the brothers had acquired circa 1850. Ownership of the Valley Falls Company passed to Samuel's son, Arnold Buffum Chace (1845-1932) in 1869. His son, Malcolm G. Chace, graduated from Yale in 1896 and came to work in the Valley Falls Company's Bernon Mill in Woonsocket, R.I.<sup>12</sup> Upon incorporation in New Jersey in 1901, the Naushon Company took over this Woonsocket operation. At that time the company, operating under waterpower, hired 250 employees operating 400 narrow looms in the weaving and finishing of gingham wash goods—lightweight plain woven cotton cloth that would not weaken or fade when washed. Soon after, Naushon introduced the manufacture of silk and cotton-silk blends.

It appears that the operation in Woonsocket was intended to be temporary, as Chace had planned to build a new plant for the Naushon Company in Cumberland even as the company was established in 1901. The Rhode Island General Assembly passed enabling legislation in 1892 giving municipalities the authority to exempt manufacturing companies from taxation for a period of ten years.<sup>13</sup> In the spring of 1901, the Naushon Company notified the Cumberland Town Council that it was “contemplating” relocation of the Woonsocket plant to Valley Falls and was interested in securing the ten-year tax exemption.<sup>14</sup> On June 13, 1901, the town passed a resolution to that effect provided that the plant be in operation by June 1, 1902.

In June 1901, Naushon purchased a roughly 2-acre, waterfront property from the Albion Company, a significant landowner along the Blackstone River in the area. Fifty years earlier, the Albion Company had sponsored a mining venture under the name of the Blackstone Mining Company on the land later purchased by Naushon (see Figure 1).<sup>15</sup> It appears that the mining

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<sup>12</sup> In 1887 the Valley Falls Co. leased the Bernon Number 2 Mill (1833, NR-listed) from the Woonsocket Electric Machine and Power Co. This rare Greek Revival factory building is still standing in downtown Woonsocket at 115 Front Street on the east bank of the Blackstone River.

<sup>13</sup> *General Laws of the State of Rhode Island* (1892), Chapter 1088, Section 1. This law was amended in 1895 as Chapter 44, Sections 4 and 5.

<sup>14</sup> *Cumberland Town Council Records Book* 16, p. 397. Minutes of Council meeting of May 23, 1901.

<sup>15</sup> Pockets of graphitic coal have been found on both sides of Narragansett Bay from Cumberland south to Tiverton and South Kingstown. Hoag and Wade in their 1878 *History of Rhode Island* recount that ca. 1850 a “Mr. Chase” (this would appear to be a misspelling of Chace) came upon a bed of coal while excavating a cellar for a

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operation was had been suspended by the time of the Naushon purchase. In the summer of 1901, Malcolm Chace contracted with Fall River, Massachusetts-based mill architect and engineer William T. Henry to draw up plans for the construction of a plant for the weaving and finishing of cotton wash goods.

William T. Henry (1845-1933) learned the millwright's trade in the Fall River office of Josiah Brown, considered to be the first professional mill engineer in the city. In 1866, Henry entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and upon his graduation in 1870 found employment in Brown's office. By 1876, Henry took over ownership of the company, commencing a long career in which he designed forty-six mills in Fall River and twenty-five outside of the area, at least eleven of which were weave sheds. In her 1948 study, "Mill Architecture in Fall River," historian Sylvia Chace Lintner described Henry as "perhaps the greatest of local architects."<sup>16</sup>

Henry's original design, much of which survives, comprised a main, two-story, brick weave shed and finishing building. Associated buildings included an attached office, an attached engine/pump house and boiler house, and a detached carpenter shop/store house. In early October 1901, Chace made a verbal agreement with Arthur Wilcox of the Fall River firm Beattie and Wilcox to build the plant.<sup>17</sup>

Naushon was unable to have the plant in operation by the June 1, 1902 date specified in the Cumberland tax abatement agreement. The subsurface discovery in late 1901 of a sizable granite ledge necessitated costly foundation excavation and blasting that delayed construction.<sup>18</sup> The following April, a Naushon representative appeared before the Town Council requesting a delay of the commencement of operations to October of that year. The delay was granted.<sup>19</sup>

By autumn 1902 the plant, as yet unfinished, was surveyed by Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. The survey drawing made before October 25 of that year shows the main, two-story building with dimensions of 153 feet in length (along Meeting Street) and 170 feet in width (see Figure 2).<sup>20</sup>

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building in Valley Falls. Abandoning his earlier plan, he set about to exploit the coal field. Shortly after, the Blackstone Coal Mining Company was formed. Still in existence (though apparently inactive) in 1901, a June 1901 agreement between the Naushon Co. and the mining company extended mining rights—apparently underneath the mill—to Blackstone Coal Mining Co. In November of that year, the mining company quit claim to mining rights either below or within sixty feet of Naushon property. In this arrangement, the mining company was released simultaneously from any "past or future damages" due to the excavation (Cumberland Land Evidence Book 51: 557 and 52: 44).

<sup>16</sup> "Mill Architecture in Fall River (1865-1880)." *New England Quarterly* 21 (June 1948): pps 190, 201. Henry is also profiled in *Our County and Its People: A Descriptive and Biographical History of Bristol County, Massachusetts* (1899).

<sup>17</sup> This verbal agreement was at the heart of an eventual lawsuit brought by the builder against Naushon. See "Naushon must settle with contractor." *Evening Times* 26 November 1904): 17.

<sup>18</sup> Geological considerations may have contributed to Chace's decision to hire Beattie and Wilcox. The company had significant experience in masonry and operated the Beattie & Wilcox Granite Quarry in Fall River.

<sup>19</sup> "Cumberland Town Council grants extension to Naushon Company," *Evening Times* (4 April 1902): 7.

<sup>20</sup> All did not go well between Naushon and Beattie & Wilcox during the construction period. With regard to an unpaid balance, the US Court of Appeals found on behalf of the contractor in early 1904. See item in *American Wool and Cotton Reporter* (8 December 1904): 17.

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While construction of the Valley Falls plant was underway, the Woonsocket plant continued to operate under the Naushon name. It is likely that the east elevation in this 1902 construction was framed in wood with clapboard sheathing as the company planned to soon extend it an additional 123 feet to a total length of 276 feet. At the time of the Sanborn survey, neither the Engine Room, the Carpenter Shop, the Office, nor the vault had been built. These latter buildings were completed the following year.<sup>21</sup>

In March of 1902, while construction was underway, Naushon notified the Town of Cumberland that it was “desirous of increasing to \$30,000 our plant located on Meeting Street thereby bringing more enterprise and manufacture to your town.”<sup>22</sup> Naushon sought the same tax exemption for a revaluation reflecting the near doubling of their Main Building, carried out by 1903-1904.<sup>23</sup> Naushon’s original Woonsocket operation was closed in 1903.

The Valley Falls plant was in operation by early 1903 with 250 looms and a staff of 275 operatives, but labor-management relations soured early on. On April 6, shortly after commencing operations, 53 four-loom weavers walked out in a dispute over wages; weavers tending four looms were being paid at the same rate as those tending three.<sup>24</sup> Although settled within a day, this early labor action held no small portent for the company. Late in the same year, another more debilitating labor action arose at Naushon.<sup>25</sup> In mid-December, twenty-two box loom weavers walked out in response to a combination of pay cuts and lower piece rates. By the next day, sympathetic loom tenders shut down the entire plant. The strike was not resolved until December 24.

Strikes and walkouts occurred with some regularity during the Naushon ownership. In early March 1907, a strike initiated over wages paid to loom fixers erupted. This action came to the attention of John Golden, the Fall River-based president of the United Textile Workers of America, who came to Valley Falls to intervene and, in the process, organize the Naushon plant. At a meeting held at the Pawtucket Temple of Labor on April 28, Golden addressed a large crowd and signed scores of weavers into union membership. The conflict, now in the hands of the UTW, resulted in a wage increase and return to work of the striking weavers. Another strike the following year—this time involving the plant’s entire complement of beamers<sup>26</sup>—lasted more than four months.

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<sup>21</sup> Although some finishing processes had been carried out in the Naushon plant, the more intensive work of washing, dyeing, singeing, and calendering was jobbed out until 1906. In May of that year the company began construction of a frame 175 feet by 90 feet, single-story dye house attached to and behind Building 1. This building was demolished in 2008.

<sup>22</sup> Cumberland Town Council Records Book 16: 562.

<sup>23</sup> The full 276 foot length of the building appears by July 1904 on *Plan and Profile of Meeting Street*, Cumberland Plat Book 5, Page 7.

<sup>24</sup> *17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Commissioner of Industrial Statistics* (for the year 1903), p. 110.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 131-2.

<sup>26</sup> *Callaway’s Textile Dictionary* describes beaming as “the operation of winding the warp yarn onto a beam preparatory to slashing or weaving.” 1947 edition, p. 31.

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Until 1906, Naushon jobbed out much of its finishing operations. In May of that year, the company constructed a frame Dye House attached to the rear of Building 1. By 1915, it had been converted for use as a machine shop. This building was demolished in 2008.

Although employment at Naushon reached a peak in 1908 of nearly 500 employees, with more than 700 looms in operation, it would appear that a combination of factors touching on management practices, labor unrest, and market volatility contributed to a shutdown in the spring of 1909. At that time, rumors—initially denied by Naushon management—circulated that the company was to be acquired by “New York interests.”<sup>27</sup> On June 1, the Tilton Mills, newly incorporated in Albany and capitalized at \$500,000, purchased Naushon for \$1.<sup>28</sup> An inventory of machinery included in the Naushon to Tilton deed offers a comprehensive look at the extent of operations at the time of the failure. Naushon’s assets included some 740 looms, 22 short- and long-chain beaming frames, two slashers, eleven skein quillers, two “motor-generators,” and an extensive complement of finishing equipment.<sup>29</sup>

Within a few months of the dissolution of the original Naushon Company, Malcolm Chace reorganized the company, continuing the Naushon name under the presidency of H.R. Gillette, setting up a smaller weaving and finishing operation in an existing mill a few blocks south in Central Falls. This company ceased operations in June 1915.

Chace appears to have turned his interests to investing in and improving waterpower sites in northern New England. This eventually led to the formation of the New England Electric System and the eventual formation of Berkshire-Hathaway. During its six-years of operation, Naushon (Central Falls) enjoyed significant retail sales through an innovative marketing plan that brought the Naushon name (as a class of cotton and silk blend fabrics) to a national audience. This marketing effort was discussed in a national advertising trade publication in 1910. See Lambert, S.C. “Snaring Big Stores for Trade Prestige.” *Printers’ Ink* 73 (1 December 1910): 20.

### **Tilton Mills (1909-1914)**

At the Valley Falls plant, Tilton Mills introduced the weaving and finishing of worsted fancy dress goods along with the continued manufacture of cotton and cotton-silk blends. By 1910, the company was operating 900 looms with a staff of 300 operatives. In January of that year, the established pattern of labor strife resumed at Tilton when a strike was initiated by scores of Polish weavers protesting the termination of three of their compatriots for what management called inefficiency. By January 27, sympathetic workers had shut down the entire plant. Tilton’s

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<sup>27</sup> “New York Interests Seek to Purchase Naushon Mill.” *Evening Times* (10 May 1909): 1.

<sup>28</sup> Continued links between the Naushon Company and Tilton is evidenced by the \$1 sale price and the fact that George C. Hinckley was retained as the treasurer and buyer for Tilton. Hinckley, who attended Brown University with Malcolm Chace in 1892, served as treasurer at Naushon from the founding of the company, retaining that position at the reorganized Naushon Company (as relocated to Central Falls) in 1909.

<sup>29</sup> Cumberland Land Evidence Book 56: 118 et seq. The 1906 Dye House was not included initially in this transfer.



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hiring of strikebreakers caused several disturbances at the front gates, erupting on February 1 into a riot during which mill operatives and sympathizers threw rocks at the police and strikebreakers, and the police responded with gunfire.<sup>30</sup> Several weavers were arrested, eventually tried, and jailed. A few days later, the UTW called a sympathy strike of all weavers in the Blackstone Valley. The matter was eventually resolved, and the weavers returned to work.

Tilton underwent reorganization in 1912; in that same year, the company leased their shipping and yarn rooms to New York-based William Iselin and Company. Despite this added activity and the expansion of the weave room capacity to 850 narrow- and 200 broad looms, the plant was idled in May 1914 and never reopened. The mill property was sold to the Hansahoe Manufacturing Company at a mortgagee's sale on April 16, 1915; under the terms of a 1909 mortgage, Tilton had failed to make two semi-annual interest payments on bonds secured by the mortgage.<sup>31</sup>

### **Hansahoe Manufacturing Company (1915-1928)**

Incorporated in Boston in early 1915 and capitalized at \$500,000, Hansahoe Manufacturing Company continued the spinning of yarn and weaving of white and colored cotton wash goods with essentially the same complement of equipment and a staff of 350 operatives. Donald M. Hill, associated with the long-established Renfrew Manufacturing Company (incorporated 1867) of Adams, Massachusetts, was president. Malcolm G. Chace of the original Naushon Company served as a director.

Following the pattern of previous owners, Hansahoe early on found itself embroiled in labor disputes. A strike action, once again involving the weavers, occurred in early April 1916. The weavers had requested a pay raise due to a decrease in length of cuts from 75" to 60", a significant increase in work output. The matter was not resolved until late May.

During the period of U.S. involvement in World War I, Hansahoe aligned itself with a group of 26 Rhode Island textile companies opposed to a 15 percent general wage increase for New England textile workers demanded by the UTW. An appeal to the National War Labor Board resulted in a March 1919 finding in support of the union.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> "Revolver and stones figure in riot at Tilton Mills." *Evening Times* (2 February 1910): 1.

<sup>31</sup> Attendant to the frequent sales and bankruptcies at Naushon and its successors between 1902 and 1928 are published lists of machinery included in the property transfer. These lists offer a valuable insight into technological evolution and the outfitting of the plant over a 25-year period. An equipment list dated 1909 associated with the transfer from Naushon Co. to the Tilton Mills appears in Cumberland Land Evidence Book 56:118. A partial equipment list associated with the 1915 bankruptcy and auction sale of Tilton Mills appears in Cumberland Land Evidence Book 58: 574. A remarkably thorough inventory of machinery, office equipment and factory housing appears in the 1928 auction catalog of the Hansahoe holdings; this catalog is on file at the Museum of American Textile History, Lowell, Mass.

<sup>32</sup> See "Findings of the War Labor Board on the R.I. Strike Situation in 1919." *The Textile Worker* (December 1918): 447. This article references and reprints the findings (included the minority report) in NWLB Docket 275.

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In the spring of 1920, addressing a serious shortage of post-WWI worker housing, Hansahoe purchased \$75,000 of Cumberland real estate in the immediate vicinity of the mill for either the construction or rehabilitation of existing housing. This purchase included ten existing tenements located on existing or proposed neighboring streets as well as several undeveloped parcels.<sup>33</sup>

Textile manufacture in New England suffered a significant decline in the 1920s due to labor strife, market conditions, and growing competition from southern states, where the climate allowed cotton to be grown in the immediate vicinity of spinning and weaving mills. Likely reflecting these general difficulties, Hansahoe was idled in 1925. The plant remained closed until April 1928, when it was purchased at public auction for \$40,000 by Worcester, Massachusetts real estate investor Maurice F. Reidy, who purchased the property on behalf of the Worcester Textile Company.

### **Worcester Textile Company (1928-1937)**

The Worcester Textile Company, a manufacturer of towelings, was established as an independent company in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1897 after a 25-year affiliation with the Whitin Machine Company. Seeking water power as well as process water for bleaching, the company relocated to the former Unionville Mill in Franklin, Massachusetts in 1899. Upon acquisition of the former Naushon plant in 1928, Worcester textile ceased all cotton and silk operations, reconfiguring the plant for the spinning of mohair and fine camel hair yarn. Initially employing about 300 operatives, the company had a peak employment of about 650 operatives in 1936. The following year Worcester Textile subleased its spinning department to Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. of Shelton, Connecticut.

### **Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. (1937-1957)**

A year after entering its lease with Worcester Textile, Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. purchased the entire mill, renaming it the Valley Falls Division of the parent company.<sup>34</sup> In 1945, Blumenthal expanded the Main Building on the west elevation with a concrete block, brick and steel addition 62 feet long along Meeting Street and the full width of the building. This is the only part of the building with a cellar. In keeping with the original construction materials and design, Blumenthal erected brick walls with segmental arch openings to match the original front and rear elevations. Only the west wall, serving as a shipping area, is built of concrete block. Blumenthal continued the manufacture of mohair and camel hair yarns until 1950 when it introduced the manufacture of worsted yarns. Around this time the parent company began shifting operations to a newly-acquired subsidiary in North Carolina. Despite extensive machinery upgrades and modernization of the plant in 1957<sup>35</sup>, Blumenthal phased out the Valley Falls operation in favor of the North Carolina plant by 1959. The Blumenthal parent company was acquired as a division of

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<sup>33</sup> See "Houses for Operatives." *Textile World Journal* (10 July 1920): 35. These properties were inventoried and photographed in the 1928 Hansahoe auction catalog.

<sup>34</sup> Cumberland Land Evidence Book 89: 174.

<sup>35</sup> N.E. Business column, *Nashua (NH) Telegraph* (21 January 1957): 6.

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Burlington Industries in 1961. Shortly after, Burlington divested itself of the Naushon plant, selling the facility to G&S Realty in 1962.

### **Recent History**

In a common pattern of post-war reutilization of textile mills, G&S Realty leased space to a variety of light industrial tenants. Significant among them was the Standard Romper Company, founded in Manhattan in 1921 by Louis Russek. Reflecting changing sensibilities in child-rearing, Russek sought to produce durable, “hygienic” children’s cotton and wool clothing, introducing the name “Health-tex” in 1937. The Valley Falls plant was one of several national manufacturing sites for this line.<sup>36</sup> International Textile Manufacturing Company continued textile manufacture in the Naushon Co. plant with the manufacture of braided rugs until 2014. At present, the plant, much of which survives from the original William T. Henry design, is mostly vacant and under consideration for rehabilitation for mixed use.

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<sup>36</sup> A history of Standard Romper/Health-tex is found at <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/healthtex-inc-history/> (accessed June 14, 2016)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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“Findings of the War Labor Board on the Rhode Island Strike Situation of 1919.”

*The Textile Worker* (12 March 1919): 477.

“Hansahoe Mfg. Co.” *Waste Trade Journal* (8 May 1915): 18.

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**Government publications:**

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*Annual Report of Factory Inspection (1901-1941)*  
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*General Laws of the State of Rhode Island (1895)*; Chapter 44, Sections 4 and 5.

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*Naushon Co. tax deferment resolutions: Pp. 397 and 562.*

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Town of Cumberland Tax Books (1902-1962).

**Maps and drawings consulted (in chronological order):**

- 1847 *Route of the Providence and Worcester Rail Road*, Boston: J.H. Bufford's Lithography
- 1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Pawtucket, R.I., sheet 72.
- 1904 *Plan and Profile of Meeting Street*, Cumberland, R.I. J.E. Judson, engineer. Town of Cumberland, Plat Book 5, Page 7.
- 1909 *Plat of land belonging to the Naushon Company*, Goff and Schofield. Town of Cumberland, Land Evidence Book 56, page 121.
- 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Valley Falls, sheet 2.
- 1928 *Plat of land situated in Valley Falls belonging to Hansahoe Mfg. Co.* R.Z. Macomber, engineer. Town of Cumberland, Plat Book 2, page 48.
- 1947 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Valley Falls, R.I., sheet 2.
- 1965 *Standard Romper Co., Inc. Factory Mutual Drawing 65-670*

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** 3.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 41° 53'56.47"      Longitude: 71° 23'32.64

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_      Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_      Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_      Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927      or       NAD 1983

1. Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Easting: \_\_\_\_\_ Northing: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Easting: \_\_\_\_\_ Northing: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Easting: \_\_\_\_\_ Northing: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Easting: \_\_\_\_\_ Northing: \_\_\_\_\_

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Naushon Company Plant are contiguous with those of Cumberland, R.I. Assessors Map 2, Lots 17, 162 and 163.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries represent the original Naushon Co. land purchase of 1901 and the acquisition of the neighboring lots (at east of property) by Sidney Blumenthal, Inc. in 1945.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Edward Connors

organization: Edward Connors & Associates

street & number: 39 Dyer Avenue

city or town: Riverside state: Rhode Island zip code: 02915

e-mail: nconnors@cox.net

telephone: 401-595-0699

date: July 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Naushon Company Plant

City or Vicinity: Cumberland

County: Providence

State: Rhode Island

Photographer: Edward Connors

Date Photographed: July 2016

Number of photos: 23.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0001.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
North façade of Main Building (No. 1), camera facing southeast.

Photo #2 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0002.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
North façade of Main Building (No. 1), camera facing west.

Photo #3 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0003.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
North façade of Main Building (No. 1), 1945 addition, camera facing southeast.

Photo #4 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0004.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
West elevation of Main Building (No. 1), camera facing east.

Photo #5 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0005.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
South elevation of Main Building (No. 1), camera facing northeast.

Photo #6 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0006.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
South elevation of Main Building (No. 1), camera facing west.



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- Photo #7 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0007.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
South elevation of Boiler House (No. 4), camera facing northeast.
- Photo #8 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0008.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Northwest corner of Boiler House (No. 4), camera facing southeast.
- Photo #9 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0009.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
West façade of Engine/Pump House (No 3), camera facing southeast.
- Photo #10 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0010.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
West façade of Engine/Pump House (No 3), camera facing northwest.
- Photo #11 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0011.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
East façade of Carpenter Shop/Store House (No. 5), camera facing southwest.
- Photo #12 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0012.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Northeast corner of the Carpenter Shop/Store House (No. 5), camera facing south.
- Photo #13 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0013.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Detail of original door at the Carpenter Shop/Store House (No. 5), camera facing west.
- Photo #14 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0014.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
West elevation of the Office (No. 2) and brick vault (contributing structure),  
camera facing east.
- Photo #15 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0015.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
North façade of Office (No. 2), camera facing southeast.
- Photo #16 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0016.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
East elevation of Main Building (No. 1), 1945 addition, camera facing west.
- Photo #17 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0017.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.

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Interior of Main Building (No. 1), second floor Weave Room, camera facing southwest.

Photo #18 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0018.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Interior of Main Building (No. 1), first floor, camera facing northwest.

Photo #19 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0019.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Detail of Main Building (No. 1), first floor interior framing.

Photo #20 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0020.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Detail of pilaster flue in Main Building (No. 1), camera facing south.

Photo #21 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0021.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Interior of Main Building (No. 1), 1945 addition, camera facing west.

Photo #22 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0022.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Interior of Engine/Pump House (No. 3), showing below-grade ventilation shaft,  
camera facing northeast.

Photo #23 RI\_Providence Co\_Cumberland\_NaushonCompanyPlant\_0023.  
Naushon Company Plant (1902-1904, 1945, 1952), 32 Meeting Street.  
Interior of Carpenter Shop/Store House, camera facing southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Naushon Company Plant  
Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island  
County and State

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

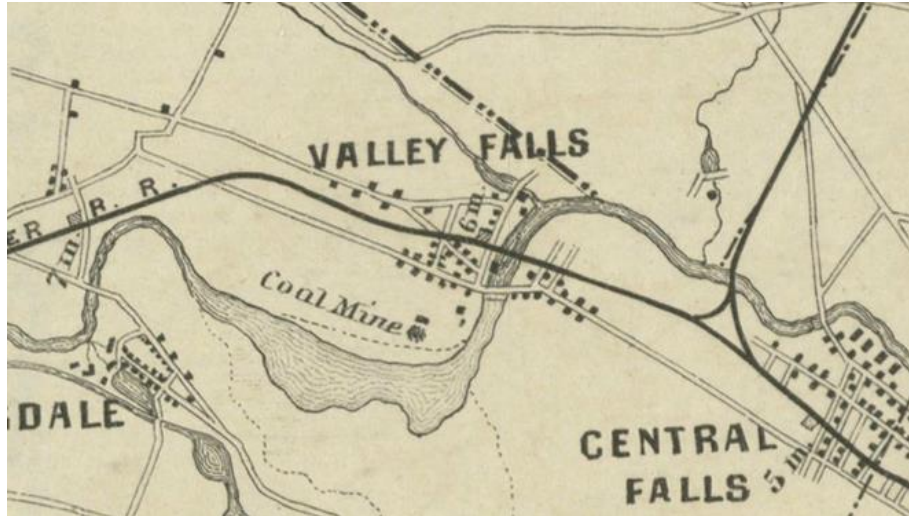


Figure 1

Detail from *Route of the Providence and Worcester Rail Road*, Boston: J.H. Bufford's Lithography, 1847 showing graphitic coal mine in general location of Naushon Mill.

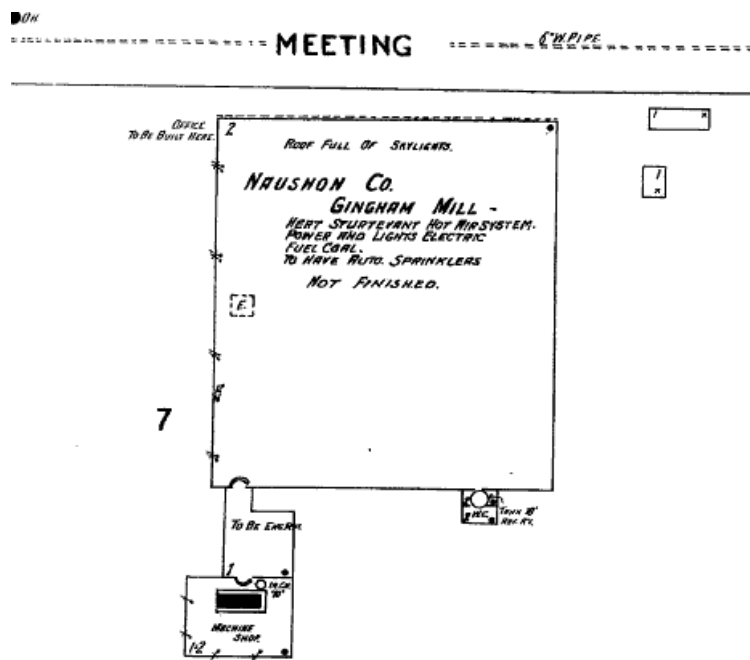
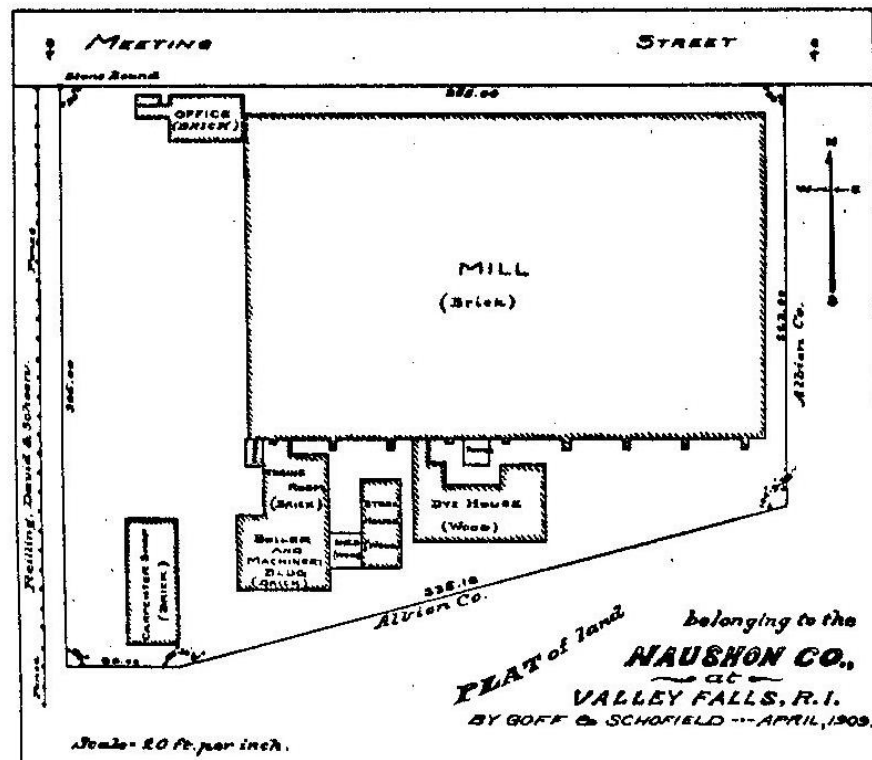


Figure 2

Naushon Company Plant  
Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island  
County and State

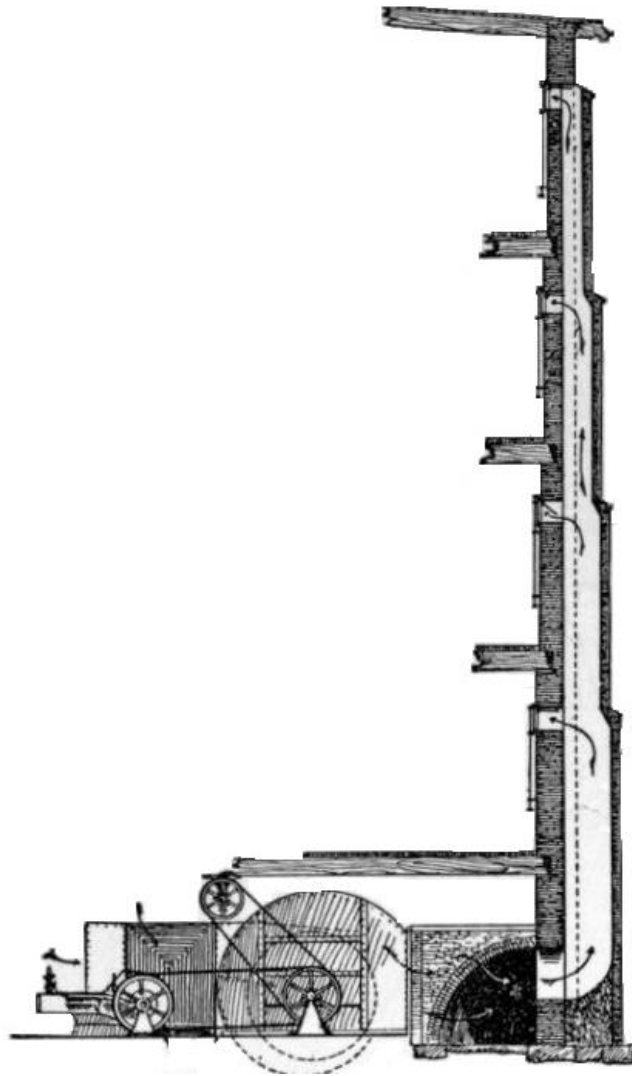
Naushon Company Gingham Mill under construction  
detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Pawtucket, RI, Sheet 72 (1902)  
Building surveyed pre-October 24, 1902



**Figure 3**  
*Plat of land belonging to the Naushon Company (1909)  
showing mill as completed and expanded 1903-4,  
showing pilaster flues regularly spaced along south elevation  
and addition of 1906 Dye House*

Naushon Company Plant  
Name of Property

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**Figure 4**

Cutaway view of pilaster flue from *Ventilation and Heating*, B.F. Sturtevant Co., 1906 showing (below grade) steam engine powering blower, underground masonry duct, and graduated ventilation passages to each floor's wall vents

Naushon Company Plant  
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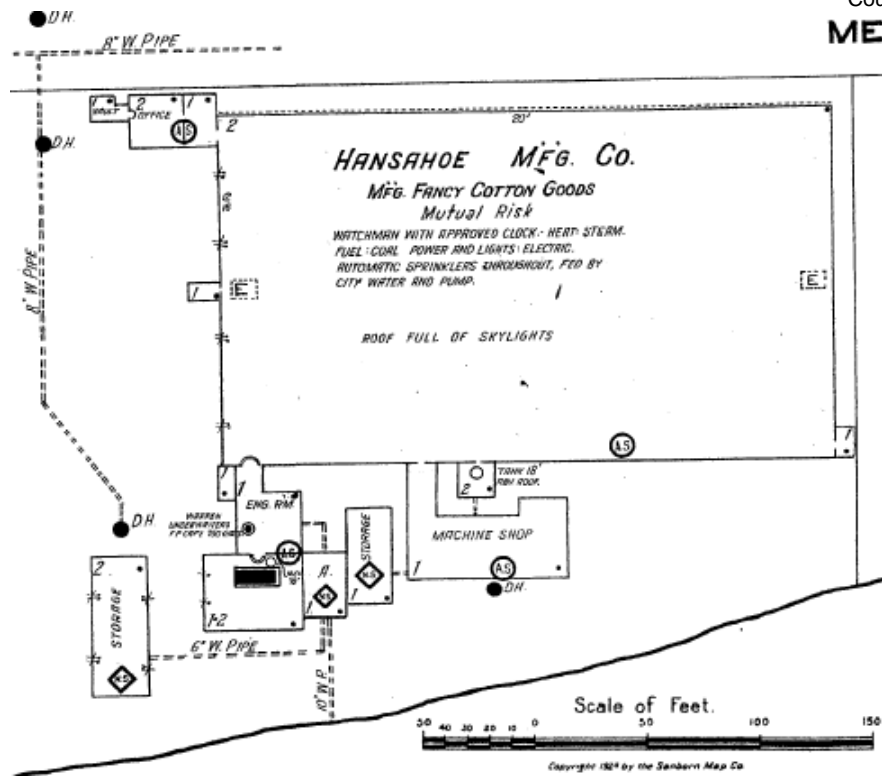
TILTON MILLS, VALLEY FALLS,  
Manufacturers of Cottons, Silks and Worsteds.

**Figure 5**

Rear elevation of Tilton Mill as viewed from south across Blackstone River showing (l-r) Carpenter Shop (Building 5), Boiler Room (Building 4) in foreground, and Main Building (Building 1) in background (former Dye House attached to south elevation)  
*Board of Trade Journal, June 1911*

Naushon Company Plant  
Name of Property

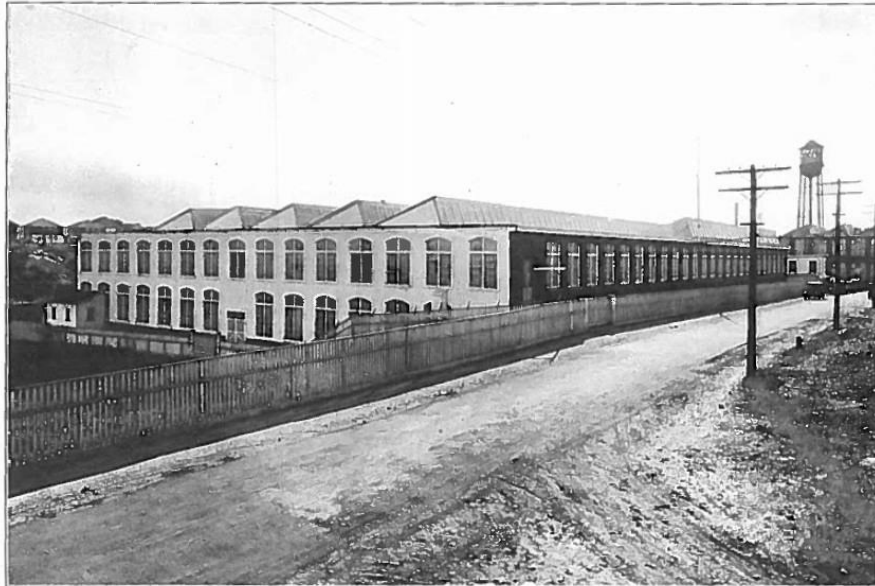
Providence, Rhode Island  
County and State



**Figure 6**  
Hansahoe Manufacturing Co.  
detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Valley Falls, RI, Sheet 2 (1923)  
showing Dye House converted for use as machine, later carpenter, shop

Naushon Company Plant  
Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island  
County and State



GENERAL VIEW OF THE PLANT

**Figure 7**

Hansahoe Manufacturing Co., view to southwest from Meeting Street  
from 1928 bankruptcy auction catalog

*Note: White surface of east elevation at left of photo suggests frame construction.  
Naushon may have anticipated another west addition after the 1903-4 expansion shown here.*



**Figure 8**

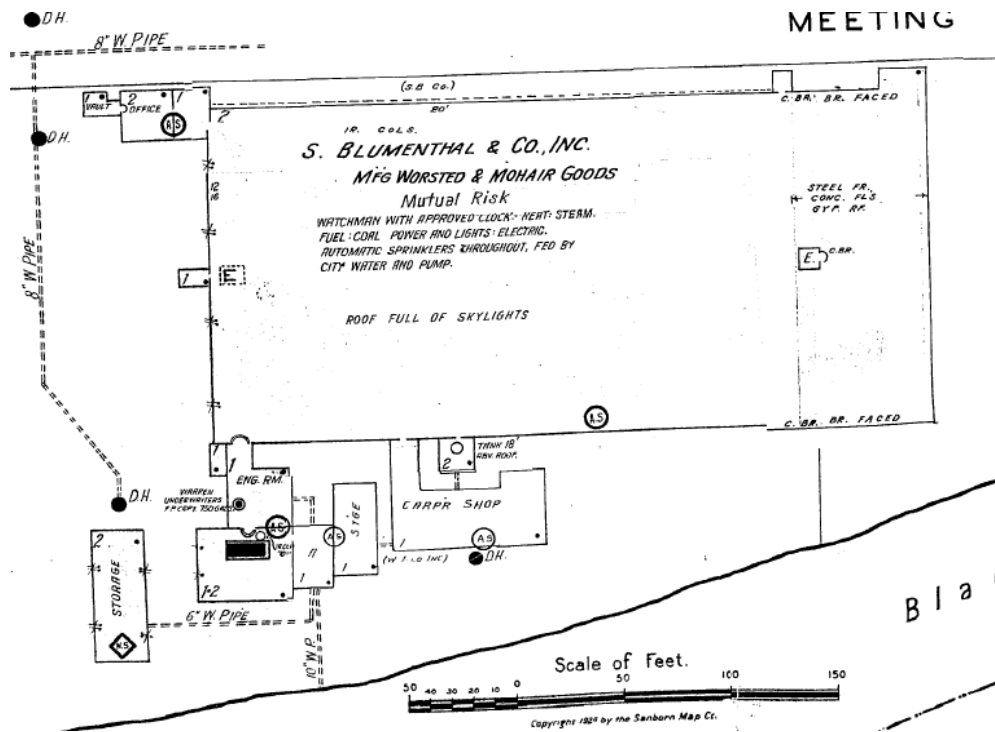
Hansahoe Manufacturing Co. Weave Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Building  
from 1928 bankruptcy auction catalog.

*Note belting passed through the floor to drive looms*



Naushon Company Plant  
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**Figure 9**  
Sidney Blumenthal and Co.  
detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Valley Falls, RI, Sheet 2 (1947)  
showing steel-framed 1945 expansion

Naushon Company Plant  
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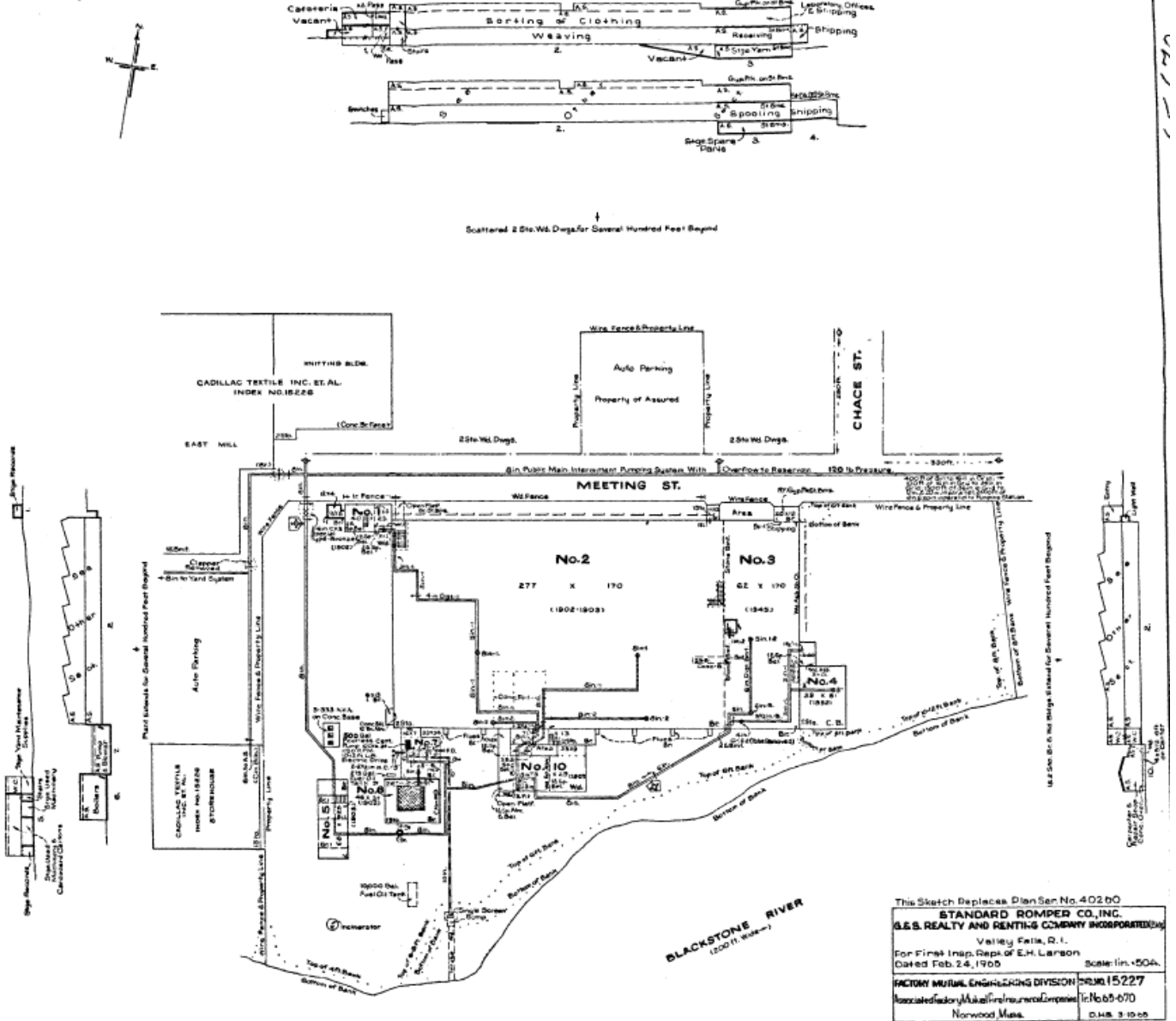
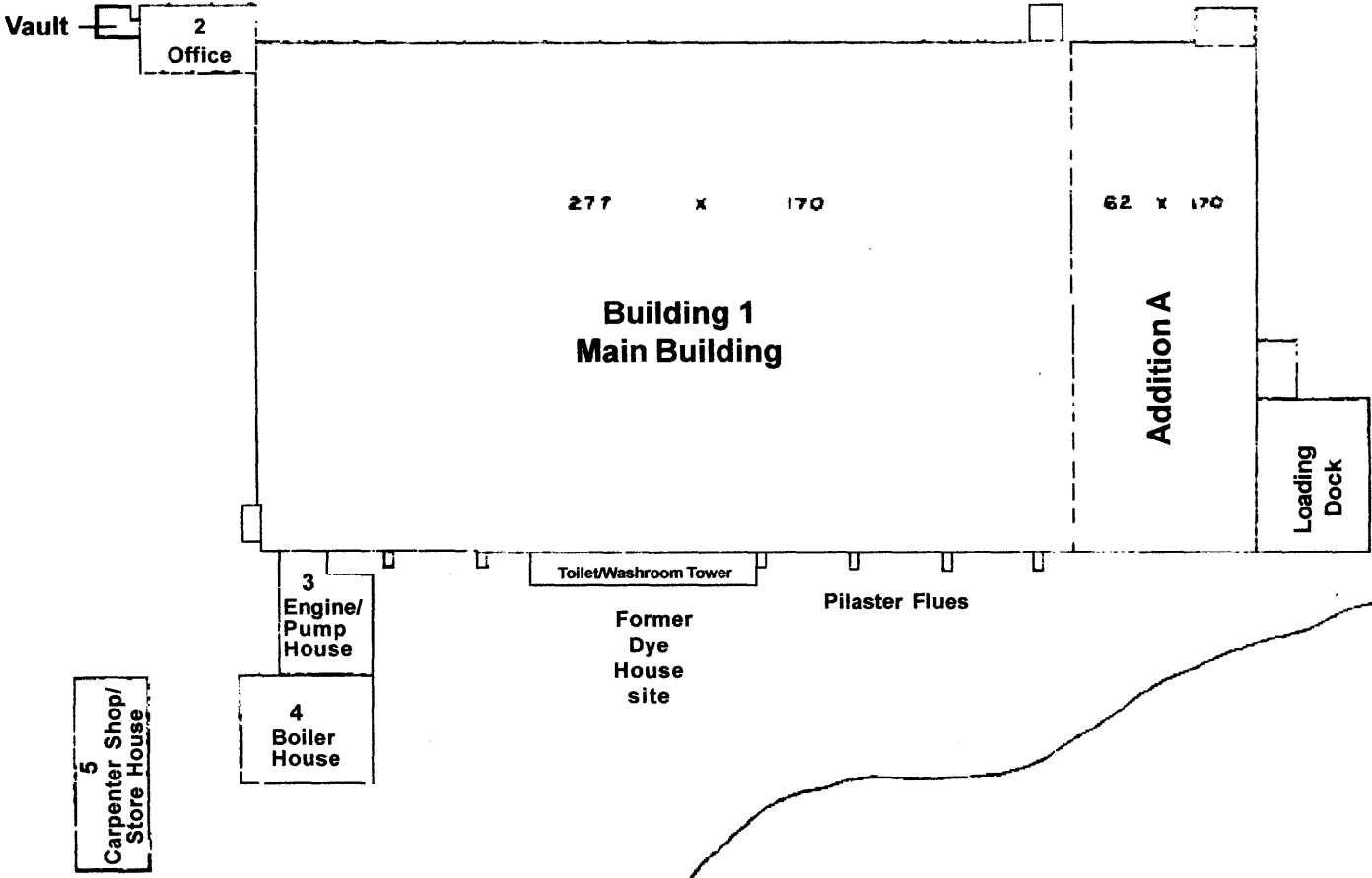


Figure 10  
 Standard Romper Co., Inc. Factory Mutual Drawing No. 65-670 (1965)

# Naushon Company Plant Sketch Plan

APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1" = 65'



BLACKSTONE RIVER



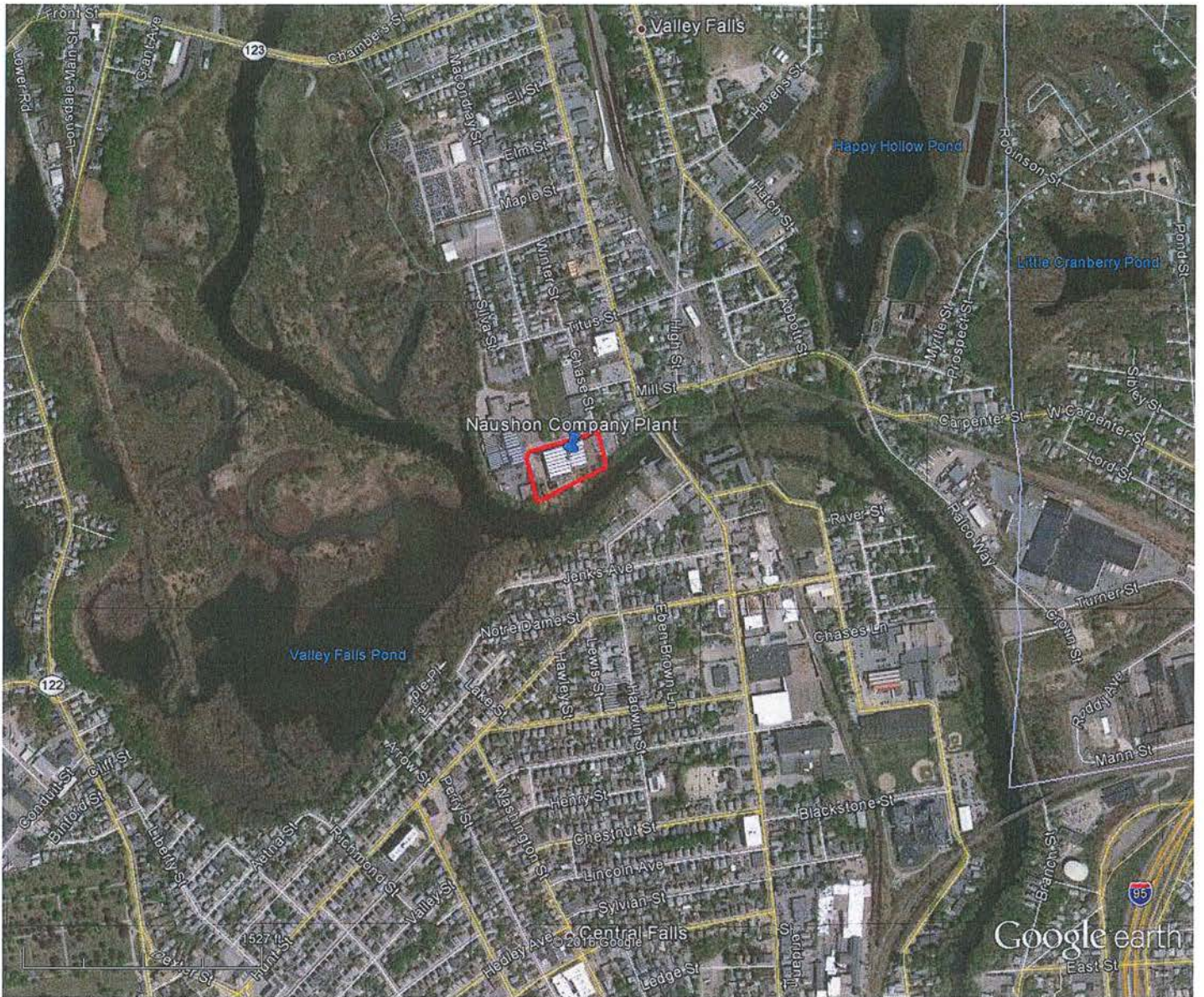
Google earth



Naushon Company Plant  
32 Meeting Street  
Cumberland, Providence County, Rhode Island

Coordinates

1)  $41^{\circ}53'56.47''$ ,  $71^{\circ}23'32.64''$ W



Google earth



Naushon Company Plant  
32 Meeting Street  
Cumberland, Providence County, Rhode Island

Coordinates

1) 41°53'56.47", 71°23'32.64"W





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Website [www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov)



October 20, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Naushon Company Plant at 32 meeting St in Cumberland, Rhode Island, to the National Register of Historic Places

Notification procedures required by law have been followed. The nomination has been reviewed by the Rhode Island Review Board and approved.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, as State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Sanderson  
State Historic Preservation Officer

/mam  
enclosure