

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 7 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: Hemond, Inc., Woonsocket Weaving Co., Blackstone Valley Electric Co.,
Pierannunzi Shoe Repair

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Woonsocket Company/Bernon Mills Complex

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
(100-115) Front Street

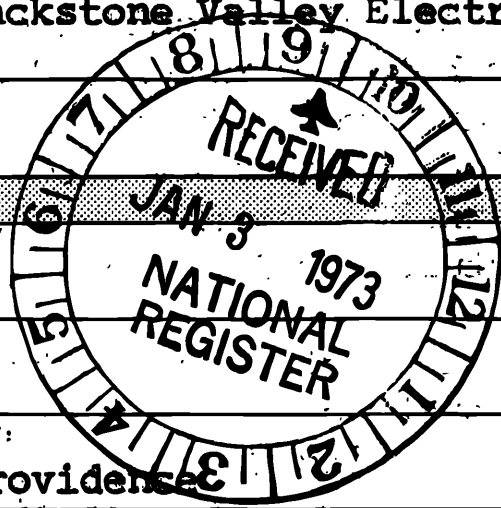
CITY OR TOWN:
Woonsocket

STATE
Rhode Island 02895

CODE
44

COUNTY:
Providence

CODE
007



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Comments: _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
169 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Woonsocket Rhode Island 02895 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
The New England Textile Mill Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic American Buildings Survey, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Washington District of Columbia 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Woonsocket Company mill complex in Woonsocket, Rhode Island is situated below Front Street on the steeply sloping bank of the Blackstone River between Bernon and Court streets. The area between the mill buildings and Front Street is occupied by a parking lot, the Woonsocket Police Station and rows of late XIX and XX century commercial buildings. Originally the mill yard, this area was open, containing only a small structure housing the mill office.

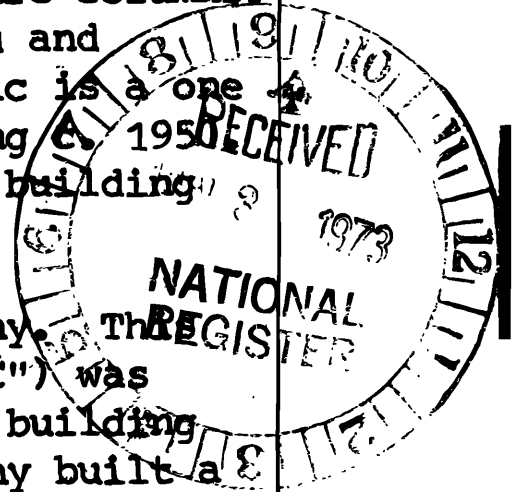
Manufacture of cotton textiles began on this site in 1827-28 with the construction of the #1 Mill ("B" on the site plan) for the Russell Manufacturing Company. This building was originally 112' 8" by 45' 8" in plan, three stories high, with a basement and attic. It was constructed of stone load-bearing walls and "slow-burning" timber interior framing. Although the building has been added to and altered, much of the original construction remains. The exterior walls are uncoursed granite with quarry-faced lintels and sills. The gable roof has continuous clerestory windows, producing the characteristic early XIX century "factory roof" profile. The #1 Mill was lengthened approximately 25' on the river end between 1851 and 1855. The open belfry originally set atop the projected stair tower on the opposite end of the building was removed c. 1870.

The Russell Manufacturing Company failed in the depression of 1829. In 1832 the #1 Mill became the property of the newly formed Woonsocket Company. In the following year that firm built the #2 Mill ("D"). This unusual Greek Revival structure, 110' 10" by 48' 9", stands four stories tall with basement. The attic is unusable for manufacturing purposes. The #2 Mill is capped with a gable roof. The exterior walls are load-bearing, random-coursed granite ashlar with smooth finished granite quoins, lintels, sills and jambs. The wall surfaces are ochre-colored granite and the decorative stonework is grey. The gable ends are treated as pediments. Above each pediment are granite acroteria. In the land-side gable the lintel of a small garret door is inscribed "1833". The interior structure is wood joists, beams and square columns. The building retains much of its original 6/6 double hung sash and paneled freight doors. The only major alteration to the fabric is a one story brick office extension added to the front of the building. The original stone walled water power trench ("E") enters the building from the Bernon Street side.

About 1835 the #3 Mill was built by the Woonsocket Company. The building was demolished when a hydroelectric power station ("C") was erected between 1890 and 1920. In 1859 the last textile mill building was added to the complex, the #4 Mill ("A"). Again the company built a four story stone structure. The gabled dormers on its pitched roof are characteristic of the period in which it was constructed. The # 4 Mill, as well as the #1 and #2 mills, is in good condition.

The Woonsocket Company went out of business in 1883. In 1887 the
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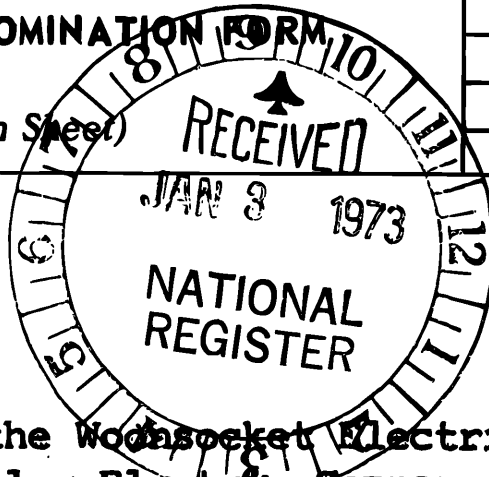


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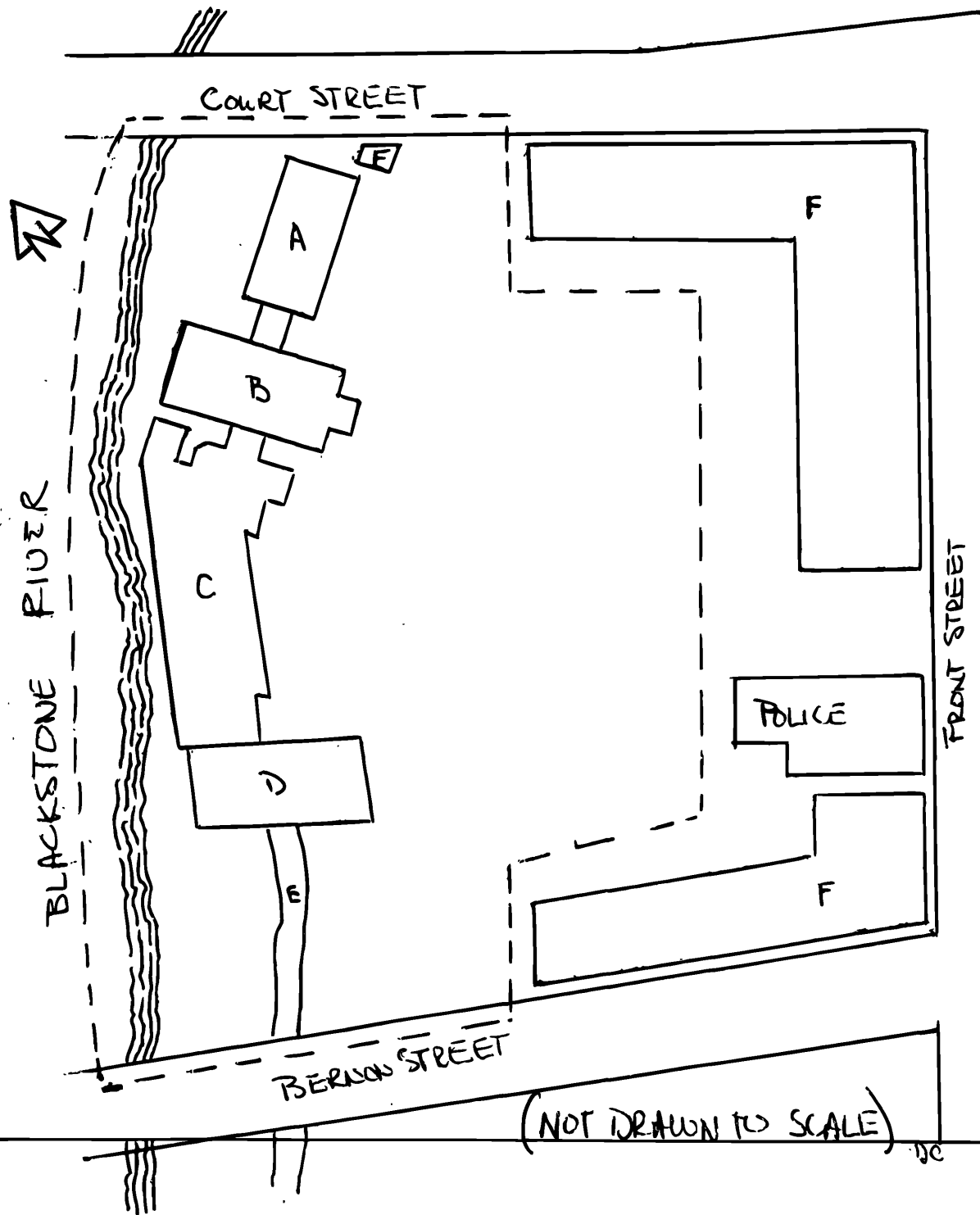


(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

mill complex was purchased by the Woonsocket Electric Machine and Power Company, now the Blackstone Valley Electric Company. The electric company used the complex as the site for a power plant. Presently Blackstone Valley Electric uses the #4 Mill for office space and the #1 Mill for equipment storage. The power plant is no longer in use. The #2 Mill has been sold to Hemond Incorporated and is used for storage and office space. Part of the building is rented out for textile manufacturing.

The area included in this nomination comprises all the land and buildings formerly belonging to the Woonsocket Company between Court and Bernon streets, from the Blackstone River up to, but not including the commercial structures and Police Station facing Front Street. The parking area in front of the mills is included in the nomination. Due to its proximity to the mill buildings, one small commercial building at 125 Court Street, occupied by Pierannunzi Shoe Repair Shop, is also within the area nominated.



SITE PLAN

- A. #4 MILL, 1859
- B. #1 MILL, 1827-28
- C. POWER PLANT, 1890-1930
- D. #2 MILL, 1833
- E. POWER TRENCH
- F. COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES
- BOUNDARY of AREA NOMINATED

(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

SIGNIFICANCE

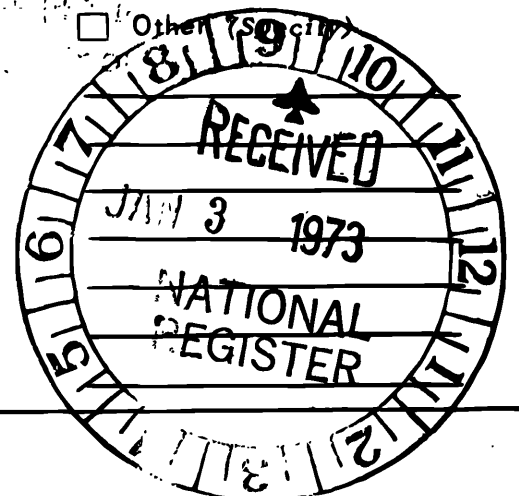
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1827, 1833, 1859, c.1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Woonsocket Company mill complex typifies the moderate sized cotton textile operations so common in Rhode Island throughout much of the XIX Century. The company was controlled by several of Rhode Island's most important industrialists, including Crawford Allen, Sullivan Dorr and later Moses B.I. Goddard. The Woonsocket Company employed 250 to 300 hands and produced between two and three million yards of cotton cloth per year. This was approximately 1/5 of the production capacity of all the mills in Woonsocket. Like all of the other textile manufacturing complexes, the Woonsocket Company mills were adjacent to several streets of mill worker housing, owned by the firm. The area was named "Bernon" for an Allen family ancestor.

The Woonsocket Company mills in Bernon, though typical of many mill complexes of mid-XIX century Rhode Island, were noted in their day for their picturesque topography, well-kept grounds and architectural quality. The Greek Revival #2 Mill especially attracted favorable comment. There is but one other Greek Revival textile mill in Rhode Island which may be considered its peer. The #2 Mill, so self-consciously classicizing, makes many compromises in form deriving from a borrowed aesthetic rather than function. The decorative details--the quoins, the acroteria and so on--are obviously non-essential. More indicative of the attitude which formed the structure is the classically correct window-less gable roof, producing an unproductive attic space, and the suppression of an exterior stair tower, advantageous from the point of view of fire safety and layout. Moreover, the interior structure of the building is not "slow burning" mill framing, which may indicate that the building was designed by an architect not familiar with the construction of industrial buildings. In spite of these factors, however, the building is still in use for the manufacture of textiles, and thus ranks as one of the oldest textile mills in operation in Rhode Island.

In the context of their setting, these mill buildings are particularly important. They are among the most handsome and well preserved reminders of Woonsocket's industrial past. Situated prominently on the bank of the Blackstone River, the Woonsocket Company mill complex is a major link in the chain of visual accents which give form to the city's heritage.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A. Primary and unpublished.

1. Factory Mutual Insurance Comapny, Engineering Division, Norwood, Mass., "Woonsocket Company's Mills, Bernon, R.I.", (Insurance plat and perspective of mills), Sheet No. 449, c. 1870. (Bound in album at FMIC office, Norwood, Mass.)
2. Smithfield Town Records and Woonsocket City Records, Woonsocket City Hall.

(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 00' 4.77"	71° 30' 44.88"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Nine.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Theodore Anton Sande, Architect; D.W. Chase, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Historical Preservation Commission, State of Rhode Island DATE: 12/24/71

STREET AND NUMBER: John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 02906 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Frederick Williamson

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 27, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert G. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 30 73

19/291900/4652770
 UTM Ref
 1216-7544
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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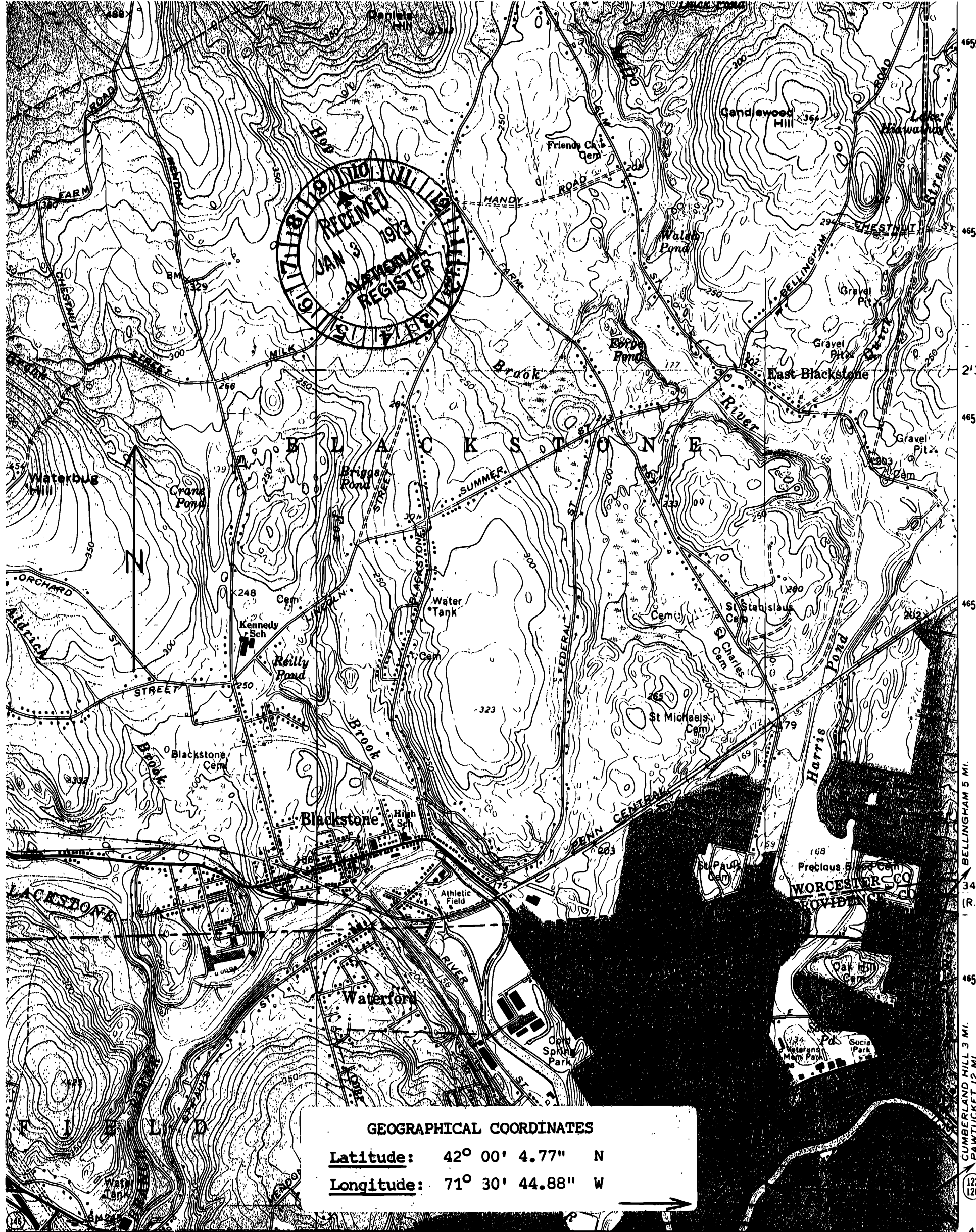
WOONSOCKET COMPANY'S NO. 2 MILL

9. Bibliography (continued)

B. Secondary and published sources.

1. Ballou's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion,
Vol. 9, No. 7 (18 August, 1855). pp.104 -- 105.
2. Bayles, Richard M., History of Providence
County, Rhode Island, New York, 1891. (2 Vols.)
Vol. II, pp.305 -- 306.

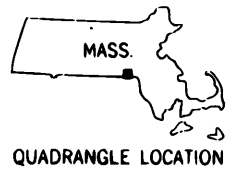
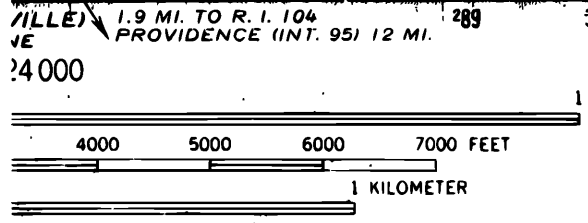




GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 42° 00' 4.77" N

Longitude: 71° 30' 44.88" W



291 ● INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1971
 GEORGIAVILLE 10 MI. (104) 292000m.E. 71° 30'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather improved surface
- Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
- State Route

BLACKSTONE, MASS. - R. I.
 N4200-W7130/7.5

1969

AMS 6668 II SE-SERIES V814

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 IRVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 ND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

4659
 4658
 2'30"
 4657
 4656
 340 000 FEET (R. I.)
 4654000m.N.
 CUMBERLAND HILL 3 MI.
 PAWTUCKET 12 MI.
 (122 126)
 42° 00'
 71° 30'

(PAWTUCKET)
 676714 NW