

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received JAN 5 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Royalton Mill Complex

and/or common Same

2. Location

N of South Royalton on

street & number Town Road 12

N/A not for publication

city, town ^{South} Royalton

vicinity

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state Vermont

code 50

county Windsor

code 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Edmund Kellogg

street & number N/A

city, town South Pomfret

N/A vicinity of

state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Town Clerk

street & number N/A

city, town Royalton

state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Royalton Mill Complex, located on the First Branch of the White River, consists of three buildings: a Cape Cod millhouse built in 1780-81, a c.1875, vernacular, duplex tenant house, and a barn, built c.1880. The millhouse has undergone some alterations, but retains its original form, central chimney, and most of the original interior features. The millhouse is currently being restored. Immediately north of the millhouse (and outside of the Complex boundaries) are two breached concrete dams and the collapsed remains of a grist and sawmill.

The Royalton Mill Complex is located in the Town of Royalton, Vermont on the east bank of the First Branch of the White River. Immediately north of the old millhouse are two dams and the collapsed remains of a grist and sawmill. Although this area is largely residential now, tremendous milling activity once occurred here and the river branch supplied waterpower for a sawmill, gristmill, fulling mill, nailery, and a furniture factory. As the earliest mill site in Royalton, the extant structures serve as reminders of the vital role the mill complex played in spurring the growth and development of the town.

The complex consists of three buildings, the millhouse, a tenant house, and a barn. The millhouse, situated near the bank of the river, is particularly important for its historical associations and architectural disclosures. Considered the oldest house in Royalton, the millhouse was built in 1780-81, replacing the original miller's house which was burned in the Indian Raid of October, 1780, a raid which destroyed virtually every building in town.

The millhouse has a Connecticut-type Cape Cod plan. Measuring approximately 38'x26', the 1½-story, gable-roof house originally had a 5-bay facade with a central entrance leading into a small entry. The central entrance was later replaced by a window. The two window bays to the right of the central entrance were also changed to contain a modern, three-part window, and a modern window was also installed on the west side.

The original entry hall (currently a bathroom which will be removed), is flanked by a square room on either side and a large kitchen extends 3/4 of the length of the rear. As opposed to a Massachusetts-type Cape which has a stairway in the front entry, this Connecticut-type plan has the stairway located in the rear of the house near a secondary entrance located on the east gable elevation. The stairway in this house, leading to the two upstairs bedrooms, originally ran perpendicular to the facade but was later moved to a parallel position when the side entrance was relocated from the central gable bay to the right gable bay. The outline of the original side entrance's splayed lintel can still be seen in the clapboards of the central bay.

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Typical of the Cape Cod plan, the rooms are arranged around a massive central chimney. The brick chimney serves three fireplaces, two small ones in the front rooms and a larger one with a bake oven serving the kitchen. The upstairs bedrooms, lacking fireplaces, were warmed only by radiation from the large chimney mass and by rising heat.

Detail is confined to a simple splayed lintel over the east gable door and to a simple mantelpiece in the west parlor. There was also originally a simple chair rail in the parlor which was later removed. The doors and casings in the house are plain. The kitchen has panelling consisting of wide, vertical boards with a narrow bead. Some of the original dark red paint can still be seen on the panelling. The other rooms have split lath with plaster walls. The original wide floorboards remain.

In the cellar, one can see that the millhouse was constructed from some of the lumber salvaged from buildings, perhaps the original mill, that were burned in the Indian Raid. Several floor joists have unused mortise joints in numerous places and are charred.

The millhouse was "modernized" during the Greek Revival era, probably in the mid-19th century. At this time, the windows were enlarged and the roof was changed by extending the raking eaves and adding cornice returns. An ell was also attached to the rear of the house. Because of severe deterioration, the ell was recently removed.

During this century, the house has suffered from neglect and insensitive exterior alterations, such as modern picture windows placed on the front and west side. However, the house is currently undergoing restoration and will be returned to its former architectural stature.

Between the millhouse and Town Road #12 is the tenant house, c.1875. Built for two families, this 1½-story, gable-roof, clapboard structure has a 5-bay facade with high kneewall construction and two entrances, one of which has been changed to a window. Like the millhouse, the tenant house is unadorned and utilitarian in design, and is typical of workers' housing. Each gable end is flanked by a lower 1½-story wing. A lean-to, open shed is also attached to the left wing. Window and door surrounds are plain and the sash is now 2/2 with the exception of one window on the facade that retains the original 6/6 sash. Because the house was built when stoves were in common use, there are no fireplaces. A modern, cinder-block chimney has been added to the left side of the main section. The tenant house is also slated for restoration.

Immediately south of the millhouse and tenant house is a 1½-story, clapboard barn, c.1880, constructed by Fred Nelson, a local builder. It, too, is a vernacular design. A corn crib with vented siding is attached to the rear of the barn. The gable roof is surmounted by a cupola which has louvered vents on two sides. In the mid-1930's, the first floor partitions were removed to make room for construction of a large boat. A series of iron tie rods with a wooden truss was installed in the gable level allowing the first floor level to be free of support posts.

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North of the barn and along the banks of the First Branch is the concrete foundation of an early 20th century electric powerhouse. This small powerhouse was constructed by the Royalton Manufacturing Company to supply electric power for its mill which was upstream and on the opposite side of the Branch from the millhouse. A three-foot wide, stone-lined penstock leads from this foundation along the First Branch to the edge of the nominated property. The powerhouse was destroyed in a massive flood in 1927 and the Royalton Manufacturing Company building burned in 1968.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1780–81, c.1875, c.1880 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Royalton Mill Complex consists of three buildings: a Cape Cod millhouse built in 1780–81, a vernacular-style tenant house built c.1875, and a barn, c.1880. The millhouse, situated near the bank of the First Branch of the White River, is the oldest house in Royalton. It was built immediately after the Royalton Indian Raid, the last major Indian raid in New England, in which virtually the entire town was destroyed. The complex is all that remains of a once-thriving mill village; a neighboring former sawmill lies collapsed after deteriorating for a number of years.

Royalton is best-known in the history of Vermont as being the site of the last major Indian raid in New England. On 16 October 1780 towards the end of the Revolutionary War, the inhabitants of the town were attacked by a band of 300 Indians led by British soldiers as a terrorist act on a frontier settlement. Settlers who did not escape were either killed or taken prisoner and homes and livestock were destroyed. Included among the losses were the original gristmill, sawmill, and miller's house located at this site. It is believed that the mills were burned to the water level while the machinery and dam escaped damage.

Considering the devastation caused by the raid, it was logical that the mills were among the first structures rebuilt. The millhouse was also rebuilt, and with lumber in temporarily short supply, some of the millhouse was constructed from salvaged timber taken from buildings burned in the raid. Although Elias Curtis built the original mills c.1776, tradition holds that Issac Morgan was operating the mills at the time of the Raid, and that he rebuilt them in 1780–81. Morgan was also the original grantee of this lot, so-called Lot 35 Dutch, under the Vt charter. Ownership was transferred to Huckens Storrs in 1782 and the mills continued thereafter to change hands frequently. By the 1890's the mill complex had become so busy that local residents renamed the area "Slab City" because of the large piles of slab lumber awaiting delivery.

The propitious location of the falls also induced construction of other water-powered industries. In addition to the saw and gristmill, a fulling mill, a nailery, a clover mill, and a furniture factory all took advantage of the falls at various times, although the sawmill had the greatest longevity, operating for almost 190 years.

Of the three extant buildings, the millhouse has the greatest historical and architectural value. It is a Connecticut-type Cape Cod structure and is only one of two such structures remaining in Royalton with its central chimney intact. Although it is not embellished with architectural detail, the millhouse exemplifies an early vernacular building tradition. Undoubtedly the millhouse is representative of what the majority of early Vermont dwellings looked like and its importance is magnified when one realizes how few of these simple dwellings still exist in a state resembling their original character.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dumville, John, Royalton Historical Society, Royalton, Vermont, Interview, December, 1981

Lovejoy, Evelyn M. Wood. History of Royalton, Vermont, Burlington, 1911.

Nash, Hope. Royalton, Vermont, Royalton, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 1 acre.

Quadrangle name Randolph, VT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	8	6	9	19	7	15	10	4	18	5	15	9	17	15
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Based upon a survey map drawn in October, 1981 by Frank B. Lamson, a Registered Surveyor in the State of Vermont, the boundary of the Royalton Mill Complex is

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret N. DeLaittre

organization Preservation Consultant

date January 1982

street & number 271 Elm Street

telephone (802) 229-0135

city or town Montpelier

state Vermont

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William B. Timney

title Director/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12-29-82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

2/3/83

J. Melvyn Bryan
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

CMB NO. 1731-0015
EXP. 12/31/84

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The tenant house, c.1840, also represents vernacular design as applied to an early industrial complex. It might be considered an example of mid-19th century rural workers' housing. The barn, c.1880, was probably built as storage space for the mills and it, too, is part of the vernacular architectural heritage of Royalton and Vermont.

Altogether the buildings in this complex recall the importance of the water power once supplied by the First Branch of the White River to the growth and development of the town of Royalton. By being restored after many years of neglect, they will once again serve the town and provide a reminder of its Eighteenth Century origins.

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CRAB 110-1000-0000
11/11/11

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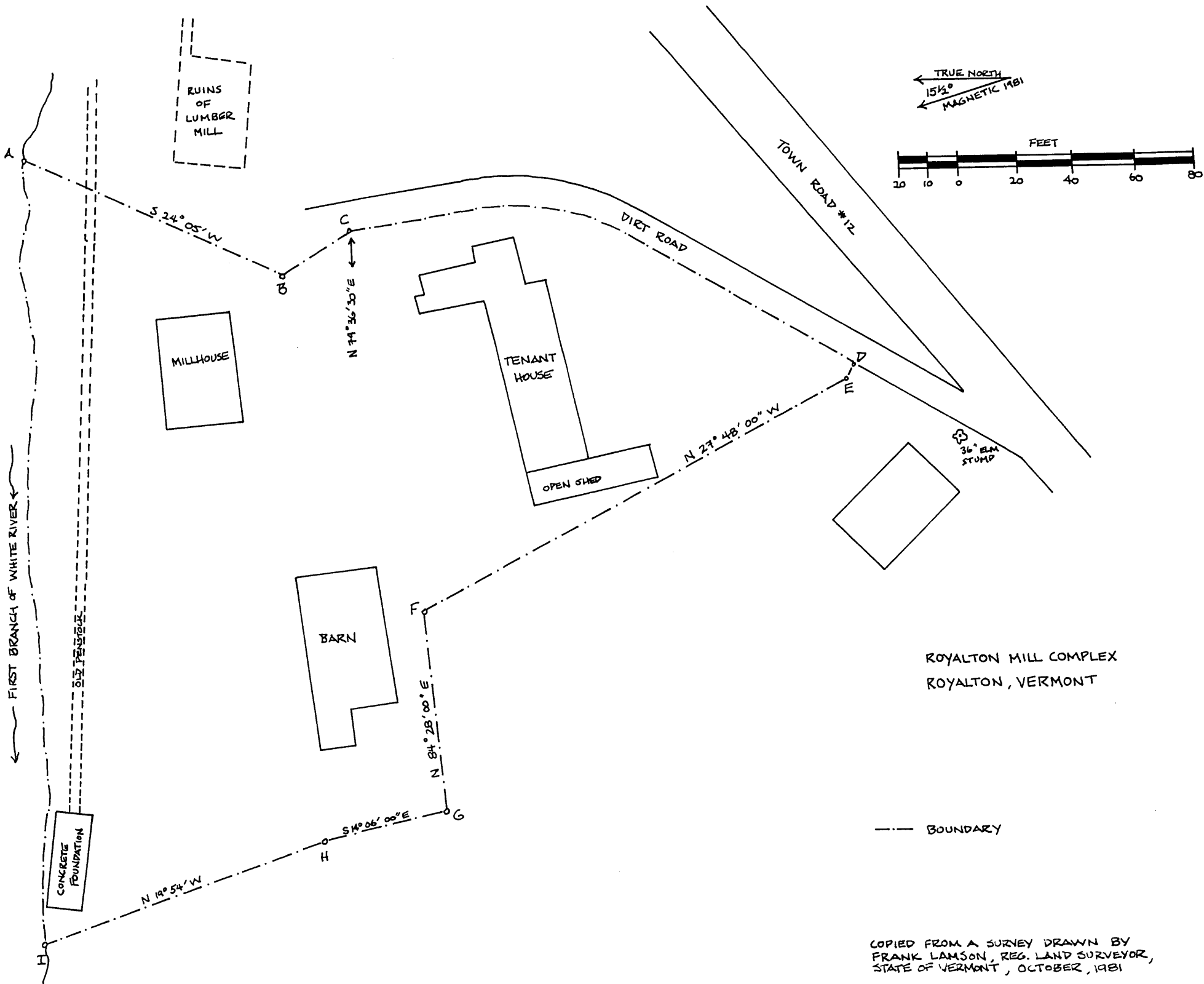
Item number 10

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described as follows:

The boundary of the Royalton Mill Complex begins at Pt.A, the intersection of the southern bank of the First Branch of the White River and a line which has a compass bearing of S24°05'W. From Point A, the boundary proceeds in a southwesterly direction 94.83 feet along said line until it meets an iron pin found at Point B. From Point B, the boundary thence proceeds generally southeast approximately 25 feet until it meets Point C, the intersection of the westerly edge of right-of-way of the complexe's dirt road and a line which has a compass bearing of N79°36'30"E. The boundary thence proceeds generally south-southeast along said westerly edge of right-of-way until it meets Point D, a point located approximately 5 feet east of an iron pipe set which is 42 feet northeast of a 36" elm stump. From Point D, the boundary thence proceeds west approximately 5 feet to said iron pipe set, Point E. The boundary thence proceeds generally northwest 161.13 feet along a line which has a compass bearing of N27°48'00"W until it meets another iron pipe set, Point F. From Point F, the boundary thence proceeds generally west 70.42 feet along a line which has a compass bearing of N84°28'00"E until it meets another iron pipe set, Point G. The boundary thence proceeds generally north 42.07 feet along a line which has a compass bearing of S14°06'00"E until it meets an iron pipe found at Point H. From Point H, the boundary thence proceeds generally northwest 97.90 feet along a line which has a compass bearing of N19°54'W until it meets the southern bank of the First Branch of the White River, Point I. The boundary thence proceeds generally east along said southerly bank 266 feet to Point A, the point of beginning.

The boundary of the Royalton Mill Complex follows the deed boundaries concerned with this parcel of land. The only change is that the nomination's boundary follows the westerly edge of right-of-way of the complexe's dirt road instead of the road's center line which was used in the survey made by Frank Lamson in 1981. The nominated property includes all of the significant standing structures associated with the Millhouse and with the once-thriving mill industry.



COPIED FROM A SURVEY DRAWN BY
 FRANK LAMSON, REG. LAND SURVEYOR,
 STATE OF VERMONT, OCTOBER, 1981