

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SG-1779

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Angell, Otis, Gristmill
Other names/site number: Hilton, James, Bleachery
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: One Governor Notte Park Way
City or town: North Providence State: RI County: Providence
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification


As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	<u>9/13/2017</u> Date
<hr/> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> Signature of commenting official:	<hr/> Date
<hr/> Title :	<hr/> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

John Edson H. Beall *11.3.17*
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local:
- Public – State:
- Public – Federal:

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s):
- District:
- Site:
- Structure:
- Object:

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone, Wood, Brick, Aluminum, Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery is a small, 1½-story, front-gable, fieldstone building located near the village of Woodville in North Providence, Rhode Island. Constructed in the mid-19th century as a gristmill, the building was adapted to various industrial uses, including textile waste bleaching, over the course of the 19th and early 20th centuries. From c. 1936 to 2012, the building was owned by the Geneva Sportsmen's Club and used as a clubhouse. The building is now the centerpiece of a municipal park, a rare piece of open space in a densely-developed city: Douglas Avenue to the west is a busy commercial corridor, and late-20th century housing subdivisions are located to the east. The municipal park in which the building is located provides a sense of its historic setting, however, and the building has been altered relatively little. It is a rare surviving representative of small-scale, rural textile manufacturing and processing in Rhode Island and retains integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Narrative Description

The **Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery** (c. 1855) is a 40' x 60', 1½-story masonry building with a fieldstone foundation and uncoursed fieldstone walls with rough-cut granite quoins. It is topped with an asphalt-shingle, front-gable roof with wood cornice returns. A brick chimney pierces the south corner of the roof, and an exterior stone chimney – a later addition dating to the 1930s – is roughly centered on the building's northwest elevation. The building is located along the West River, which powered 19th-century industrial operations in the villages of Woodville and, downstream, Geneva. The building faces northeast, with a small millpond immediately to its northwest and the Wenscott Reservoir further upstream, on a site that slopes downward to the southeast.

The principal entrance is centered on the building's northeast-facing, three-bay-wide façade and consists of a 20th-century metal door recessed within a shallow, elliptical-arched opening with original brick trim and quoins. The opening has been partially infilled with vertical wood paneling around the door. Granite lintels indicate the location of former window openings on either side of the entry, which were infilled with fieldstone sometime in the late-19th or early-20th centuries. A second opening, used for moving materials and goods during the building's years in industrial use, is located in the gable peak. Similar to the first-floor entry, but narrower, it includes an arched opening with brick trim and quoins. A 20th-century wood door is recessed within the opening, and a timber hoist beam projects from the fieldstone wall above. This secondary entrance is now accessible from the ground via a single-run set of open wood stairs set against the façade (a later alteration).

The southwest (rear) elevation is arranged symmetrically and is similar to the façade; it overlooks the West River, and the basement story is fully above grade. Fenestration is arranged symmetrically and consists of four window openings on the basement and the first stories and two narrower openings in the gable peak. All feature granite lintels and most are filled with 1/1, double-hung, aluminum replacement sash; the openings at the basement level are boarded.

The southern end of the southwest wall contains an area of fieldstone infill below the basement story. As the mill and bleachery were water-powered, it is probable that this area of infill was the original location of the tailrace. The headrace would have entered from the mill pond along the building's northwest wall, as illustrated in the 1870 D. G. Beers map of North Providence, published during the Bleachery period. Other maps of significance from the period show the river flowing alongside the southwestern elevation as it does today. Additional remaining physical evidence of this water-power system includes a granite lintel set over later brick infill on the northwest wall of the basement.

The six-bay-wide southeast elevation is set partially into a hill, exposing much of the basement story. The original fenestration pattern is evident, with six window openings at the first floor and three window openings, plus a door, at the basement level. Capped with granite lintels, most window openings are filled with 1/1, double-hung, aluminum replacement sash. Exceptions

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include the opening in the third bay of the first story, which has been partially infilled with fieldstone to accommodate a vent; the openings in the second and fourth bays of the basement story, which are boarded; and the opening in the first bay of the basement story, which retains a 2/1, double-hung, historic wood sash. A deeply recessed, double-width service door in the third bay of the basement story has been retrofitted to accommodate a 20th-century, single-leaf wood door. Seven tie-rod ends are visible between the first floor and basement level of this elevation. Granite-slab stairs run alongside the eastern end of the elevation, leading from the ground level to a concrete patio at the basement level. Both the stairs and the patio were likely installed when the building was being used as the Geneva Sportsmen's Club beginning c. 1936.

The six-bay-wide northwest elevation is dominated by a random-bond, ashlar chimney in the third bay, installed in the mid-1930s when the building was being used as the Geneva Sportsmen's Club. The first bay contains a 1/1, double-hung, aluminum-sash, replacement window, and the fifth bay has been retrofitted to accommodate a 20th-century, single-leaf, metal door. As elsewhere, stone lintels and fieldstone infill indicate the locations of three additional former window openings.

The interior of the Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery features largely open floor plans on the first and second stories, with some subdivision of small bathrooms and closets. The use of the building by the Geneva Sportsmen's Club, a mid-20th century fire, and recent use by the Town of North Providence have resulted in the replacement and/or obscuring of most of the building's original interior finishes. The first story consists mostly of a large open space, with two modern restrooms (together measuring 11 feet 3 inches across and approximately 7 feet 8 inches deep) in the north corner of the building. Existing finishes include 20th-century, narrow-plank wood flooring; drywall; and exposed wood beams on the ceiling. A large fireplace with an ashlar surround and an inset granite plaque inscribed with "Geneva Sportsmen's Club" and "c. 1936" is roughly centered on the northwest wall.

The second story is accessed via a set of stairs in the eastern corner of the building. As below, the second floor consists mostly of a single open space, though a large storage closet has been added along the southeast wall at the top of the stairs. Finishes include narrow-plank wood flooring and drywall or Masonite panel walls and ceilings. Kneewalls set approximately six feet from the exterior walls create crawlspaces that run the length of the building on both sides. The ceiling framing is made up of exposed heavy timber rafters (approximately 4" x 6") with visible scribe marks connected by similarly-sized collar-ties. Metal tie rods from this heavy framing support the second floor joists to provide an uninterrupted space on the first level.

A single-run set of metal stairs in the western corner of the building provides access from the first floor to the basement, in which the northern corner of the foundation rests directly on exposed bedrock. Some timber posts remain exposed, primarily in the building's unfinished northern section. The remainder is subdivided and finished, with poured concrete floors, drywall, and synthetic drop ceilings. Two c. 1950s bathrooms with ceramic tile floors and a commercial kitchen are also partitioned in the east corner, adjacent to the outdoor patio.

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A mid-20th century fire damaged the western corner of the building, particularly in the basement, where charred wood joists are visible above the dropped ceiling. Anecdotal evidence states that the fire began in the basement, and moved through the building to the second story, where the rafters and roof sheathing boards in the western corner of the building are also visibly charred. The fire may also explain the replacement flooring on the first and second floors.

The **Mill Pond** (c. 1855) is an approximately two-acre, roughly D-shaped body of water located to the northwest of the Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery and south of the Wenscott Reservoir. Fed by the West River after it spills from the reservoir, the mill pond appears in an atlas from 1855 and was presumably created at the same time as the mill that it powered. An important remnant of the property's industrial history, the Mill Pond is a contributing resource.

The **Culvert** (1982, NC) is a concrete box culvert that runs beneath Governor Nott Park Way (formerly called Asylum Road). The culvert is in the approximate location of the former mill pond spillway, though its construction and changes to the roadway above have obliterated the historic structure. Historically, the Mill Pond provided power to the Mill through a raceway with an adjustable gate structure that was located to the north of the Culvert. The Culvert is a non-contributing resource.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

c. 1855-1872

Significant Dates

c. 1855, construction

1868-1872, operation as a bleachery

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the area of industry. Built c. 1855 as a gristmill and later adapted for use as a bleachery, it is a rare surviving example of a small-scale, independently operated, rural industrial enterprise that contributes to Rhode Island's significant textile manufacturing and processing heritage.

Period of significance justification:

The period of significance begins circa 1855 with the first recorded evidence of a mill building on otherwise unimproved land acquired by Otis N. Angell in 1846.¹ After Angell's sale of the property to Thomas Pray, the building was leased to James Hilton from 1868-1872 for use as a bleachery. The period of significance ends at the conclusion of Hilton's lease in 1872.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Founded in 1765 after separating from Providence, the town of North Providence subsisted as a rural farming enclave until the mid-19th century. The fertile, hilly land was generally well-suited for agriculture and attracted farmers seeking land outside of Providence's urban center. Although North Providence remained primarily rural until the mid-20th century, its close proximity to Providence and several major rivers allowed for easy expansion of businesses into the town. Widespread industrialization in Rhode Island was engendered by the success of Slater Mill (1793) in Pawtucket, and manufacturing facilities - especially for textiles - were thereafter established across the state. The textile industry's growth was spurred by mechanical innovations, rising demand for goods, and increasing specialization.² Following these statewide trends, distinct industrial corridors developed along the Woonasquatucket and West Rivers in North Providence from the 1820s to the 1860s.

Beginning with the establishment of Daniel Lyman's mill at the eponymous Lymanville Village in 1811, North Providence textile mills were established on the Woonasquatucket River along the town's western border in the villages of Greystone, Centredale, and Allendale. With the exception of Lymanville, which primarily produced worsted and other yarns, these mills manufactured and processed cotton goods.³ By the 1850s, bleacheries and dyeworks were also established along the West River at Woodville and Geneva; the mills on the West River formed a

¹ Henry F. Walling, "Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations: from surveys by Henry F. Walling, civil engineer." (Boston, MA: L.H. Bradford & Co. Lith., 1855).

² For further information on the history of North Providence, see: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. *Preliminary Survey Report: Town of North Providence*. (Providence, RI: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1978) and Richard M. Bayles, ed., *History of Providence County: Vol. 2*. (New York, NY: Preston & Co., 1891) p. 180-200.

³ Bayles, p. 185-189.

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secondary industrial corridor in the center of the town, parallel to the villages on the town's western border. The large mill complexes which were present at these sites by the late nineteenth century were typical for Rhode Island at this time. Villages of workers' housing, commercial buildings, schools, and churches – many of which were constructed by the mill companies – grew up around these mills. A smaller, independent textile manufacturing building like the Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery survived in contrast to the changes taking place in other North Providence villages and, indeed, throughout the state. Those areas of North Providence not developed as mill villages remained active farmland into the 20th century. While there were other small industrial concerns in rural areas in North Providence and across the state, intact examples of similar buildings are exceedingly rare.

Five major turnpikes established between 1805 and 1828 facilitated the transport of people and goods through North Providence. The turnpikes were crucial connections between mills and mill villages and encouraged development.⁴ The village of Woodville is situated near the intersection of the north-south Douglas Turnpike and west-east Mineral Spring Turnpike, which provided access to Providence as well as to manufacturing operations in northern Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In part because of its desirable location, the village of Woodville – along with nearby Geneva – continued to develop into the late 19th century.

Otis N. Angell (1809-1872) acquired approximately 40 acres about one-half mile north of the intersection of the Douglas and Mineral Spring turnpikes in 1846; an 1853 map of North Providence shows the land as still undeveloped at that time.⁵ Henry F. Walling's 1855 map of Rhode Island, however, shows two buildings on the property – one, likely a dwelling, labeled "O. N. Angell" (not extant) and another labeled "Mill," with a mill pond to its northwest. According to town directories, Angell operated a gristmill on the property, presumably out of the stone building that still stands. He also farmed the land, improving 40 acres and owning cows and horses by 1860; whether Angell grew grain for the gristmill on his farm remains unknown.⁶

Angell was also a water wheel manufacturer best known for his invention of a double-bucket turbine called the Rhode Island Water Wheel, or the Angell Water Wheel. Angell and his son Andrew received a patent for this invention in 1869 after twelve years of research and experimentation – a period that coincided with Otis Angell's ownership of the gristmill in North Providence.⁷ Otis Angell sold his North Providence property, "...together with all the buildings, water-rights, and power..." to his cousin, Sarah (Angell) Pray, and her husband Thomas Pray in 1866.⁸ Thomas Pray (c. 1807-1869) was a successful textile manufacturer in Killingly,

⁴ Thomas E. Greene. "A Brief History of the Town of North Providence." The Town of North Providence, accessed June 1, 2016. <http://northprovidenceri.gov/town-history/>.

⁵ C. J. Lorican and J. H. Christie. *Map of the Town of North Providence*. (New York, NY: Sarony & Major, 1853).

⁶ 1860 United States Census Products of Industry, North Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island. and *The Providence Directory for the Year 1864: General Directory of the Citizens and Business Directory of the State of Rhode Island, City Record, &c., &c.* (Providence, RI: Adams, Sampson & Co., 1864).

⁷ Otis N. Angell and Andrew J. Angell. 1869. Improvement in Turbine Water-Wheels. US Patent 98,330A, issued December 28, 1869.

⁸ Deed, Otis N. Angell to Thomas Pray, 1866. C-3/225, North Providence, RI, Town Clerk's Office.

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Connecticut known for building two textile mills with his partner, Henry Westcott. Although he relocated to Rhode Island in 1868, there is no evidence that he lived or worked at the North Providence property he acquired from Otis Angell. Rather, Thomas Pray leased the property to James Hilton for \$1,100/year under a five-year term beginning in 1868; Pray died the following year. The lease included the "mill factory...as likewise the two dwelling houses and all other buildings and improvements..."⁹

James Hilton (1828-1900) was born in England and immigrated to the United States by 1860, establishing residence in Cranston, Rhode Island, and working as a day laborer. He converted the North Providence gristmill into a bleachery; the D.G. Beers 1870 *Map of the State of Rhode Island* shows the mill building, labeled "Jas. Hilton Bleachery," as well as two other structures nearby, possibly the dwelling houses referenced in the lease. Hilton employed 15 workers in 1870 – 3 men operating wash wheels and an extractor and 12 women operating wash wheels – and produced 600,000 pounds of bleached waste that year. An inventory of the materials on hand in 1870 included soda ash, alkali, acid, and coal;¹⁰ these materials were typical of a bleachery during this period and would have been used to adjust the pH of cloth fibers or soften water, and to remove imperfections and prepare cloth for dyeing or finishing.

An 1870 descriptive circular published by Otis N. Angell & Son to advertise "Angell's Improved Patent" for the Rhode Island Water Wheel included a testimonial from James Hilton. From North Providence, Hilton wrote,

Dear Sirs: -- With regard to your Water Wheel, I have a 23 inch wheel which is giving perfect satisfaction. It is driving two large double wash-wheels and one large extractor with perfect ease. I recommend it with the greatest confidence to anyone that is in want of a wheel.

Yours truly,
James Hilton.¹¹

Hilton's testimonial confirms that the Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery building was powered by an Angell Water Wheel, linking operations there to Angell's patented innovations in water wheel design. Angell Water Wheels are also known to have been used at Grants' Mills (1818-1932) in Cumberland, R.I.¹² Hilton's bleachery was in operation ten months per year, and he also managed minor agricultural pursuits, boarding at least one dedicated farm laborer at his

⁹ Lease, Thomas Pray to James Hilton, 1868. B-2/523, North Providence, RI, Town Clerk's Office.

¹⁰ 1870 United States Census, Products of Industry, North Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island.

¹¹ Otis N. Angell & Son. "Descriptive Circular of Angell's Improved Patent: Rhode Island Water Wheel." (Providence, RI: Millard & Harker, 1870).

¹² Historic American Engineering Record. "Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites." (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1978), p. 67.

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home.¹³ No record of Hilton collaborating with other textile mills in town were located, and he paid property taxes and worker wages independently throughout his lease.

At the conclusion of Hilton's lease in 1872, he relocated to Woonsocket, Rhode Island; according to the 1880 Census, Hilton "worked in a cotton mill," though no further information is known about his position. He remained in Woonsocket until his death in 1900.¹⁴ After the conclusion of Hilton's lease, the property was sold to Thomas Pray, Sr.'s daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Henry R. Hill.

Henry Randall Hill (1837-1918) was born in Plainfield, Connecticut, the son of a Rhode Island carpenter and wheelwright.¹⁵ Hill moved to Rhode Island and completed a three-year accelerated course of study in medicine at Brown University in 1867.¹⁶ A later biographical sketch noted that despite Hill's plans to enter the medical field, "circumstances over which he had no control caused him to abandon his intention."¹⁷ Hill worked briefly as a teacher in Providence before acquiring the property in North Providence in 1872, where he began farming.

By 1880, Hill's farm included 31 improved acres, slightly fewer than Otis Angell due to earlier property transfers. In 1879-1880, Hill's farm produced dairy goods – 730 gallons of milk, 200 pounds of cheese, and 365 eggs – as well as a 100 bushel crop of Irish potatoes and 16 acres of hay.¹⁸ Hill maintained horses, cows, and chickens and boarded farm laborers year round to assist with the farm management. The former bleachery building appears to have continued in industrial use for at least some time; a deed from 1880 related to a right of way on the Hill property references Mrs. Hill digging into the riverbed and "increasing the fall for her mill upstream."¹⁹ An 1883 statewide survey of mills and dams also described the associated Henry R. Hill Mill Pond as a "pond about two acres...the dam is in good condition, and safe."²⁰

Concurrent with the operation of his farm, Hill was actively involved with local politics in North Providence. Between 1874 and 1903, he served on the Town Council and School Committee

¹³ 1870 United States Census, North Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island, p. 189, family 1536, dwelling 881, lines 35-40, August 11, 1870.

¹⁴ 1880 United States Census, Woonsocket, Providence County, Rhode Island p. 6, family 48, dwelling 22, lines 9-10, June 2, 1880.

¹⁵ *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island: Genealogical Records and Historical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and of Many of the Old Families.* (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1908), p. 1709.

¹⁶ *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Brown University.* (Providence, RI: Knowles, Anthony & Co., 1863), p. 16.

¹⁷ *Representative Men*, p. 1709.

¹⁸ 1880 United State Census, Products of Industry, North Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island.

¹⁹ Deed, Henry R. Hill and Sarah Hill to E. G. Angell, 1880. 3/23. North Providence, RI, Town Clerk's Office.

²⁰ L. M. E. Stone. "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Dams and Reservoirs." (Providence, RI: E. L. Freeman & Co., 1883). The Henry R. Hill Mill Pond is not named in any other reports after 1883.

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and held positions as the North Providence Town Moderator, Overseer of the Poor, Assessor of Taxes, Fence Viewer, Auctioneer, Highway Surveyor, and Truant Officer.²¹ During this period,

North Providence experienced exponential growth, and residential neighborhoods developed on the outskirts of Centredale, Geneva, and the other mill villages that had defined the town during the 19th century. In contrast, the village of Woodville – including Hill’s farm – remained rural and agricultural into the 20th century.

Hill remained on the farm until his death in 1918. A probate inventory includes several wagons, horses, and cows.²² Hill’s daughter, Annie Carlottie (Hill) Bailey, and her husband continued farming until 1922, at which point the land was sold out of the Hill family and partially subdivided. The former gristmill/bleachery building was eventually acquired by the local Geneva Sportsmen’s Club in c. 1936.

The Geneva Sportsmen’s Club met from approximately 1936 to 2012²³ for the purposes of fishing and hunting, skeet shooting, clambakes, and other recreational activities. The former gristmill/bleachery building was used as the club’s headquarters and as a center for meetings, weddings, and gatherings. During this time, some alterations to the building – including the addition of a mid-20th century fireplace and changes to interior finishes – were made to provide bathroom and kitchen facilities.²⁴ Today, the building is owned and used by the Town of North Providence as a municipal recreational space and centerpiece of Governor Notte Park, created in 1986 to preserve one of the few remaining open spaces in North Providence.

Despite some 20th-century alterations to the building, the Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery retains integrity. Its form and massing remain unchanged, exterior materials survive, and the historic fenestration pattern is readily apparent. The interior plan, despite some partitioning, retains large open spaces on the first and second floors, reflecting the building’s industrial use. The municipal-park setting preserves a sense of the building’s historical context and provides a buffer from nearby late-20th-century residential subdivisions and commercial parks. The Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery and adjacent mill pond represent North Providence’s early industrial enterprises and the role of rural mills in Rhode Island’s nationally-significant textile industry.

²¹ “North Providence Tax Books: 1853-1880.” Rhode Island State Archives, #C00745. and “North Providence Tax Books: 1881-1903.” Rhode Island State Archives, #C00745.

²² Henry R. Hill. Probate of Will, Petition and Decree, Henry R. Hill, June 26, 1918. North Providence, RI, Town Clerk’s Office.

²³ State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Division of Business Services, accessed June 1, 2016. <http://ucc.state.ri.us/CorpSearch/CorpSearchInput.asp>.

²⁴ Several attempts were made to gather additional information about the Geneva Sportsmen’s Club ownership of the building and the alterations made during this time. Former President Jim McCauley offered oral reminiscences of the Club’s recreational activities, but no additional information regarding changes to the building during this time have been found.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Maps and Aerial Photography

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Lorican, C.J. and Christie, J.H. *Map of the Town of North Providence*. New York, NY: Sarony & Major, 1853.

Rhode Island Aerial Photographs, 1939-2014.
<http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=ca5a019b18984c21af473c5756df8fda>.
Accessed May 2016.

Richards, Harold Hazen. *Providence Metropolitan District: Vol. 2*. Springfield, MA: Richards Map Co., 1917.

Walling, Henry F. *Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. Boston, MA: L. H. Bradford, Co., Lithographers, 1855.

Real Estate Records

Angell, Otis N. to Pray, Thomas, 1866. Deed. C-3/225, North Providence, RI, Town Clerk's Office.

Hill, Henry R. Probate of Will, Petition and Decree, Henry R. Hill, June 26, 1918. North Providence, RI, Town Clerk's Office.

Hill, Henry R. and Hill, Sarah to Angell, E.G., 1880. Deed. 3/23, North Providence, RI, Town Clerk's Office.

"North Providence Tax Books: 1853-1880." Rhode Island State Archives, Providence, RI, #C00745.

"North Providence Tax Books: 1881-1903." Rhode Island State Archives, Providence, RI, #C00745.

Pray, Thomas to Hilton, James, 1868. Lease, B-2/523, North Providence, RI, Town Clerk's Office.

Census Records

Otis Angell Gristmill
Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island
County and State

United States Census, Providence County, Rhode Island, 1860-1910, passim.

City Directories

Providence, RI and Woonsocket, RI, 1862-1900, passim.

Secondary Sources

Brewster, David, et al. "Bleaching." *The Edinburgh Encyclopaedia*. Vol. III (1830), 577-591.

Greene, Thomas E. "A Brief History of the Town of North Providence." *The Town of North Providence*. <http://northprovidenceri.gov/town-history/> (Accessed May 27, 2016.)

Kulik, Gary and Bonham, Julia C. *Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1978.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. *Preliminary Survey Report: Town of North Providence*. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1978.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Otis Angell Gristmill
Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.27 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 41.870519 Longitude: -71.461239

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

2. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

3. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

4. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is located on the City of North Providence Tax Assessor's Plat 22, Lot 1468. The boundary conforms to the building's foundation line on the facade, extending to the northwest and fully enclosing the mill pond; from the southwest corner of the mill pond, the boundary crosses Governor Notte Park Way (formerly called Asylum Road) and includes the 20th century culvert that directs the West River from the mill pond past the Otis N. Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery. From the southwest corner of the culvert, the boundary extends slightly northeast to meet the southwest corner of the concrete patio adjacent to the building, conforms to the edge of the patio, and returns to the building's foundation line on the facade.

Otis Angell Gristmill
Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery is part of a municipal park, comprised of several parcels, the whole of which is not eligible for listing in the National Register. Boundaries have therefore been drawn to include the building and the historically associated mill pond.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Elizabeth D. Warburton, Senior Architectural Historian
organization: Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
street & number: 150 Benefit Street
city or town: Providence state: Rhode Island zip code: 02903
e-mail: elizabeth.warburton@preservation.ri.gov
telephone: 401-222-4132
date: September 13, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery
City or Vicinity:	North Providence
County:	Providence
State:	Rhode Island
Name of Photographer(s):	Various; see below.
Date of Photographs:	Various; see below.
Location of Original Digital Files:	Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903
Number of Photographs:	9

Otis Angell Gristmill
Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island
County and State

- Photo #1 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0001. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, northeast façade and northwest elevation, looking southwest. Photographer: Elizabeth Warburton, RIHPHC. Date: July 15, 2016.
- Photo #2 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0002. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, northwest and southwest elevations, looking northeast. Photographer: Elizabeth Warburton, RIHPHC. Date: July 15, 2016.
- Photo #3 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0003. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, southwest and southeast elevations, looking northeast. Photographer: Richard Greenwood, RIHPHC. Date: September 2, 2012.
- Photo #4 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0004. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, southeast elevation and northeast façade, looking northwest. Photographer: Richard Greenwood. Date: September 2, 2012.
- Photo #5 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0005. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, northwest elevation with mill pond in the foreground, looking southeast. Photographer: Elizabeth Warburton. Date: January 16, 2016.
- Photo #6 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0006. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, northwest and southwest elevations; Governor Notte Park Way (formerly Asylum Road, foreground) under which the West River flows through a 20th century culvert. Photographer: Elizabeth Warburton. Date: July 15, 2016.
- Photo #7 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0007. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, interior, first floor, showing 20th century bathroom alterations (left), looking northeast. Photographer: Jeffrey Emidy, RIHPHC. Date: January 16, 2016.
- Photo #8 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-JamesHiltonBleachery_0008. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c. 1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, interior, first floor, showing 1930s ashlar

Otis Angell Gristmill

Name of Property

Providence, Rhode Island

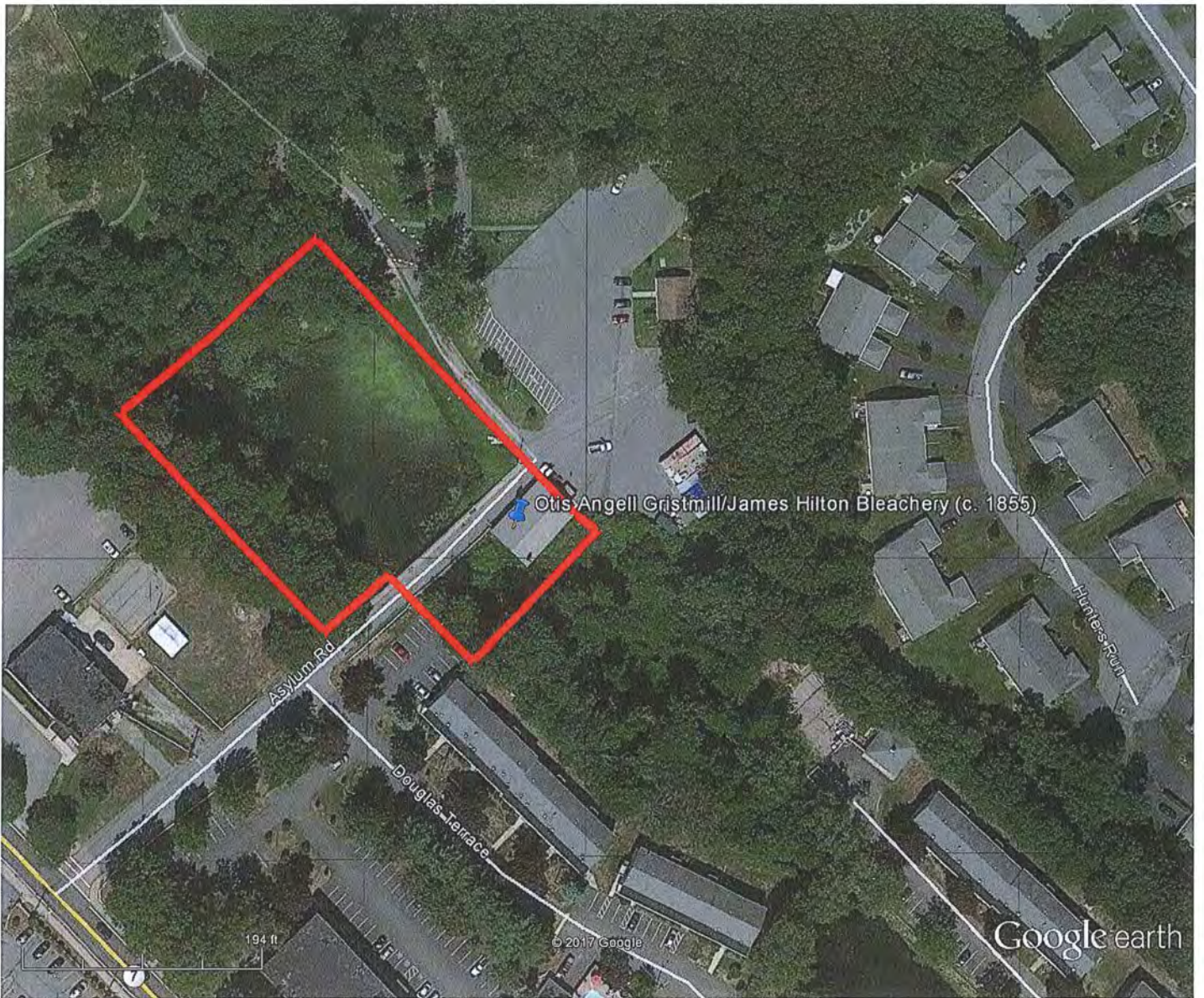
County and State

fireplace addition, looking northwest. Photographer: Jeffrey Emidy, RIHPHC.
Date: September 9, 2015.

Photo #9 RI_Providence Co_North Providence_OtisAngellGristmill-
JamesHiltonBleachery_0009. Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery (c.
1855), One Governor Notte Park Way, interior, second floor, showing 20th century
closet alteration (left), looking southwest. Photographer: Jeffrey Emidy, RIHPHC.
Date: January 16, 2016.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



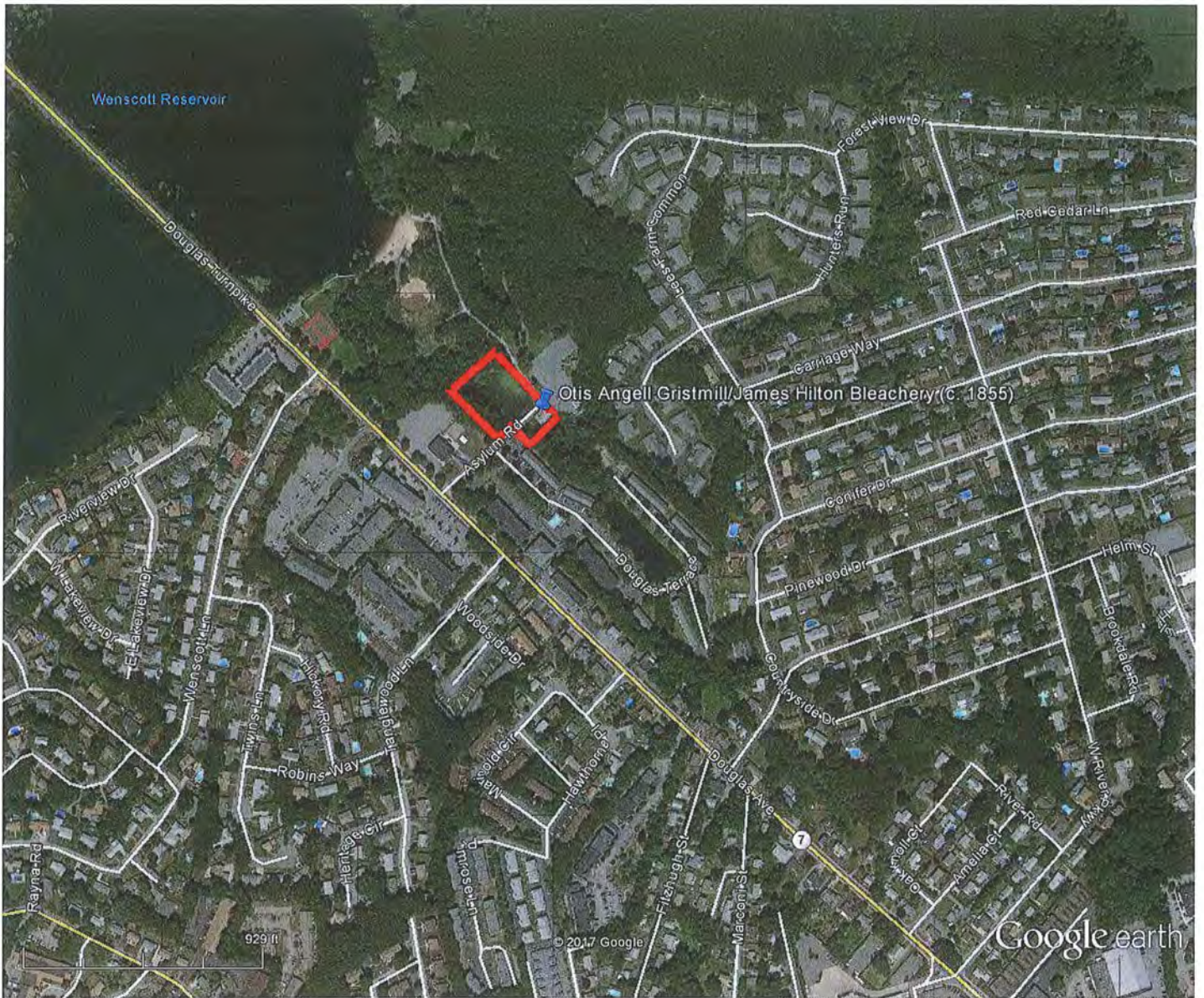
Google earth



Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery
One Governor Notte Park Way
North Providence, RI 02904

Coordinates

1) 41° 52' 13.29" N, 71° 27' 38.61" W



Google earth



Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery
One Governor Notte Park Way
North Providence, RI 02904

Coordinates
1) 41° 52' 13.29" N, 71° 27' 38.61" W

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property	Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery
County and State	Providence, Rhode Island
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

Section number Additional Documentation Page 5

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION



Name of Property: **Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery**
 City or Vicinity: **North Providence**
 County: **Providence** State: **Rhode Island**
 Description: **Walling, Henry F. *Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.* Boston, MA: L. H. Bradford, Co., Lithographers, 1855.**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

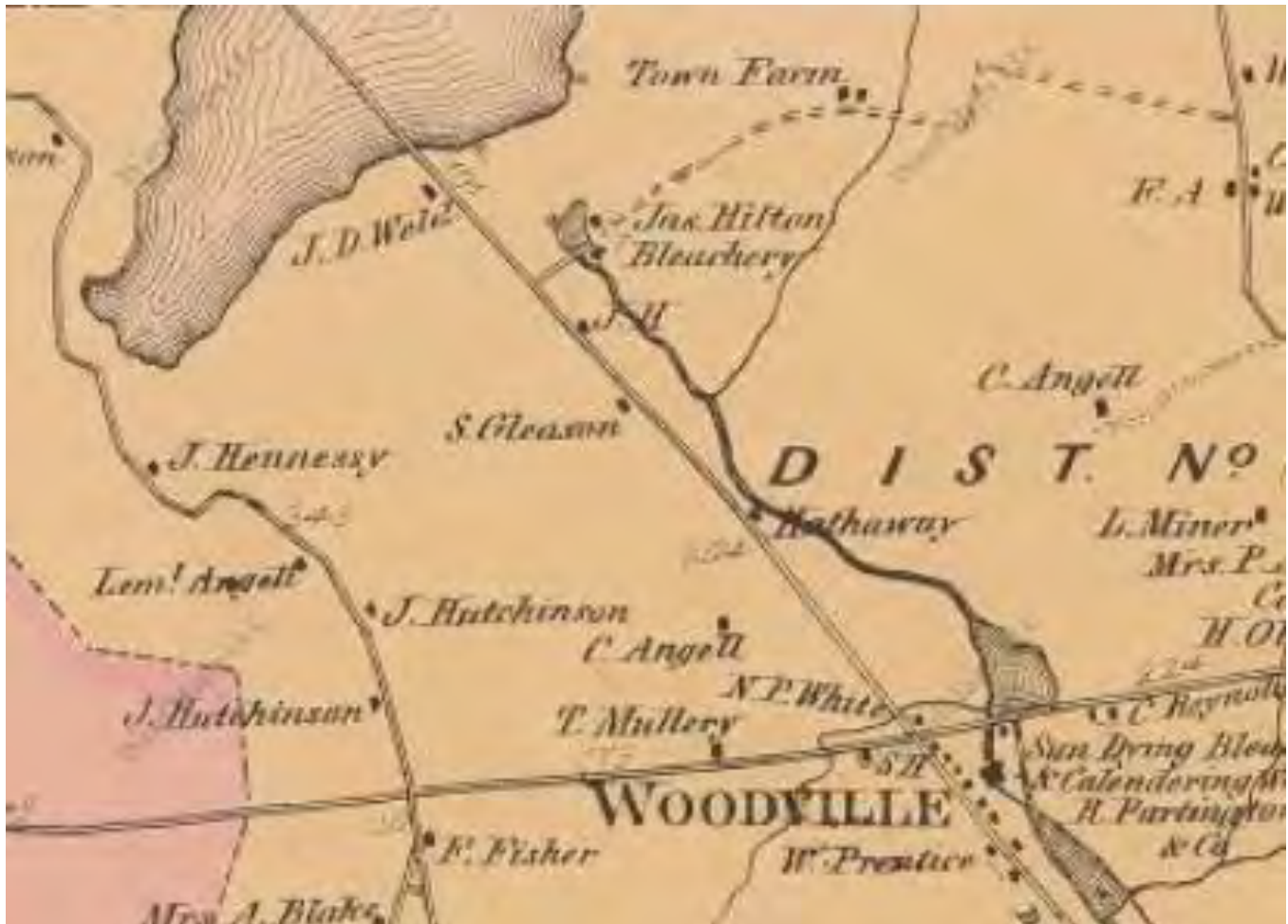
Name of Property

**Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton
Bleachery**

County and State

Providence, Rhode Island

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional DocumentationPage 6Name of Property: **Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery**City or Vicinity: **North Providence**County: **Providence** State: **Rhode Island**Description: **Beers, D. G. & Co., *Map of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.*****Philadelphia, PA: D. G. Beers & Co, 1870.**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property	Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery
County and State	Providence, Rhode Island
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

Section number Additional Documentation Page 7



Name of Property: **Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery**
 City or Vicinity: **North Providence**
 County: **Providence** State: **Rhode Island**
 Description: **Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of the City of Providence and Environs: Part of North Providence, Prov. Co., R.I. (Plate 36). Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1882.**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property	Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery
County and State	Providence, Rhode Island
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

Section number Additional Documentation Page 8



Name of Property: **Otis Angell Gristmill/James Hilton Bleachery**

City or Vicinity: **North Providence**

County: **Providence** State: **Rhode Island**

Description: **Everts & Richards. *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys: Providence County, Rhode Island: Town of North Providence.* Philadelphia, PA: Everts & Richards, 1895.**



1

ONE NORTH
PARK
RECREATION
HALL













EXIT

FIRE
EXTINGUISHER

FIRE
EXTINGUISHER

Anchor logo on a box

Vertical text on a sign or poster



NORTH PROVIDENCE
R.I. 1765

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT'S LOGO



MOLLY'S
CAUTION
Summer
Camp
Children's
Playground

BEACH CLOSURES
AT 6 PM
NO LIFEGUARD
ON DUTY

EXIT

POWERADE
POWERADE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 9/19/2017 Date of Pending List: 10/31/2017 11:29:40 AM Date of 16th Day: 11/13/2017 Date of 45th Day: 11/3/2017 Date of Weekly List: 11/9/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/3/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209

TEL (401) 222-2678

FAX (401) 222-2968

TTY / Relay 711

Website www.preservation.ri.gov



September 13, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the **Otis Angell Gristmill / James Hilton Bleachery** at One Governor Notte Park Way in North Providence, Rhode Island, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Notification procedures required by law have been followed. The nomination has been reviewed by the Rhode Island Review Board and approved.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, as State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Sanderson
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure