

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB NO. 1024-0018

EXP. 10/31/84

For NPS use only

received AUG 31 1982
date entered

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Renfrew Mill #2

and/or common Arnold Print Works

2. Location

street & number 217 Columbia Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Adams

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Berkshire

code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	N/A in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☒ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name APW Realty company, John Reinke, Trustee

street & number Columbia Street

city, town Adams

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts 01220

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds

street & number Town Hall, Park Street

city, town Adams

state Massachusetts 01220

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #656-660 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date September 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street, Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

Renfrew Mill #2, 217 Columbia St., Adams, MA

Condition

___ excellent
___ ☒ good
___ fair

___ deteriorated
___ ruins
___ unexposed

Check one

___ unaltered
___ ☒ altered

Check one

___ ☒ original site
___ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Renfrew Mill #2 is a large group of attached industrial buildings constructed on a site at the southeast corner of Columbia and Lime Streets. The actual mill lot is bounded by a former raceway (west), a mill pond (Renfrew Pond - south), the Hoosac River (east) and Lime Street (north). The mill consists of more than twenty-five buildings and additions, most of which are built of brick and stand between one and three stories high. Those sections of the mill which date from the nineteenth century form the western and southern portions of the present complex; these sections are:

1. The Main Mill building (Mill #2 built ca.1867) is a three-story brick structure (350' x 70') which rises from a marble plinth and is enclosed by a low-pitched roof. Its facade (west) is slightly asymmetrical, consisting of a central tower flanked northward by 8 bays, a smaller tower, and 8 additional bays and southward by 9 bays, a smaller tower, and 15 bays. Each bay contains at each story one 12/12 window set in an undecorated arched surround with a slate sill; the heads of third-story windows are set into a corbelled cornice which extends around the building. The main tower contains single windows on each elevation of its first three stories; the fourth story contains paired arches with louvers in each of its elevations. Originally the main tower was capped by a hip roof and cupola (removed). The facade's two smaller towers are identical. Each has one loading bay with original panelled doors at each story of the west elevation. The south elevation is 6 bays wide and has been altered by the addition of two truck loading platforms at the second story (which is ground level at this end of the mill). The east elevation consists of 26 bays south of and 23 bays north of a square-plan, stair tower.
2. The Picker Room (ca. 1867), stands at the north end of the Main building to which it is identical in detail. The Picker Room is 9 bays in length (east to west) and 4 bays in depth (north to south).
3. The Boiler Room (ca. 1867-1878) is a one-story brick structure set on a foundation of random ashlar (marble) and enclosed by a low-pitched roof. The building's south and east elevations are attached to twentieth-century structures; its north elevation faces the Weave Shed at a distance of several feet. The east elevation contains evenly spaced arched windows.
4. The Weave Shed (built 1878, W.H.H. Whiting, architect) is a one-story brick structure built on a foundation of random ashlar (marble) and enclosed by a low-pitched roof with monitors. At each end of the facade (west) are entry towers with convexly bared mansard roofs. The facade and north elevation have evenly spaced 12/12 windows set in undecorated arched surrounds with slate sills. East and south elevations are concealed by neighboring buildings.
5. The Office (ca. 1885) is a 1-1/2 story brick building of Victorian Gothic style design. Its elevations contain paired arched windows connected by a course of decorative brick work at the level of the arches' springers. All elevations have shingled gables with decorative aprons. The Office building was originally built on the site of the present Gatehouse in front of Mill #2; it was moved to its current site in the early twentieth century.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet 1 Renfrew Mill#2

Item number 7

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6. Dye House #1 (ca 1890-1894) is a one-story brick building of utilitarian design; the building is now concealed by attached structures.

7. Dye House #2 (ca 1890-1894) is a two-story brick building of utilitarian design. Elevations are divided by wide brick piers into bays, each of which contains one window (15/15) at each story.

Several other buildings in the complex retain parts of structures built in the 1890's (Storehouses 2 & 3 and the Finishing Room); however, these structures have been thoroughly altered by subsequent enlargements in the twentieth century.

The nomination includes only the mill buildings because associated structures such as former worker's housing, is now physically separated and barely visible from the mill. Shaded areas on the map are considered non contributing.

8. Significance

Renfrew Mill #2, 217 Columbia St., Adams, MA

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

Specific dates ca 1867, 1878, 1890's and after **Builder/Architect** W.H.H. Whiting of Boston (1878)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Renfrew Mill #2 possesses integrity of location, design, materials and setting from its several periods of construction in the late nineteenth century. The mill also possesses historical associations with several of Adams leading industrialists of the nineteenth century and as Adams largest industry prior to the growth of the Berkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company in the 1890's. The mill complex meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Now consisting of more than twenty-five separate structures and additions, the Renfrew Mill derives its greatest significance from those portions of the mill built prior to the mid-1890's; located along the mill's western half, these sections possess the greatest architectural distinction and constitute the principal facades which are visible from public rights of way. Of these sections, the Italianate style Main Mill #2 and the Weave Shed are unique in Adams both for their large scale and for their well-preserved designs.

Incorporated on May 5, 1867, with an authorized capital of \$600,000, the Renfrew Manufacturing Company was established by Levi L. Brown who served as its president, James Chalmers who served as its clerk and treasurer, and by Lewis N. Gilbert, James Renfrew, Jr. and Edward F. Jenks who served as directors. While Jenks and Renfrew had previously been involved in manufacturing in Adams and North Adams, the most well-known of the company's founders was Levi L. Brown, owner of the Levi L. Brown Paper Company. Founded in 1849, the Brown Paper Company manufactured high-quality ledger papers and had already become a major local industry by the time Brown turned his interest to the Renfrew Manufacturing company.

In August of 1867 the company purchased a large tract of land straddling Columbia Street, on which it built brick row houses for workers, Mill #2 and a smaller scale of Mill #1 (now demolished) on the west side of Columbia Street. Planned for the production of gingham cloth, Mill #2 was equipped from the beginning with steam and water power. Ginghams continued to be the mainstay of production in Mill #2 until the 1880's when they passed out of fashion and the mill was converted to the manufacture of other types of cotton cloth. At the same time, the company expanded by purchasing other mills in Adams, such as the former Maple Grove Woolen Mill during the 1880's and Renfrew Mill #5 in 1892. During the height of its prosperity, the Renfrew Manufacturing Company employed more than 2,500 operatives in its mills both in Adams and North Adams making it the area's largest employer until the turn of the century. After sixty years in operation, the Renfrew Manufacturing Company closed its Adams mills in 1928 after which Mill #2 was purchased by the Arnold Print Works, its current owner.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barlow's Millyard Insurance Plan #5245. "Renfrew Gingham Mill," April 1878.

Child, Hamilton Berkshire County Gazetteer, Syracuse, N.Y.: Hamilton Child, 1885

Stone, Ora L. History of Massachusetts' Industires. Boston: S.J. Clark Publishing Co. 1930

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 15.157

Quadrangle name North Adams

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A

118	6515	0110	417	212	2110
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B

118	6514	91810	417	211	91210
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C

118	6514	71510	417	211	91310
Zone	Easting		Northing		

D

118	6515	81110	417	212	21310
Zone	Easting		Northing		

E

Zone	Easting		Northing		

F

Zone	Easting		Northing		

G

Zone	Easting		Northing		

H

Zone	Easting		Northing		

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes only the lot on which the mill and its outbuildings stand; this lot is described in Berkshire County Deeds Book 681 page 1146. (see continuation sheet, page 2)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director with ACT for Massachusetts B.R.Pfeiffer

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston, state Massachusetts 02108

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 Valerie Ann Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date Aug. 29, 1982

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/19/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Renfrew Mill

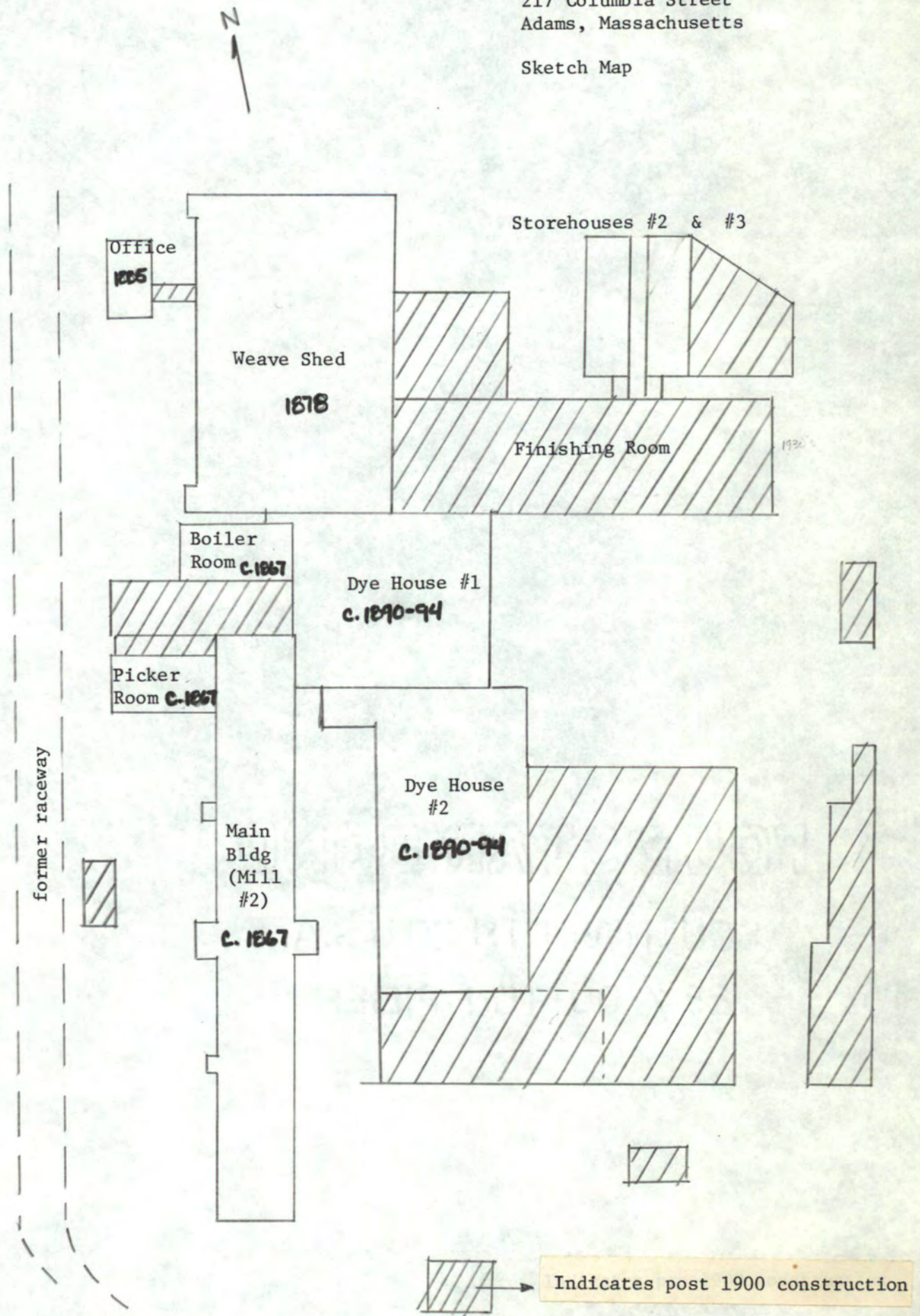
Item number 10

Page 1

The nomination includes only the mill buildings because associated structures such as former worker's housing, is now physically separated and barely visible from the mill. Shaded areas on the map are considered non contributing.

RENFREW MILL #2
217 Columbia Street
Adams, Massachusetts

Sketch Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceSubstantive ReviewRenfrew Mill #2
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTSWorking No. 8/31/82-2372Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83Date Due: 9/30/82 - 10/15/82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/14/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria ABC/ACCEPTReviewer Neil DwyerDiscipline A.H.Date 10.19/82☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Renfrew Mill #2
Adams, Massachusetts

Brian Pfeiffer, photographer June 19, 1981

negative at: ACT for Massachusetts
 45 School Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02108

view (left to right) of the south elevation of the
 Picker Building and the west elevation of the
 Main Building, taken from a position facing
 north

PHOTO 1 OF 3



Renfrew Mill #2
Adams, Massachusetts

Brian Pfeiffer, photographer June 19, 1981

negative at: ACT for Massachusetts
 45 School Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02108

partial view of the west elevation of the Weave
Shed (1878) taken from a position facing
northeast

PHOTO 2 OF 3



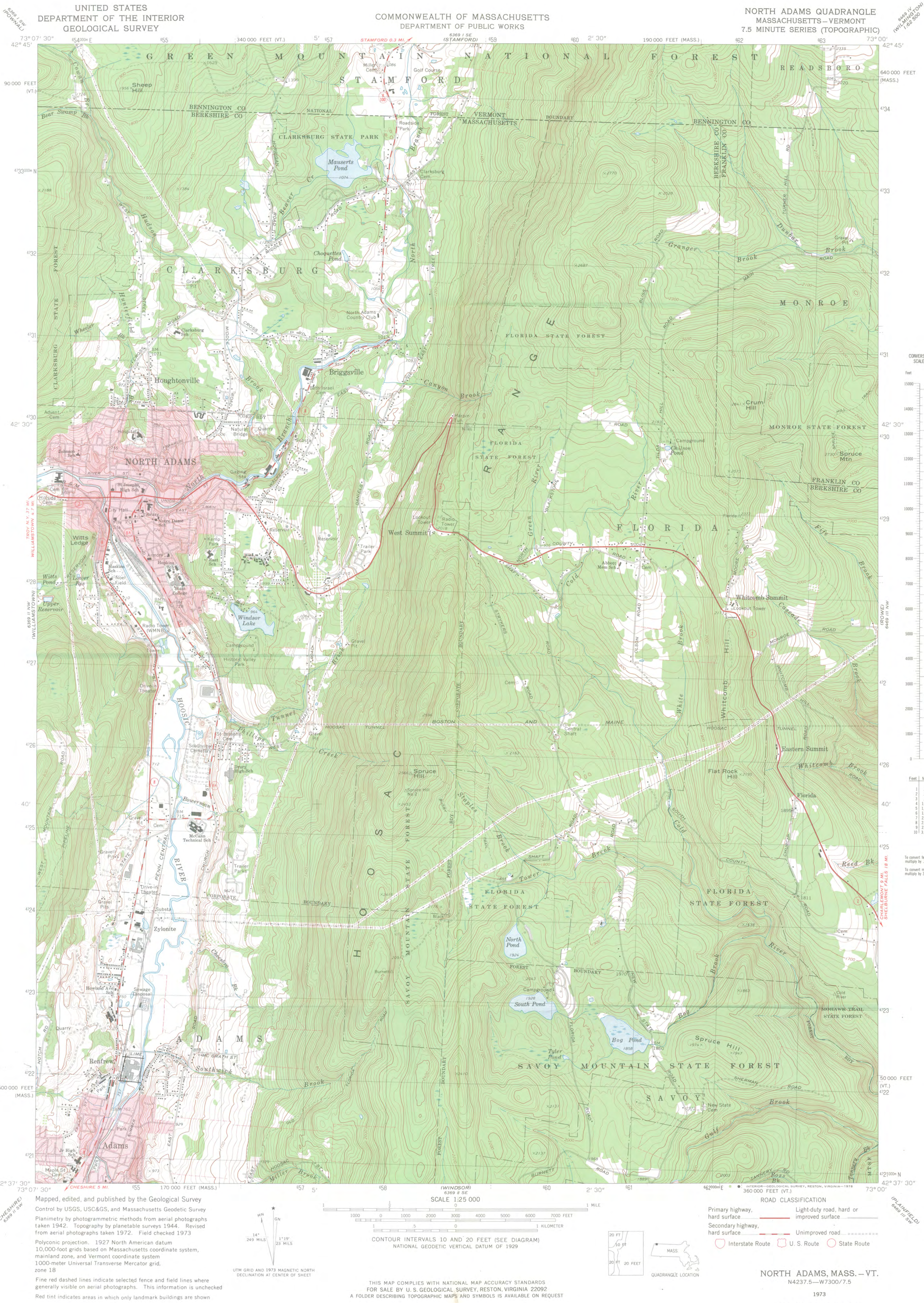
Renfrew Mill #2
Adams, Massachusetts

Brian Pfeiffer, photographer June 19, 1981

negative at: ACT for Massachusetts
 45 School Street
 Boston, Massachusetts 02108

view of the west and south elevations of the
Office Building

PHOTO 3 OF 3





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

August 24, 1982

Mr. Jerry Rogers
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Adams - Phillips Woolen Mill (local)
✓ Adams - Renfrew Mill #2 (local)
Belchertown - Walker Collis House (local)
Hudson - Col. Adelbert Mossman House (local)
Lenox - Lenox Academy (state)
Lenox - The "Church on the Hill" (local)
New Bedford - Dawson Building (local)
New Marlborough - New Marlborough Village Historic District (local)
North Andover - Machine Shop Village (state)
Pittsfield - Wollison- Shipton Building (local)
Rockport - Sewall-Scripture House (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board considerations 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

CJ/mas

