

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine  
 COUNTY: Sagadahoc  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: SEP 17 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Pejepscot Paper Company  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Topsham Paper Company

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: off U.S. 201 at Brunswick Falls; Androscoggin River  
 CITY OR TOWN: Topsham CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st: Peter N. Kyros  
 STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Sagadahoc CODE: 023

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

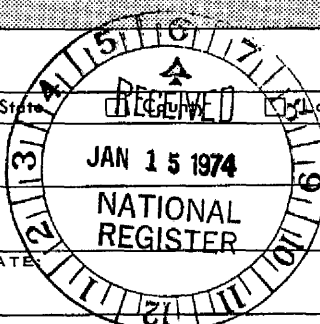
OWNER'S NAME: Pejepscot Paper Company  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Topsham STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Sagadahoc County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Bath STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: None  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ENTRY NUMBER: SEP 17 1974  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pejepscot Paper Mill at Topsham is the earliest surviving example of Maine's nineteenth century wood pulp mills, Architecturally, it is also the finest. Erected in 1868 this complex of industrial buildings is dramatically sited at Brunswick Falls on the Androscoggin River.

The main structure has a granite foundation, stands three and a half stories high, and is of brick construction. The style is Italianate with a gambrel roof to span the wide breadth of the building. The southern end of the mill faces directly on the river and is the most ornamental. The wall is divided into eight bays of recessed brick panels with arched tops. The four central bays rise four full stories, the one directly on either side of the central section is three-and-a-half, and the one at either end is three. Within the recessed panels are windows with arches over them. The style of the arches vary slightly from story to story. On the half story of the bay directly to either side of the central section is a small blind arch. The gambrel roof overhangs slightly.

The east and west walls of the Pejepscot Paper Mill are divided into sixteen bays of recessed brick panels with arched tops. Each wall stands three stories high. Within the recessed panels are windows with arches above them. As on the southern end of the building, the style of the arches vary slightly with each story. On the west wall there are loading doorways as well as windows. The gambrel roof overhangs slightly on both the east and west sides. The east and west sections of the gambrel roof each have a series of sixteen skylights on them. About midway on the top of the gambrel roof is centered a square two story wooden cupola. The first stage is slightly larger than the second. Each side of each stage has two windows. Each window is ornamented with a projecting horizontal molding above it supported by small brackets. Small brackets also appear around the cornice of each stage of the cupola. The roof of the cupola is hipped with a decorative pinnacle at the center.

The north wall of the Pejepscot Paper Mill connects to a large complex of wooden structures which extend both north and west of the brick building. Many of these wooden frame buildings are similar in form to barns and other farm buildings in the nearby countryside. Some have the simple Italianate trim identical to that found on the cupola of the brick mill and may be contemporary with its construction. The academic dignity of the brick mill is an interesting contrast to the indigirous forms of its adjacent wooden structures.

The Pejepscot Paper Mill is one of the most handsome and well preserved industrial sites in Maine. It belongs to a period of industrialization when pride was taken in the exterior design and appearance of buildings. Thus, the mill should be considered of major importance to the nineteenth century architectural heritage of the state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. 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)

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

The first wood pulp mills operated in Maine were located at Norway and Topsham. The Topsham Mill was erected in the latter part of 1868. The Topsham Paper Company utilized grinders from the machine shop of the Bath Iron Works and grew rapidly from its humble beginnings in the basement of a sawmill run by Charles D. Brown and E. B. Denison. The success of this early venture caused Brown and Denison to branch out with other mills. Overexpansion, trouble with the Voelter patent holders and a relatively poor location caused the firm to go out of business in the mid 70's.

The Company failed in 1874 and was purchased at auction by W.H. & A. W. Parsons for \$80,000. Four months later the Bowdoin Paper Manufacturing Company was organized with Adna T. Denison as its treasurer. Denison saw the future in wood-pulp paper and was one of the pioneers of that industry. The complex of Maine Mills under Denison's control were the first companies in Maine to grow beyond humble beginnings. Before Denison's empire collapsed under the auctioneer's hammer in 1887, he owned and operated mills in Portland, Mechanic Falls, Canton, Norway, and the mill at Topsham.

As David C. Smith points out in his History of Papermaking in the United States, (Lockwood 1970) Denison suffered from the fact that "his vision was more elastic than his capital". The paper industry at Topsham did survive, however, and the mill continues to produce paper to this day under the name of the Pejepscot Paper Company.

The Pejepscot Paper Company owes its significance to its early entry into the field of wood pulp production. Its utilization of the fround-wood process heralded the real birth of an industry which in the 20th century would become "King" in Maine. For some the noxious fumes which issued forth from the stacks of Sulphite and later Kraft pulp mills would be an unwelcome irritant; to a few it would mean enormous profits; but to countless thousands of Maine workers it meant an economic alternative to shoe factories, casual labor or emigration from the state they loved.

Unlike most other paper mills of its period, the Pejepscot Company remains as an outstanding example of mid-nineteenth century industrial architecture and site location. Constructed at Brunswick Falls on a site utilized as a water power source since the 18th century, the main mill building and its surroundings present a classic picture of 19th century industrial New England.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Smith, David C., History of Papermaking in the United States, New York, 1970.

Wheeler, George A. & Henry W., History of Brunswick, Topsham and Harpswell, Boston, 1878,

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

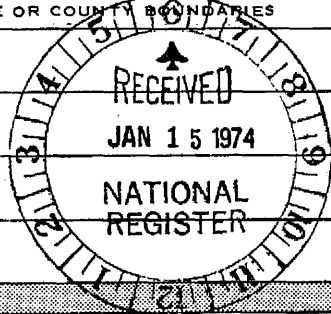
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 55' 17"	69° 57' 54"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

19/422550  
4863400  
62

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **eight acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.**

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission**      DATE: **December, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**31 Western Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta**      STATE: **Maine**      CODE: **23**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 James H. Mundy

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 7, 1974

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

A. B. Winters  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/17/74

ATTEST:

Wendell E. L.  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9.16.74