

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675164

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RECEIVED APR 11 1979 JUN 18 1979
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

Dyerville Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

610 Manton Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Providence

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#2 Edward Beard

STATE

Rhode Island

VICINITY OF

CODE

44

COUNTY

Providence

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert and William Lonardo

STREET & NUMBER

25 Dorrance Street

610 Manton Avenue (5/23/79 Angelo Londo)

CITY, TOWN

Providence

VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island 02909

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Providence City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

25 Dorrance Street

CITY, TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Providence Broadbrush

DATE

July 1976 et seq.

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dyerville Mill is a stuccoed-stone structure located on the northern bank of the Woonasquatucket River. Although the mill is bordered on three sides by an urban late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residential neighborhood, dense foliage and a steep hill to the north visually isolate it in a near-rural setting.

The factory was erected in 1835 as a three-and-a-half-story, L-shape structure with a simple gable roof and a four-and-a-half story tower at the outside corner of the L. Evenly spaced double-hung, six-over-six sash windows with granite sills and lintels punctuate the walls, which were originally stuccoed and scored in imitation of stone. An open, wood, arcuated belfry with Italianate detailing, probably added in the 1860s, caps the tower (photograph 1), which is connected by a covered wood walkway with an early twentieth-century building on Manton Avenue formerly used as the mill office. A stone, two-and-a-half-story picker house (photograph 3), located on the southwest side of the mill, and a one-story brick extension on the south, originally used as a weave shed, are nineteenth-century additions which form another L, creating a quadrangle (see site plan). A twentieth-century warehouse is attached to the brick addition.

The original open interior space is largely intact (photograph 5), with few new partitions erected. The original wood floors and "slow-burning" construction members remain exposed.

Much of the original water-power system remains in evidence. A long raceway formerly ran from a wooden dam on the Woonasquatucket River west of the mill. The dam is still in place, but the gates have been removed, and the race is only visible near the wood wheel house (photograph 4) on the northwest side of the building. A horizontal turbine and belt-driven generator remain in place at the wheel house, and a brick-and-wood boiler house survives on the northwest, but no steam engines remain.

A tall, yellow-brick, early twentieth-century stack displaying the name "Joslin Manufacturing Company" stands to the southwest of the mill building.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

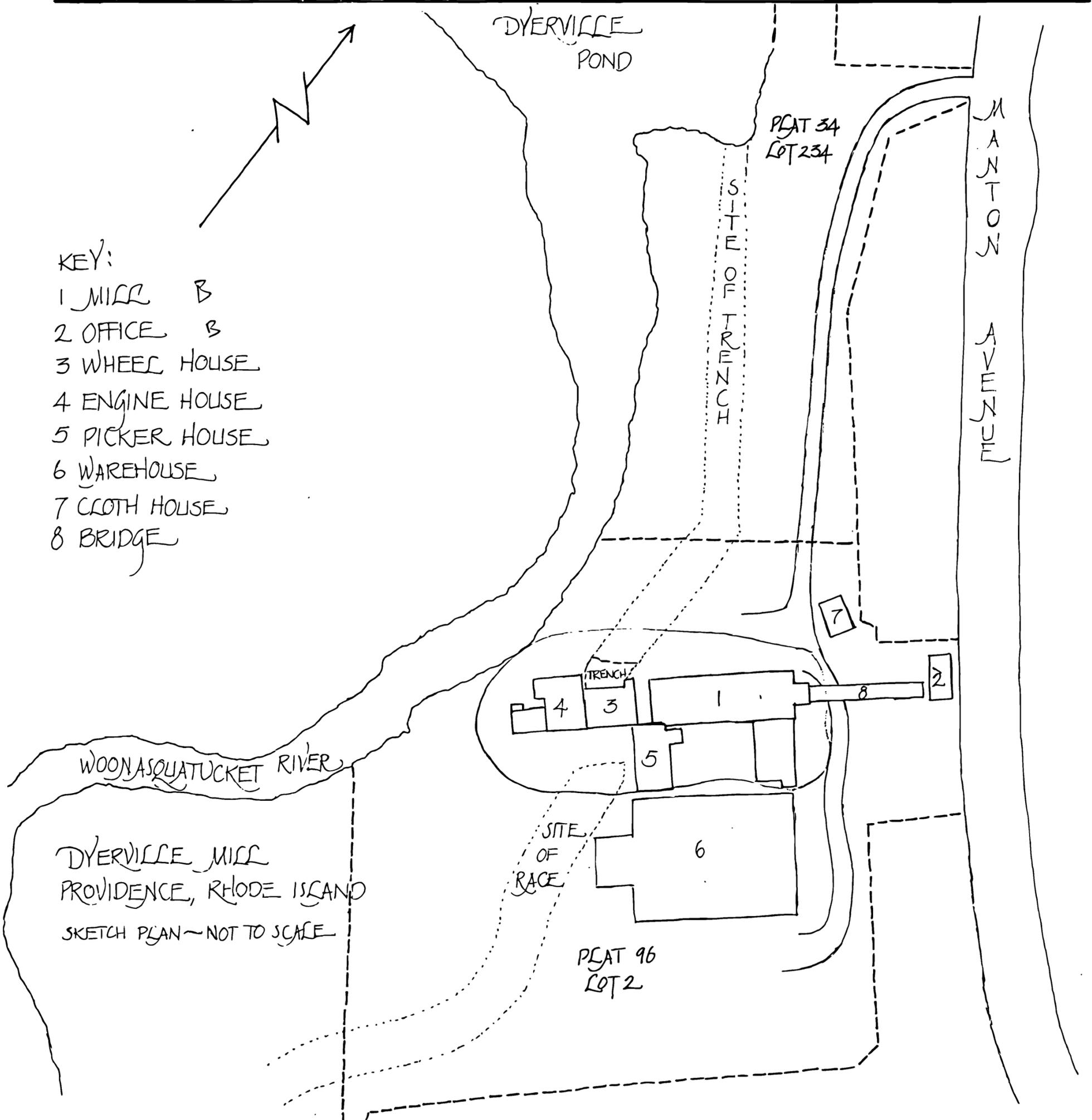
7

PAGE

2

KEY:

- 1 MILL B
- 2 OFFICE B
- 3 WHEEL HOUSE
- 4 ENGINE HOUSE
- 5 PICKER HOUSE
- 6 WAREHOUSE
- 7 CLOTH HOUSE
- 8 BRIDGE



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The years after the Civil War saw Rhode Island textile industry rapidly expanding to a position of regional importance, and the Dyerville Mill played a significant role in this development. Truman Beckwith, owner of the largest cotton brokerage in Providence, and his son Amos, who acted as agent for the mill, incorporated the concern as the Dyerville Manufacturing Company. By 1870, Dyerville Mill, by then partially run by steam, was capitalized at \$250,000; contained 15,000 spindles and 274 power looms; employed forty men, forty-eight women, and twenty-four children; and produced \$258,650 worth of cotton cloth.

The twentieth century brought, at first, diversification of textile production followed, ultimately, by the closing of many mills as production moved south closer to the source of supply. The Joslin Manufacturing Company purchased the mill in 1903 and converted it for the production of braid and shoelaces, a shift in interest toward novelties quite common in early twentieth-century textile production. The mill continued to manufacture these products until the 1930s, when it passed to a wholesale grocery company, which--though no longer the owner--continues to operate at this location. In recent years, the mill has housed several small, light industries.

Rhode Island textile industry's early growth, its rapid expansion in the late nineteenth century, and its decline in the mid-twentieth century are well chronicled in the Dyerville Mill. And while the expansion and adaptation of most mill complexes often destroys the integrity of both the structure and its setting, this mill is remarkable for its lack of obtrusive alteration. The Dyerville Mill is unique in Providence in its ability to illustrate the development of the Rhode Island textile industry.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dyerville Mill, probably the oldest extant mill in Providence, was built in 1835 and continuously used for textile and textile-related industry for nearly one hundred years. The integrity of both the building and its site makes this an important and rare survivor of early textile industry development and mill architecture in Providence.

Architecturally the mill represents the shift from the first small, wood-frame industrial buildings, like Slater Mill in Pawtucket, to the larger masonry structures characteristic of Rhode Island's heavy nineteenth-century industrialization, such as the 1826 Slatersville Mill. Only two other early mills are known to remain in Providence, and both have been heavily altered and compromised by later construction. The nineteenth-century additions to the Dyerville Mill on the other hand, are architecturally in keeping with the original building.

The Rhode Island textile industry first developed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in the Blackstone and Pawtuxet Valleys. Providence lagged behind, with only four cotton mills by 1832. By 1840, however, twenty-six new cotton mills had opened, with much of this growth occurring along the water privileges of the Woonasquatucket River.

The Dyerville Mill was opened as part of this flurry of expansion by Elisha Dyer (1772-1854), a successful commission merchant, land owner, and banker. By the 1830s, however, diminishing returns apparently had prompted him to suspend his commission business and turn to textile production. The company survived the vagaries of the cotton-cloth market that caused the closing of all but eight Providence mills by 1850. In that year, the Dyerville Mill represented a capital investment of \$75,000, employed forty men and thirty women, and produced about \$50,000 worth of cloth annually. Dyer's son Elisha (1811-1906; Governor of Rhode Island, 1857-1859) was the agent in charge of operations from 1835 until his father's death. He remained the sole owner, agent, and proprietor until 1867, when he sold out to the Beckwith family.

(See cont. Sheet #2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island.
 Hall, Joseph D. Biographical History of the Manufacturers and
 Business Men of Rhode Island.
 Haer Inventory, Rhode Island
 Plat Card 883, Recorder of Deeds, City of Providence.
 (see cont. sheet #3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY almost 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

			4633					
A	19	295	560	46	32	22	0	
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				
B								
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				
C								
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				
D								
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Providence Tax Assessor's Plat 96-Lot 2
 and Plat 34 Lot 234 (land portion only)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William McKenzie Woodward

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Frederick C. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 2, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Adams

DATE

6.18.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Michael Mac Donald

DATE

6/18/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Zuckerman, B. Michael. "Dyerville Mill: A Vision of Our Past."
Providence Preservation Society News. Volume XXII (September 1977).
p. 6.