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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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

# 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: Boston Finishing Works
Other names/site number: Loop, Hopkins, and Company, Cornish Wire Factory, Cable Mill
Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

## 2. Location

Street & number: 160 Water Street
City or town: Williamstown State: MA County: Berkshire
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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**

Brona Simon August 8, 2016

**Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO** **Date**

**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**

**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

## 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 10.4.16

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Building(s) | x |
| District | |
| Site | |
| Structure | |
| Object | |

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 3 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 11 | | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**
**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRIAL: manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
VACANT

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19th and EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STONE: GRANITE, CAST STONE, SYNTHETIC: ASPHALT, STEEL

**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**

Located southeast of Williamstown, MA's, town center, the former Boston Finishing Works is situated among commercial and residential properties along Water Street (Photo 8). The 8.8-acre site is located between Water Street on the west and the Green River on the east, which served as a source of waterpower to the former factory complex (see Figure 1, 10, and sketch map). The complex consists of eight multistory, red-brick buildings and three remnant industrial structures, primarily constructed between 1873 and 1928, and is an important local example of Classical Revival-style industrial architecture. The load-bearing masonry buildings all have similar details, including red-brick elevations with corbelling, and low gable and flat roofs. Specific materials and features reflect each period of construction. Important features on Building 10, which dates to 1873, include segmental brick arches, a rubblestone foundation, and granite sills. Buildings 3, 4, and 5, constructed between 1895 and 1928, display granite-block and concrete foundations, brick jack-arch lintels, and cast-stone sills. A ca. 1950 foundation wall is a remnant of the mid 20th-century construction on the property. In addition to the buildings and the foundation, the property includes a smokestack and sluice gate, for a total of eleven contributing resources.

## Narrative Description

The former Boston Finishing Works (WLL.Q, Photos 1, 7, 8) is an industrial complex, consisting of eight buildings and three structures, located in Williamstown on three parcels totaling approximately 8.8 acres. The complex is bounded by 132 Water Street to the north (the Stephen Walley House, WLL.637), a ca. 1858 Greek Revival residence; the Green River to the east; and Water Street and 188-210 Water Street (WLL.N), a series of late 19th-century residences in the Queen Anne, Stick, and Italianate styles, to the south and west. The parcel is predominantly level, while sloping down toward the Green River along the riverbank. The majority of the parcel is developed or contains surface parking, with the exception of the eastern end at the oxbow of the Green River, which consists of open space. Asphalt parking areas are at the northern and southern ends of the parcel, with paved driveways accessing the property from Water Street. Buildings within the complex are identified using their ca. 1938 building numbers created during Cornish Wire's occupation of the property (see Figure 8, Sketch Map). At the northern end of the parcel along the Green River are a foundation wall from the former Building 14 (ca. 1950) and a sluice gate structure. A smokestack is located east of Building 4 (see Sketch Map).

Originally the A. Loop & Company Twine Factory (1873, Figure 2), the mill complex grew from a single building (Building 10) to more than 25 buildings by the 1970s, constructed by a succession of different owners. The landscape changed dramatically over the course of the complex's history. In addition to buildings, the site once contained a dam and infrastructure to intake and expel water from an adjacent millpond (not extant). With the advent of steam and then electrical power, the millpond and dam became obsolete and were removed ca. 1950. The removal and subsequent infilling of the millpond expanded the site, along with adjacent parcel acquisitions, which created the present 8.8-acre complex consisting of three parcels (Assessor's map# 91, 91.1, and 115). By the early 21st century the complex was underutilized, with only partial occupancy. In 2005, more than half of the buildings were removed (mostly one-story structures dating to the mid to late 20th century, in substantially deteriorated states), leaving the present eight buildings (see Figure 9, Sketch Map).

The former Boston Finishing Works mill complex consists of two groups of buildings and one freestanding building (Figure 10, Sketch Map). The first group, constructed between 1892 and ca. 1928, is comprised of five interconnected buildings: Buildings 2-Addition, 3, 4, 5, and 6, collectively known as the Main Building. The second group consists of Buildings 10 and 11, located to the southeast of the Main Building, and constructed in 1873 and 1896-1927, respectively. Lastly, Building 7A, the only freestanding building in the complex, is located to the north of the Main Building, and was constructed ca. 1920.

### Main Building (Buildings 2-Addition, 3, 4, 5, 6)

The Main Building (Photo No. 1, 3-8) is made up of five red-brick, connected buildings and additions, consisting of a main block and rear (east) wing, with a modified, U-shaped footprint (Figure 10, Sketch Map). From north to south the main block consists of Building 5, Building 3, and Building 2-Addition. The rear wing of the Main Building consists of Buildings 4 and 6. The

different buildings are distinguished by changes in brickwork and materials, demonstrating changing construction methods over time.

The Main Building is supported by a brick, rubblestone, and concrete foundation. The brickwork on the main block is relatively unadorned, with the exception of sawtooth stringcourses. The façade (west elevation) has simple rectangular, punched window openings with jack-arch brick lintels, and a combination of cast-stone and granite sills. A decorative stepped, brick parapet with corbelling, topped with a terra-cotta cap, wraps around the main block. The main block has flat roof sections, while the rear wing has low-pitched roofs. All roof sections are covered in EPDM membrane roofing. A one-story brick penthouse is located atop Building 3 (Photo No. 8), and a new monitor roof, designed to replicate the historic one, is located on Building 6 (Photo No. 5).

The interior of the Main Building is similar throughout all the sections, and consists of a concrete floor on the ground floor with fir decking at the upper floors, and exposed brick and concrete-block walls. A combination of historic and modern wood and steel exposed beams and wood studs provide structural support. In some areas, historic wood beams and studs have been sistered with modern engineered lumber for additional support. At the ground floor, the exposed foundation walls consist of a combination of rubblestone (Buildings 2-Addition, 3 and 4 only), brick, granite, and concrete, reflective of the various dates of construction. Brick fire walls separate individual buildings; otherwise, the Main Building consists of factory-floor spaces converted into residential units and common areas with sheetrock partitions. Existing brick walls were insulated and covered with sheetrock. One steel staircase remains in Building 3. No historic wood trim remains (Photo 14).

*Building 5* (WLL.670, Photos No. 6-8)
Building 5, the northernmost portion of the Main Building, was constructed in three phases and two sections. The northern section of Building 5 was constructed ca. 1928, and the southern section was initially constructed as a one-story building ca. 1920, and raised three stories to its full height ca. 1928. Only three elevations (north, west, and east) are exposed, as the building is connected on its south elevation to Building 3.

Building 5 is a four-story (three floors above a raised basement), thirteen-by-six-bay brick building, with a rectangular footprint and a concrete and brick foundation. The northern section of Building 5 (ca. 1928) is set back slightly from the southern section (ca. 1920/1928) on the façade (west elevation). The northern section of Building 5 has an exposed concrete foundation, and utilizes cast-stone window sills. New windows consist of 20-light aluminum sash at the ground floor, and 25-light sash (containing a center, six-light, hinged section) at the upper stories. The southern section has a combination of granite and cast-stone sills, with new, 8/12 aluminum sash at the upper stories, and twelve-light sash at the ground floor. Building 5 has a flat roof, covered in EPDM membrane roofing.

The north elevation (Photo No. 7) of Building 5 is similar to the west elevation in its masonry and finishes, with jack-arch brick lintels, cast-stone sills, and a cornice consisting of brick

sawtooth coursework, corbelling, and terra-cotta cap. One second-story window opening has been enlarged and incorporated into the ground-floor window below, to create an entrance.

Like the façade, the east elevation of Building 5 consists of two parts: the northern section (ca. 1928), which projects eastward corresponding to the recessed section on the façade, and the southern section (ca. 1920, Photo No. 6). Both sections feature paired, rectangular window openings with brick lintels and cast-stone sills, as well as corbelling at the fourth story and brick parapets with terra-cotta caps. The ground floor has an exposed concrete foundation with large, rectangular openings for entrances. The southern section has details matching the northern section, with the addition of a square, corbelled-brick chimney rising up from the elevation, interrupting the parapet. Another chimney is located atop Building 5 at its connection with Building 3, toward the center of the roof.

*Building 3* (WLL.668, Photos No. 7-8)
To the south of Building 5 is Building 3, constructed as a one-story building ca. 1895 and raised to its full height in 1919, with the addition designed by architect Edmund F. Saxton. Only the west elevation (façade) of this building is exposed, as it is connected to Building 5 on its north elevation, Building 2-Addition on its south elevation, and Building 4 on its east elevation. Building 3 is delineated from Building 5 by the presence of a rooftop penthouse, providing roof access, and a larger than usual space between window openings.

Building 3 is a four-story, three-by-six-bay, brick building with a rectangular footprint and a rubblestone, brick, and granite foundation. Building 3 has details largely matching Building 5; however, it only has granite window sills. New 8/12 aluminum sash light the upper stories, and six-light sash light the ground floor. Building 3 has a granite watertable and a flat roof covered in EPDM membrane roofing.

*Building 2-Addition* (WLL.668, Photo 8)
To the south of Building 3, at the southern end of the Main Building, is Building 2-Addition. The original Building 2 was constructed as a one-story building ca. 1895, east of 2-Addition. In 1919, architect Edmund F. Saxton designed a four-story addition to Building 2, now identified as Building 2-Addition. The original Building 2 was demolished in 1946. Building 2-Addtion is exposed on its south, west (façade), and east elevations. It is connected to Building 3 on its north elevation. The connection to Building 3 is delineated by a larger than usual space between window openings on the façade.

Building 2-Addition is a four-story, five-by-six-bay, brick building with a rectangular footprint and a brick and concrete foundation. The façade of Building 2-Addition has details matching Building 3. The south elevation of Building 2-Addition has segmental-arched window openings, with brick lintels and rough-cut granite sills (Photo No. 8). The paired window openings are separated by shallow brick piers. All four stories are above grade at the south elevation (Photo No. 8). Other details on the south elevation, including sawtooth brick coursework, corbelling, and terra-cotta cap, match the façade.

Building 2-Addition's east elevation largely matches its south elevation, with paired, brick segmental-arched window openings separated by brick piers and rough-cut granite lintels. The east elevation of Building 2-Addition lacks the sawtooth brick coursework between fourth- story window openings. Building 2-Addition has a flat roof, covered in EPDM membrane roofing.

**Main Building, Rear Wing, Buildings 4 and 6**

*Building 4* (WLL.669, Photos 3, 4, 5)

Located east of Building 3 as part of the rear wing of the Main Building, Building 4 was initially constructed as a two-story building in 1892, and raised two additional stories under the guidance of architect Edmund F. Saxton in 1919. The building is connected to Building 3 on its west elevation and Building 6 on its north elevation. Building 4's south and west elevations, as well as a portion of its north elevation, are exposed to view.

Building 4 is a four-story (three floors above a raised basement), thirteen-by-five-bay, brick building with a 4½-story, one-by-one-bay brick stairtower off of the east elevation, and a 4-story, one-by-one-bay projection off of the north elevation. Building 4 has a roughly rectangular footprint and is supported by a brick, granite-block, rubblestone, and concrete foundation. The stairtower projects above the roof, providing roof access (Photo No. 4). The north elevation projection (former toilet rooms) is located within the courtyard created by the five buildings of the Main Building (Photo No. 5). The north elevation projection has brick, segmental-arched window openings.

The south elevation of Building 4 is the building's largest exposed elevation. Window openings contain brick, jack-arched lintels and granite sills. Building 4 has new 8/16 sash, located in pairs that are separated by shallow brick piers along both the north and south elevations. Above the fourth-story window openings on each elevation is a decorative brick cornice, composed of a sawtooth course and brick corbelling below the roofline that wraps around the building.

The east elevation has details similar to the south elevation, but lacks brick piers (Photo No. 4). Above the east elevation is a brick parapet with terra-cotta cap. Building 4 has a low-pitched gable roof, covered in EPDM membrane roofing.

*Building 6* (WLL.671, Photo 5)

Located north of Building 4 as part of the rear wing of the Main Building, Building 6 was built ca. 1895. Building 6 is connected on its south elevation to Building 4, with its north, west, and east elevations exposed to view.

Building 6 is a simple two-story, three-by-seven-bay, brick building supported by a brick and granite-block foundation. The building has a rough-cut granite watertable. At the west elevation, facing the courtyard, is a steel lintel that had supported a former first-story door opening (Photo No. 5). Building 6 has a combination of segmental-arched and jack-arched window openings at the first story, along with jack arched entrances.

On the second story, the building only has jack-arch lintels at window openings. As part of a state and federal tax credit-assisted rehabilitation, windows on the building were replaced with aluminum, 18-light windows with operable six-light hinged panels, resembling historic windows. Below the low-pitched gable roof is brick corbelling, as well as decorative brick header courses that wrap around the building. On the north elevation, below the roof, are modern projecting rafter ends (Photo No. 5). The low pitched gable roof is raised with a new (2015) monitor, designed to resemble an historic monitor at this location. The roof is covered with EPDM membrane roofing.

**Building 7A** (WLL.672, Photos No. 9, 12)
Building 7A, constructed ca. 1920, is a freestanding, two-story, seven-by-three-bay, brick building. The building is supported by a concrete foundation. The north elevation is constructed of CMU block, with a brick veneer, while the other elevations are brick alone. The north, east, and west elevations have simple, rectangular punched window openings, with jack-arch brick lintels and a combination of rough-cut granite and cast-stone sills on the first story, and cast-stone sills only on the second story. The south elevation features brick, segmental-arched window openings on the first story, with rough-cut granite sills and rectangular openings with brick, jack-arch lintels and cast-stone sills on the second story.

The north, east, and west elevations have new, historically appropriate, 25-light aluminum windows with operable six-light panels. The south elevation has 25-light windows at the second story, while the first story has 8/12 aluminum sash. Similar to the Main Building, Building 7A has a decorative sawtooth brick course below a stepped brick parapet, with corbelling topped with a terra-cotta cap.

The interior of the Building 7A consists of concrete and historic wood floors, wood ceilings, and insulated brick walls covered with sheetrock. (Photo No. 12). Modern steel beams, and exposed, historic wood beams with modern wood studs provide structural support

**Buildings 10 and 11**
Buildings 10 and 11 are two-story, red-brick buildings that are joined to form an L-shaped footprint. Both buildings are two stories in height, with roofs covered in EPDM roofing.

*Building 10* (WLL.98, Photos No. 1, 2, 13, Figure 10)
Building 10, constructed in 1873, is the oldest building within the complex. Measuring three by thirteen bays, it is supported by a granite and rubblestone foundation. The brick exterior has segmental-arched window openings, with brick lintels and rough-cut granite sills. Windows consist of new 6/6 aluminum sash. A crawlspace (not visible, below grade) is located under Building 10 and is accessible from an arched brick exterior opening on the north elevation. The crawlspace was part of the waterpower system of the original Loop Company, entering Building 10 on the east elevation and exiting on the north elevation.

Two entrances to Building 10 are located at the west elevation: a first-story, segmental-arched entrance, and a rectangular second-story entrance with a steel lintel and cast-stone sill. The

building's low-pitched gable roof has rafter tails at the eaves, and a brick chimney at the southeast corner (Photo No. 1).

The interior of Building 10 consists of concrete and historic wooden floors and ceilings (Photo No. 13). Brick walls are insulated and covered with sheetrock. A combination of historic wood and modern steel exposed beams with wood studs provide structural support. Exposed wood roof rafters are visible above the second floor.

*Building 11* (WLL.674, Photos No. 1-2)
Building 11 was constructed in 1896 and expanded four bays in length to the south ca. 1927. The two-story, three-by-ten-bay brick building is supported by a brick and concrete foundation. Window openings at the north elevation and northerly end of the east elevation (original six-by-three-bay portion of building) have segmental-arched window openings with brick lintels and rough-cut granite sills. The building has larger rectangular punched window openings with jack-arched brick lintels and cast-stone sills at the west, south, and a portion of its east elevations (ca. 1927 addition and remodel, Photos No 1-2). New windows consist of 25-light aluminum sash with operable six-light panels.

Brick corbelling and a sawtooth brick course are located below the roof on the south and west elevations (Photo No. 2). Modern, replacement wooden rafter ends are below the roof on the east elevation. A stepped brick parapet, topped with a terra-cotta cap, is on the south elevation (Photo No. 1). The flat roof is covered with EPDM membrane roofing.

The interior of Building 11 consists of concrete and wooden floors and sheetrock walls. A combination of wood and steel exposed beams with wooden studs provides structural support.

**Building 14 Foundation Wall** (WLL.963, Photo No. 10)
Located at the northern end of the property along the Green River is a brick and concrete foundation wall, approximately 100 feet in length and approximately 15 feet high, which was constructed ca. 1950. The wall consists of sections of concrete at the lower end, and is topped with a section of brick wall. Within the wall is a sluice to expel water into the river. The wall also served as a foundation wall for Building 14 (not extant), which was used as factory and storage space.

**Sluice Gate** (WLL.964, Photo No. 11)
Located at the northern end of the property along the Green River is a ca. 1895 rubblestone and concrete sluice-gate structure, formerly used to regulate water flow. The structure is approximately five feet wide, eight feet long, and four feet high, consisting of parged rubblestone with a concrete cap and remnants of the steel gate mechanism. The sluice gate is no longer operable.

**Smokestack** (WLL.965, Photos No. 1-5, 7-8)
Located east of Building 4 is a smokestack, constructed ca. 1920, which is approximately five feet in diameter at the base and 150 feet high. The red-brick smokestack has a concrete base and corbelling at its top.

The complex is nearing completion of a tax-advantaged rehabilitation. It has new (2016) windows, based upon historic and existing muntin patterns, as well as other updates needed to convert the factory into housing. Though the architecture of the complex reflects changes over time, the buildings retain their historic and architectural integrity, and the rehabilitation meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

## Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded on the Boston Finishing Works property or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. Environmental characteristics of the industrial complex represent several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of prehistoric sites. The nominated property includes a large, well-drained, relatively flat to moderately sloping floodplain terrace on the west bank of the Green River, which forms much of the east boundary of the nomination. The Green River flows generally to the northeast, where it meets the Hoosic River, approximately one mile away. Given the above information, known prehistoric settlement in the region, the size of the nominated area (8.8 acres), and extensive industrial landuse of the property, a moderate potential exists for the recovery of prehistoric resources on the property.

There is a high potential for locating historic archaeological resources within the boundaries of the Boston Finishing Works. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing of the nominated area, may produce evidence of the complex history of industrial production that evolved on the property. The Boston Finishing Works property grew from the original Loop Company factory (1873) to more than 25 structures during the Cornish Wire period of occupation during the mid 20th century. Most of these structures and buildings are no longer extant, and may survive as archaeological sites. A list of potential sites that may survive includes buildings, structures, and objects no longer extant at the works, including Building 1, the office; Building 2, demolished to accommodate construction of Building 4A; Building 6A (ca,. 1895), the Engine Room; Building 7 (ca. 1895), the Dry House; Building 8 (ca. 1915), the Dry Room; Building 8A (ca. 1915), extension to the Dry Room; Building 9 (ca. 1895), the Boiler Room; Buildings 10A (1946), 10B (1952), 10C (1959); Building 12 (ca. 1950); Buildings 12B (1952); Building 14 (ca. 1950), Foundation Wall; Building 14A (1952); and Building 15 A (1972). Most of these buildings were involved in the production of textiles.

Potential waterpower-related resources may also survive at the Boston Finishing Works, although many of these resources have yet to be identified. A dam and millpond were located on the Green River to the east of the factory complex (twine factory). Water came into the factory

on the east side of the building, and exited on its north side, north of the dam. Structural evidence of the dam may survive, as well as stratigraphic features that represent embankments from the millpond. The edges of the pond have also have been riprapped. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may also identify power-related canals and evidence their construction and function at the site. The dam and mill pond were filled in by Cornish Wire ca. 1950. A crawlspace (not visible, below grade), present below Building No. 10, is accessible from an arched-brick exterior opening in the north elevation. The crawlspace is reported to be part of the waterpower system of the original Loop Company (1873), the oldest building in the complex. Structural evidence of the water system may survive that identifies the construction details and function of the crawlspace, as well as patterns of reuse as the function changed and no longer functioned as a source of waterpower. A sluice, to expel water back into the river, has also been identified within the Building 14 foundation wall. Careful mapping of these waterpower features may enable researchers to reconstruct the waterpower system at the Boston Finishing Works, and the changes the factory complex went through as it evolved from a factory powered by water to one powered by steam, then electricity.

Other types of potential water-related resources may also survive at the Boston Finishing Works factory complex. An ice pond and icehouses, now filled in and/or demolished, were also constructed at the site. Structural evidence of the icehouses may survive, as well as stratigraphic evidence of the ice pond construction.

Remnants of three structures have also been identified at the Boston Finishing Works. A Building 14 foundation wall (ca. 1950) has been identified on the property. Structural evidence of additional foundation remains may be present, as well as other types of archaeological features. The remains of a sluice gate and smokestack have also been identified.

At the time of its purchase by the Boston Finishing Works, a house and barn (both not extant) were listed on the property of the Loop factory. Little additional information is available for these buildings.

## 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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**
1873-1966

**Significant Dates**
1892 – Building 4 constructed
1909 – site purchased by Boyd Mfg. Co
1936 – site purchased by Cornish Wire Co.
1960 – site purchased by General Cable Corp.

**Significant Person**
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**
Edmund F. Saxton
Newton C. Bond

**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.)

Initially constructed in 1873, the former Boston Finishing Works in Williamstown, MA, is a well-preserved example of a late 19th- and early 20th-century industrial complex. Operated by a succession of different firms, the complex was initially constructed during Williamstown's Late Industrial Period boom (1870-1915). The town took advantage of the waterpower provided by the Green and Hoosic rivers to create a small manufacturing base, bolstering the town's employment and industry as well as its population. For more than 100 years, the factory was a center of employment for the people of Williamstown. The factory complex meets Criterion A for its association with Williamstown's industrial history and development. The Boston Finishing Works also meets Criterion C as a representative local example of a Classical Revival-style mill complex. The surviving buildings retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and are significant at the local level. The period of significance for this property extends from its initial 1873 construction until 1966.

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

INDUSTRY: With the arrival of the railroad in 1875, Williamstown's limited industry began to grow steadily. During the late 19th century, the town experienced a small manufacturing boom due to its rail access, natural resources, and availability of waterpower. Initially constructed in 1873, and vastly expanded in the 1890s and early 20th century, the Boston Finishing Works and subsequent owners recognized Williamstown's industrial potential, and created a center of employment for the community that lasted for more than 100 years. As manufacturing processes and products changed, the factory complex grew and adapted to fit the needs of its owners and the economic factors of the time. In the mid 20th century, under the ownership of Cornish Wire, the factory reached its peak with more than 500 employees, one of the town's largest employers.

ARCHITECTURE: The Boston Finishing Works reflects the evolution of industrial construction techniques and materials. The Classical Revival-style complex has late 19th-century buildings with rough-cut granite window sills, brick exteriors with corbelling, rooftop parapets, segmental-arched and rectangular jack-arch brick lintels, granite watertables, and a prominent brick smokestack. A 1920s section of Building 5 includes cast-stone lintels and watertable, as well as details similar to the other buildings. The complex exhibits the evolution of industrial building practices from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries.

**Williamstown Historical Overview**

Williamstown, originally known as West Hoosac, was the site of conflict with Native Americans in the 1740s, prompting the construction of blockhouses along the Mohawk Trail, most notably Fort Massachusetts, in what is now nearby North Adams. Soldiers from the fort were among the first settlers of West Hoosac in 1750, including Captain Ephraim Williams, for whom

Williamstown is named. The community's strategic location led to settlement and the construction of Fort West Hoosac in 1756, which later served as the town's first meetinghouse. Settlement increased following the French and Indian War, and the town was incorporated in 1765 as Williamstown, with a population of 285.

Development and settlement largely occurred in the northern section of town around what are now MA Routes 2 (Main Street) and 7 (North Street), as well as in the Five Corners area in the southern section of town. Agriculture was the primary industry, along with dairy production and sheep herding on family farms. Despite available waterpower, there was only limited industry, with grist and sawmills on the Green and later Hoosic Rivers. At the time of the Revolutionary War in 1776, Williamstown had 1,083 residents, some of whom served at the Battle of Bunker Hill and, most notably, the Battle of Bennington during the war. The town benefitted from the 1793 establishment of Williams College, the second college in Massachusetts. The college added to the local economy and population, with residents working as teachers, as well as a small student population. Peace and agricultural prosperity contributed to the town's population growth to 2,086 residents by 1800, by which time nearly 20,000 acres of land had been cleared for agricultural use.

The isolated location of Williamstown, somewhat surrounded by steep hills and mountains, constrained growth during the early 19th century. The "Hoosac barrier," as the Hoosac Mountain range was referred to, prevented easy transportation of goods and commercial growth. Williamstown during this period remained largely agricultural, with minimal population, commercial, or industrial growth as young adults often moved west to seek new opportunities. The town's primary export products in this period were cheese and leather goods, with wheat, rye, oats, and barley among the major crops.

In 1826 the Walley Cotton Mill, located just north of Main Street along the Green River, was established. This small cotton textile mill employed a few dozen people until it was destroyed by fire in 1883. Additionally, by the 1830s, two woolen mills were established, producing cloth from the 8,000 sheep in Williamstown. A boot and shoe factory was also established in the 1840s, employing roughly 80 people. Many of the early enterprises were not successful due to limited transportation access and finite waterpower. For example, both woolen mills were out of business by 1850.

By the mid 19th century, the 1846 opening of the Pittsfield to North Adams rail line and the 1850 Irish potato famine brought economic opportunity and Irish immigrants to town, as steampowered sawmills were now in use throughout the Berkshires as part of a growing lumber industry. By 1860, Williamstown's population had increased to approximately 2,611, but the cost of rail freight and the lack of a station in town still prevented significant industrial growth.

After the Civil War, larger mills, tourism, and farming, along with specialty trades and shops, became a large part of the local economy. In the early 19th century, local employment included a combination of dairy farming, sheep herding and wool production, small local mills, and shops. By the late 19th century, the town was slowly being transformed from a primarily agrarian

community, to a small industrial community spurred on by the development of the Walley Mill (not extant) in 1826 and the Williamstown Manufacturing Company (Station Mill, WLL.B; Mill Village Historic District, NR 1983) in 1865 (both cotton textile mills).

A few years later, in 1873, Arthur Augustine Loop, with the financial backing of Paul Chadbourne (President of Williams College), founded A. Loop & Company, making cotton twine at what is now Building 10 at 160 Water Street (later Boston Finishing Works).

Following the construction of the Hoosac Tunnel in 1875 and the expansion of the railroad through Williamstown, industrial activity increased. The Hoosac Tunnel was a boon to the community, allowing for easy rail traffic to Boston and elsewhere. In Williamstown, the opening of the Hoosac Tunnel helped to offset the Panic of 1873, which lasted until 1879. Despite the benefit of the Hoosac Tunnel, the death of Paul Chadbourne in 1883 prompted Loop, Hopkins & Company to close. The Walley Cotton Mill, formerly located north of Main Street, also burned to the ground in 1883, leaving the Williamstown Manufacturing Company as Williamstown's only operating mill until Boston Finishing Works (specializing in the processing of unfinished cotton cloth) purchased the Loop site and opened in 1892 (see Figures 4-5).

Boston Finishing Works was attracted to Williamstown in part due to the development of the Hoosac Tunnel, which provided rail access as well as natural resources and available land for growth. The Hoosac Tunnel continued to have a great impact on the economy in Williamstown and the overall state: in 1895, 60 percent of Boston's export trade arrived through the tunnel. Subsequent expansions of the Hoosac Tunnel increased its capacity and usage. Local mills, which had been stifled due to a lack of convenient freight transportation access, were able to expand. Industrial activity also attracted new immigrants to the mills, including French Canadians and Irish. Williamstown's population increased dramatically to 5,013 by 1900, in part because of better transportation for people and goods, which spurred economic development. The railroad also brought tourism, a new industry in town. Unlike other heavily industrialized communities in Massachusetts, Williamstown's industry experienced ups and downs and never grew to the extent of neighboring North Adams, in part due to limited waterpower.

By the early 20th century, Williamstown was well established as a college town, with Williams College's campus and enrollment expanding. The Williamstown Manufacturing Company continued its cotton textile production operation, and Boston Finishing Works was engaged in the finishing, bleaching, and dyeing of cotton cloth until it closed in 1906. In 1909, the property was purchased by the John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company, which produced corduroy and velvet. The company operated until 1930 (see Figure 6).

With the rise of the automobile, summer tourism grew, with visitors staying at the Idlewild and Greylock hotels. Hiking became a popular summer activity, especially on the newly established Taconic Trail. Sand Springs, a local hot spring, became a popular destination, and later a bottling plant known for spring water and Sand Springs Ginger Ale. Capitalizing on the popularity of the automobile, local proprietor Hiram Bacon purchased the former John S. Boyd

Manufacturing Company (Boston Finishing Works) in 1930, and used the site for an automobile garage and service station until 1936, when it was purchased by Cornish Wire (see Figure 7).

Although Williams College and manufacturing had become large employment bases, agriculture continued to be an important part of the local economy, with 102 farms in existence in 1930, down from 138 in 1861. Mount Hope Farm became noted for its success in improving crop yields through selective plantings. The economic instability of the early 20th century and Great Depression led Williamstown's population to decline to 3,900 in 1930. Despite the Great Depression, manufacturing continued in Williamstown. In 1936, Cornish Wire purchased Bacon's Garage (Boston Finishing Works) and began production of electrical wire and cable at the facility (see Figure 9). World War II and subsequent manufacturing growth caused the population of Williamstown to increase to 5,194 by 1950.

In 1960, General Cable took over from Cornish Wire (see page 21) at the Boston Finishing Works complex and greatly expanded the facility. Other significant Williamstown employers were Steinerfilm, established in 1972 as a film manufacturing facility, as well as nursing homes and medical facilities. By the mid 20th century, Williams College's faculty and students made up 20 percent of the town's population, with the college as the largest employer and General Cable (Boston Finishing Works) second (see page 22).

By the late 20th century, the manufacturing base in Williamstown was greatly diminished. Carol Cable, which took over from General Cable in 1984, closed in 1996. In the early 21st century, Williams College, with more than 2,000 students, remains the largest employer. Some farms survive, but agriculture is no longer a significant part of the local economy. Today, with a population of 8,056 including students, Williamstown continues to be known as a college town, and the rural character and scenic beauty are popular with tourists and residents alike.

**Development of Boston Finishing Works**

*Loop & Company / Loop Hopkins & Company (1873-1883)*
*(Extant Building Constructed During this Period: Building #10)*

In 1873, Arthur Augustine Loop (with the financial backing of Paul Chadbourne, President of Williams College) established A. Loop & Company, a cotton twine factory, constructing what is now known as Building 10 at 160 Water Street (see Figures 1 and 2). Arthur Augustine Loop was born in New York, but grew up in Great Barrington, MA. He initially worked as a clerk, and served in the infantry in the Civil War. (See Biographical Sketches, below, for more detail).

In addition to a chimney (not extant), a one-story wing (not extant), likely housing the boiler, was on the north elevation of the twine factory (see Figure 11). Near the factory, a dam (not extant) was constructed on the Green River, creating a millpond (not extant) to the east of the complex (see Figures 2 and 3). Water came in from the millpond through the east side of the building and exited out the north side, north of the dam.

Unfortunately, A. Loop & Company opened during the Panic of 1873, an economic depression in the United States and Europe, which lasted until 1879. The business quickly had financial troubles, and additional investors were brought in. By 1876 the factory was known as the Loop, Hopkins, & Company Twine Factory, as Loop had sold his interest in the firm to a Mr. Hopkins, about whom little is presently known. In 1880, an infusion of capital from Bushnell Danforth and management of the company by Danforth and Paul Chadbourne temporarily improved the fortunes of the factory. Bushnell Danforth (1855-1921) was son of Keyes Danforth, who had partnered with Chadbourne in the aforementioned Walley Mill (not extant).

According to the 1880 census, all of the factory employees were from three families, the French Canadian Alor and Bissilion families, and the Irish Doniher family. The three cotton mills/factories (Walley, Williamstown Manufacturing Company, and Loop, Hopkins) were the largest industries in town in 1880, often employing immigrants. Nevertheless, Loop, Hopkins & Company Twine Factory was short-lived, dissolving in 1883 after the death of Chadbourne, leaving 23 people without work.

Following Chadbourne's death, the property was occupied by woodworkers for a short time in 1891. Lightning struck the chimney of Building 10 in 1891, damaging it and likely leading to its removal (see Figure 11). There were attempts to start other factories on the site, but none succeeded until Boston Finishing Works opened in 1892.

*Boston Finishing Works (1892-1909),*
*(Extant Buildings/Structures Constructed During this Period: Buildings 3, 4, 6, and 11, and Sluice Gate Structure)*

In 1892, Boston Finishing Works purchased the vacant Loop, Hopkins, & Company Twine Factory. Boston Finishing Works specialized in the processing of unfinished cotton cloth through bleaching, dyeing, cutting, folding, and napping, as well as packaging for shipping and sale. The finished product was similar to a rough cotton flannel.

Boston Finishing Works was owned by Charles Heap (1845-1923). Heap was a manager at his family's business, Samuel Heap and Sons in Rochdale, England, where they specialized in the processing of unfinished cotton cloth. The Heap family, including Charles and his brother William, held patents for equipment used in processing cotton cloth.

By 1889, Charles Heap had established Boston Finishing Works at a South Boston location, where the company engaged in the same activity as Samuel Heap and Sons, using Samuel Heap and Sons equipment, but producing for US markets. Herbert H. Heap (1858-1935), another of Charles's brothers, moved to Boston from England, initially serving as agent and buyer for the company (later manager), while Charles resided in England. By 1891 the lease on the South Boston location was set to expire, and in 1892 Boston Finishing Works purchased the former Loop, Hopkins, & Company Twine Factory in Williamstown for its new home. The move was prompted in part by the availability of natural resources, including water quality, which was an important factor in the finishing process.

After the purchase of the Loop, Hopkins, & Company Twine Factory, Herbert H. Heap moved to Williamstown with his family and directed the enlargement of the factory. Herbert H. Heap then served as manager of the company. Charles Heap visited, but continued to reside in England, leaving the operation under Herbert's care.

At the time of purchase by Boston Finishing Works, the Loop, Hopkins, & Company Twine Factory consisted of Building 10, as well as a house (not extant) and barn (not extant). Boston Finishing Works would erect several buildings, including Building 4 (bleaching building) in 1892, Buildings 3 (shipping and storage) and 6 (dye house) ca. 1895, and Building 11 (towel room/machine shop) in 1896 (see Figures 4-5). Additionally, Boston Finishing Works would construct the Sluice Gate (ca. 1895) as part of the site's drainage system. The buildings were upgraded with the addition of steampower, gas, electricity, and the installation of electric lighting. Building 10 was converted to serve as a folding and napping area.

Other buildings (most not extant) were also constructed, including Building 1 (ca. 1895), which served as an office; Building 2 (ca. 1895), which served as a Kiper Room for drying textiles prior to folding and napping; Building 6A (ca. 1895), which served as the Engine Room; Building 7 (ca. 1895), which served as a Dye House; and Building 9 (ca. 1895), which served as the Boiler Room (See Figures 4-5, 9). Also constructed was a 110-foot-high iron smokestack (not extant), and an infamous steam whistle derided by some town residents due to its unwelcome noise.

Employee life at the Boston Finishing Works included a company baseball team, as well as "shirttail parades" (resembling a conga line in which participants grab the shirt of the preceding person), and bonfires. Company employees and town residents took advantage of the millpond for recreation: in the summer, the pond was used for swimming, and in the winter, ice skating as well as a game called "shinny," which resembled hockey. By 1905 the factory employed roughly 75 people. On the factory's southern abutting property, F. H. Daniels also took advantage of the millpond's available water, constructing another pond and icehouses for the sale of ice. Daniels' Ice House was adjacent to Building 11 (see Figures 4 and 5).

The financial panics of 1893 and 1896 dramatically affected the US economy. The Spanish American War in 1898 also slowed demand at the Boston Finishing Works, but business improved quickly afterward. Muddy water, flooding, and ice dams as well as machinery repair and maintenance were sporadic problems for the factory, prompting it to shut down on several occasions. In 1900, Boston Finishing Works temporarily closed for repairs.

While other cotton factories produced finely woven finished product, the Boston Finishing Works specialized in coarse cloth including shirtings, sheetings, canton flannels (twills used in undergarments), corset jeans (high waist slimming pants for women), and sleeve linings. This specialization, and the rise of southern cotton mills with cheaper labor costs in the early 20th century, proved to be its downfall. As competition grew, other, larger New England factories were better positioned to change to finer cloth or compete against southern factory labor. The factory continued operations until closing in May 1906, with the machinery sold the following year.

*John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company (1909-1930)*
*(Extant Buildings/Structures Constructed/Altered During this Period: Buildings 2-Addition, 3 (enlarged),#4 (enlarged), 5, 7A, and 11 (enlarged), and Smokestack.)*

In 1909, the Boston Finishing Works site and vacant plant was purchased by the John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company. Boyd was formerly superintendent of dyeing and bleaching at the Merrimack Manufacturing Company of Lowell. Boyd converted Boston Finishing Works to a factory for the production of fine textiles, in the form of corduroy and velvet, creating the John S. Boyd Company Corduroy Mill. Boyd expanded the facility, including adding two stories to Building 3 in 1919, adding two stories to Building 4 in 1919, constructing Building 2-Addition in 1919 (all designed by architect Edmund F. Saxton), constructing Building 5 ca. 1920/1928, and constructing Building 7A ca. 1920, as well as constructing the smokestack and other buildings that are not extant (see Figures 6 and 7). Boyd also increased the acreage of the site, purchasing the F. H. Daniels parcel to the south that formerly housed an ice-making and storage facility.

Boyd converted the facility to use electrical power, negating the need for waterpower; however, water from the millpond was used in the washing, bleaching, and production process, and for the other mechanical and heating equipment, including boilers. Boyd had sprinklers installed, which proved beneficial, as fires occurred during his ownership of the factory. As part of expanding the facility, Boyd hired two experienced industrial architects to assist him: Newton C. Bond (designed Building 8; not extant) and Edmund F. Saxton (designed Building 2-Addition and additions to Buildings 3 and 4). Saxton also served as treasurer and a consulting engineer after 1919.

As part of the conversion to the John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company, buildings took on new uses. Building 2 (not extant) served as the Bleach House, Building 2-Addition served as a Finishing and Folding area, Building 3 served as Shipping and Packing, Building 4 served as Finishing, Building 5 served as Singleing (separating cloth), Building 6 served as Drying, Building 6A (not extant) continued to serve as the Engine Room, Building 7 served as the Dye House, Building 7A served as the Drug Room (chemical storage building), Building 9 (not extant) continued to serve as the Boiler Room, Building 10 served as Cutting and Weaving, and Building 11 served as Machine Shop and Winding. Boyd also constructed several other buildings that are no longer extant, including a Blacksmith Building, Paint Shop, Pipe Sheds, Building 8 (ca. 1915, designed by architect Newton C. Bond), which served as a Dry Room, and Building 8A, which served as an addition to the Dry Room (see Figures 6-7, 9).

By 1910, the company was employing 45 people, utilizing electrical power and three gas boilers. A significant increase in demand and production occurred as World War I ended, and Boyd expanded the facility (see aforementioned additions, page 20). Boyd largely produced fabric for women's clothes and ran successfully, more than doubling employment by 1922, with 125 employees operating 40 looms and 20 drying machines. Fires were a periodic problem in the factory. A fire broke out in the Drying Room (Building 6) in 1922, destroying $22,000 worth of finished product, but the company continued operation. Despite the conversion to finer products,

Boyd's company had financial troubles starting in 1924, but he recapitalized as the Boyd Textile Corporation and continued production on a limited and sporadic scale, based upon product orders, before becoming insolvent and totally closing in 1930.

*Bacon's Garage, (1930-1936*

In 1930, the Boston Finishing Works site and vacant plant was purchased by Hiram Bacon (1883-1969). Bacon started his career as a farmer, and lived with his family on Hopper Road in Williamstown. By 1920, Bacon was working as a machinist in a local garage before establishing his own automobile repair business. Bacon purchased the Boston Finishing Works site, using it as storage and an automobile repair facility. No changes are known to have occurred to the property during his ownership.

*Cornish Wire Company (1936-1960)*
*(Extant Buildings/Structures Constructed During this Period: Building 14 Foundation Wall)*

In 1936 the Boston Finishing Works site was purchased by the Cornish Wire Company of New York City, which produced radio and electrical wire as well as extension cords and cordsets for appliances, handheld power tools, and small electrical products (see Figure 8). The company had other manufacturing facilities in New Jersey that produced transistors and electrical parts, while the Williamstown facility focused on wire and cable. During Cornish Wire's occupation of the site, several additional buildings that are not extant were constructed, as the facility expanded to its greatest size with more than 25 buildings. In approximately 1950, the dam and millpond were removed by Cornish Wire, and the area was filled in to create more buildable land. Building 14 was constructed on this new land ca. 1950 (demolished 2005) to serve as factory space and storage. Only the foundation wall of Building 14 remains from this era.

Additional buildings 4A (ca. 1946), 10A (ca. 1946), 10B (ca. 1952), 10C (ca. 1959), 12 (ca. 1950), and 12B (ca. 1957, all not extant), were constructed as the factory rapidly expanded. These buildings were located along the eastern and southern ends of the factory complex, adjacent to Buildings 4 and 6 and Buildings 10 and 11. The buildings provided for additional wire assembly and storage areas, as large open spaces were required to wind wire into electrical cables and cords. In order to accommodate Building 4A, Building 2 was demolished.

The factory started with just four employees doing site preparation, but soon Cornish Wire became a major employer in Williamstown, with 225 employees in 1943 and roughly 500 employees by the 1950s, rivaling Williams College as the town's largest employer. The company provided products to transmission line suppliers and the US military during and after WWII, as well as manufactured appliances and electronics.

Spools of copper wire in large coils were delivered to the factory and wires were bunched together to form electrical cable and cords. The wire was then run through a machine that coated it with tin. Another machine wrapped the wire in a rubber casing, and then another with plastic

insulation, and a final machine with a rubber jacket. This created the finished cord, which was then cut to the desired length and fitted with the necessary connectors.

Employee life at Cornish Wire included a company basketball team. During WWII the company sponsored war bond drives. Workers were also paid bonuses based upon production and quota rates.

With increasing demand for products, the company ran three shifts, operating around the clock. The company ultimately outgrew the factory and expanded into the Blackinton Mill, in neighboring North Adams, in 1957.

*Recent History*

Cornish Wire was bought by the General Cable Corporation (a nationwide firm based in Providence, RI) in 1960 and the factory remained one of the largest employers in town, producing the same products until the late 1970s, when demand began to wane and employment shrank. In 1960, Building 15 (not extant) was constructed, increasing factory floor space. Buildings 14A and 15A (not extant) were built in 1972 (see Figure 9). In 1984, Carol Cable purchased the property, continuing operations at a smaller scale. As the company did not need the entire facility, they rented some areas to other businesses. Carol Cable ultimately ceased manufacturing in 1996, but continued to lease space to other businesses.

In 2000, Carol Cable closed all operations at the factory, which it subsequently sold in 2003 for residential redevelopment. Extensive review occurred with the town over the potential redevelopment of the complex. By this time most of the buildings had been unoccupied for many years, and were substantially deteriorated. Starting in 2005, after review by the Williamstown Historical Commission, the post-1928, one-story buildings (10A, 10B, 10C, 12, 12B, 14, 14A, 15, and 15A) were demolished as part of planned redevelopment, along with earlier buildings 1, 6A, 7, and 8 (See Figure 10).

The former Boston Finishing Works, now called Cable Mills, is nearing completion of a state and federal tax-advantaged rehabilitation to convert the complex into housing. Masonry has been repaired and new aluminum windows that replicate the historic muntin patterns have been installed in each building. Additionally, the masonry of the Smokestack, Sluice Gate, and Building 14 Foundation Wall has been repaired with appropriate materials (brick, stone, concrete) depending upon their construction. The project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.

Architectural Significance

The complex is a well-detailed example of Classical Revival-style industrial architecture, and reflects the work of two architects, one of whom, Newton C. Bond, was based in adjacent North Adams (see below). The complex includes a number of character-defining features typical of the style, including a mix of brick and rough-cut granite as building materials, and the use of brick

corbelling, parapets, and segmental-arched window openings. Boston Finishing Works is unique in Williamstown architecturally, in that no other industrial buildings in the style exist in town, although a number of examples of Classical Revival-style industrial buildings survive in adjacent North Adams. Examples of the Classical Revival in Williamstown are otherwise limited to buildings on the Williams College campus and to several mixed-use business blocks along Spring Street, the town's downtown.

Biographical Sketches

**Arthur Loop (1842-1925), Owner / Operator**

Arthur Augustine Loop was born in New York, but grew up in Great Barrington, MA. He initially worked as a clerk, and served in the infantry during the Civil War. After the war, he lived in Pittsfield and worked as a bookkeeper, marrying Carrie Carter in 1868. In 1873, Loop founded A. Loop & Company, making twine at what is now 160 Water Street (Boston Finishing Works) in Williamstown; however, in 1876, he sold his interest in the company to a Mr. Hopkins for $2,500 and release from any debts. Loop then continued his career as a bookkeeper and in later years was retired, living as a boarder in nearby Adams.

**Paul Chadbourne (1823-1883), Investor / Industrialist / Educator**

Dr. Paul Ansel Chadbourne was born in Berwick, ME. He started a career as a druggist's assistant and then attended Exeter, graduating in 1848. Following graduation, he was a teacher and then a high school principal before becoming a tutor at Williams College in 1851 and marrying his wife Elizabeth Page. In 1853 he became Chair of Chemistry, Botany, and Natural History at Williams, and led scientific expeditions all over the world. He served as President of the State Agricultural College (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), as well as President of the University of Wisconsin. From 1872 to 1881, Chadbourne was President of Williams College. Chadbourne, a man of science, also had an interest in politics, serving as a state senator in 1865. He was also a strong supporter of and investor in Williamstown's local industry. He was a major financial backer of the Williamstown Manufacturing Company (Station Mill, WLL.B), the largest of the three Williamstown cotton mills/factories, as he owned the land on which it was built. He also served as that company's secretary. Chadbourne purchased the failing Walley Cotton Mill with partner Keyes Danforth in 1879. They had new machinery installed, making the mill successful until fire destroyed it in 1883. Chadbourne was also a financial backer of the Loop, Hopkins & Company Twine Factory. The continued investments taxed Chadbourne's financial resources, and after his death in 1883, the twine factory closed and the company dissolved.

**Charles Heap (1845-1923), Owner**

Boston Finishing Works was founded by Charles Heap (1845-1923) of Rochdale, England. Heap came from an industrial family. His grandfather William started a cotton cloth processing

factory in 1825, later known as Samuel Heap and Sons when run by Charles' father, Samuel. The firm was located in Rochdale, England, and included a large factory. Charles was in the ministry when Samuel Heap died, and left to manage Samuel Heap and Sons, where they specialized in the processing of unfinished cotton cloth (the same activity as Boston Finishing Works). Charles and his brother William held several patents for equipment used in processing cotton cloth.

By 1889, Charles Heap established Boston Finishing Works at a South Boston location. Herbert H. Heap (1858-1935), another of Charles's brothers, moved to Boston from England, initially serving as agent and buyer for the company, and later as manager. In 1892, Boston Finishing Works purchased the former Loop, Hopkins, & Company Twine Factory in Williamstown for its new home. Charles visited the factory, but resided in England, managing Samuel Heap and Sons. Charles later served as Mayor of Rochdale from 1907-1908.

**John S. Boyd (1874-1959), Company President**

John Schofield Boyd was born in England, and immigrated to the United States in 1877 as a child. He grew up in North Adams, attending school there while his father Pythagorus worked as a chemist and agent for the Arnold Printing Works. Boyd graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1897, specializing in industrial chemistry. From 1897 to 1899 he worked at the Arnold Printing Works as an assistant chemist; then, until 1901, he was assistant superintendent of the Slater Company textile mill in Webster, MA. Boyd married his wife Marion in 1903. From 1901 to 1909, he was chemist and superintendent of dyeing and bleaching at the Merrimack Manufacturing Company textile mill in Lowell. With financial backers from North Adams, he created the John S. Boyd Company, purchasing the former Boston Finishing Works site, where he manufactured corduroy and velvet fabric, often for women's clothes. Boyd served as president and treasurer, and he and his family resided in Williamstown during the company's operation. After having financial difficulties, Boyd recapitalized as the Boyd Textile Corporation in the 1920s. The factory grew from 45 employees in 1910 to roughly 150 employees at the time of its closing in 1930. Boyd held patents for the mechanical production of fabric via threading colors and cutting. Boyd's brother William was also a noted expert in textile production, in particular corduroy.

**Edmund F. Saxton (1876-1962), Architect / Engineer**

Edmund Franklin Saxton was the architect for additions to Buildings 3 and 4, and for the construction of Building 2-Addition in 1919. Saxton was born in New York and attended school in Brooklyn. He had a varied career as engineer for the City of New York, a railroad engineer for the United Railways of the Yucatan, and Director of Docks and Ferries in Philadelphia. By 1917 he was living in Boston, and working as a consulting engineer. He provided plans to the John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company to increase waterpower to the complex in 1919. In the same year, Saxton was hired by the John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company to serve as treasurer and head up engineering operations for the company. After working with Boyd, Saxton continued his work as a consulting engineer in New York.

**Newton C. Bond (1865-1928), Architect / Engineer**

Newton Charles Bond was the architect for Building 8, constructed in 1915 (not extant). Bond attended school in North Adams, and initially worked as a clerk in 1887 before establishing himself as an architect and engineer. Bond partnered in the firm Lapointe & Bond, which had a main office in Fitchburg and a satellite office in North Adams, which Bond managed. Bond primarily worked on industrial buildings, including mills, as well as bridges and other infrastructure projects. By 1920 Bond had formed his own enterprise, the Newton C. Bond Company, based in Springfield. In addition to his work on Building 8 at Boston Finishing Works, among his other Massachusetts works were the North Adams Manufacturing Company office in North Adams, the Walden Hiram Block in Williamstown (WLL.86), and the Stafford Hill Memorial in Cheshire (CHS.902, NR 1986).

**Archaeological Significance**

Since patterns of ancient Native American occupation in Williamstown and the Hoosic River Valley in general are poorly documented, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area have the potential to contribute information towards a better understanding of Native American settlement and subsistence patterns in the Berkshire uplands of Western Massachusetts, and the importance of riverine drainage boundaries to those patterns. Known regional settlement patterns and environmental characteristics in the region indicate Native American settlement in the district could represent a generalized adaptation to upland/riverine resources, or a more stratified system with larger habitation sites along the main Hoosic River valley and secondary special-purpose/short-term sites along secondary drainages and tributary streams. Ancient Native sites in the district may also contain information that enables a test of long-held theories that indicate Native American sociopolitical/economic boundaries are based along riverine drainage basins. Although the entire district and town are located within the Hoosic and Hudson River drainage, the area is also in close proximity to the Housatonic River drainage, which drains southerly to Connecticut, and the Deerfield and Westfield drainages, which flow easterly to the Connecticut River. Ancient Native American sites in this area may enable a test of theories relating to riverine adaptations and the importance of sites and settlement/subsistence patterns that are geographically close but in different drainages.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important evidence related to the complex history of industrial landuse at the Boston Finishing Works Factory complex. Important information may be available that documents the changeover of Williamstown from an agrarian-based community to a small industrial community, based on a few major textile, and later, wire factories. Important information may also be available for textile and wire manufacturing technologies, the evolution of late 19$^{th}$-century waterpower technology, industrial activity and Williamstown's late 19$^{th}$- and 20$^{th}$-century immigrant population, and the general evolution and layout of the different periods of occupation for the different factories present on the site.

Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing of the nominated property, may produce evidence of Williamstown's agrarian past. The house and barn present on the property at the time of its purchase for the Loop Factory may be evidence of past agricultural use of the nominated property. The building and barn may be part of a 19th-century farmstead, prior to or during the town's changeover from an agricultural- to industrial-based economy, or may represent workers' housing. In any event, potential exists at the Boston Finishing Works to identify 19th-century residents of the area and their lives. Architectural characteristics of the house, barn, outbuildings, and the detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may contribute important information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the residents of the factory locale, the town of Williamstown, the local immigrant population, and the workers at the various factory occupations of the Boston Finishing Works. Similar research might also contribute important information related to the form and location of the Loop Factory, the first factory located on the site. Information may be available that can document the location, form, and architectural details of the Loop Factory barns, stables, and its outbuildings. Similar information may also be available for each occupation of the property by several successive mills.

Important information may also be present related to the waterpower system responsible for the choice of this site for the factory complex. Important information may be available that can help to identify components of the waterpower system through time, identifying changes in that system from the source of power from the Green River for the Loop Factory to the washing and processing of textiles after the river's importance as a source of waterpower had ended. Information may also be available that can identify the exact route of water from the Green River through the factory complex, then back to the river. Additional documentary study combined with archaeological survey, testing, and the careful mapping of all waterpower-related resources may help to identify the form, function, construction details, and exact route of the waterpower canals and their related components from the late 18th and early 19th centuries at the Boston Finishing Works. This analysis could be focused on a particular point in time or changes that occurred over time. There must have been many changes in the function of the entire water system and with its components since the period of significance includes the time when waterpower was going through changes during the mid to late 19th century as waterpower changed from direct power of waterpower wheels to turbines and steam engines that transferred waterpower to electricity, gradually making water power obsolete. The change-over of waterpower to processing textiles is another change of the waterpower system away from its importance as a source of power for running the mill to a source of water for washing, dyeing, and otherwise processing textiles.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**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):** __WLL.98, 667-674, 963-965

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 8.8 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**UTM References**
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Zone: 18N | Easting: 647368 | Northing: 4729895 |
| 2. Zone: 18N | Easting: 647505 | Northing: 4729851 |
| 3. Zone: 18N | Easting: 647379 | Northing: 4729505 |

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

The property includes three parcels of land at 160 Water Street, Williamstown, MA, encompassing Assessor's Block Numbers 91, 91.1, and 115, as shown on the attached parcel map. The property is bounded by 132 Water Street to the north, the Green River to the east, and Water Street and 188-210 Water Street (a series of residences) to the south and west.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is limited to the present parcels of land occupied by the factory, which was historically associated with A. Loop & Company, Boston Finishing Works, and subsequent owners.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Brian Lever, Preservation Planner with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail Betsy.Friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone: 617-727-8470
date: July 2016

**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**

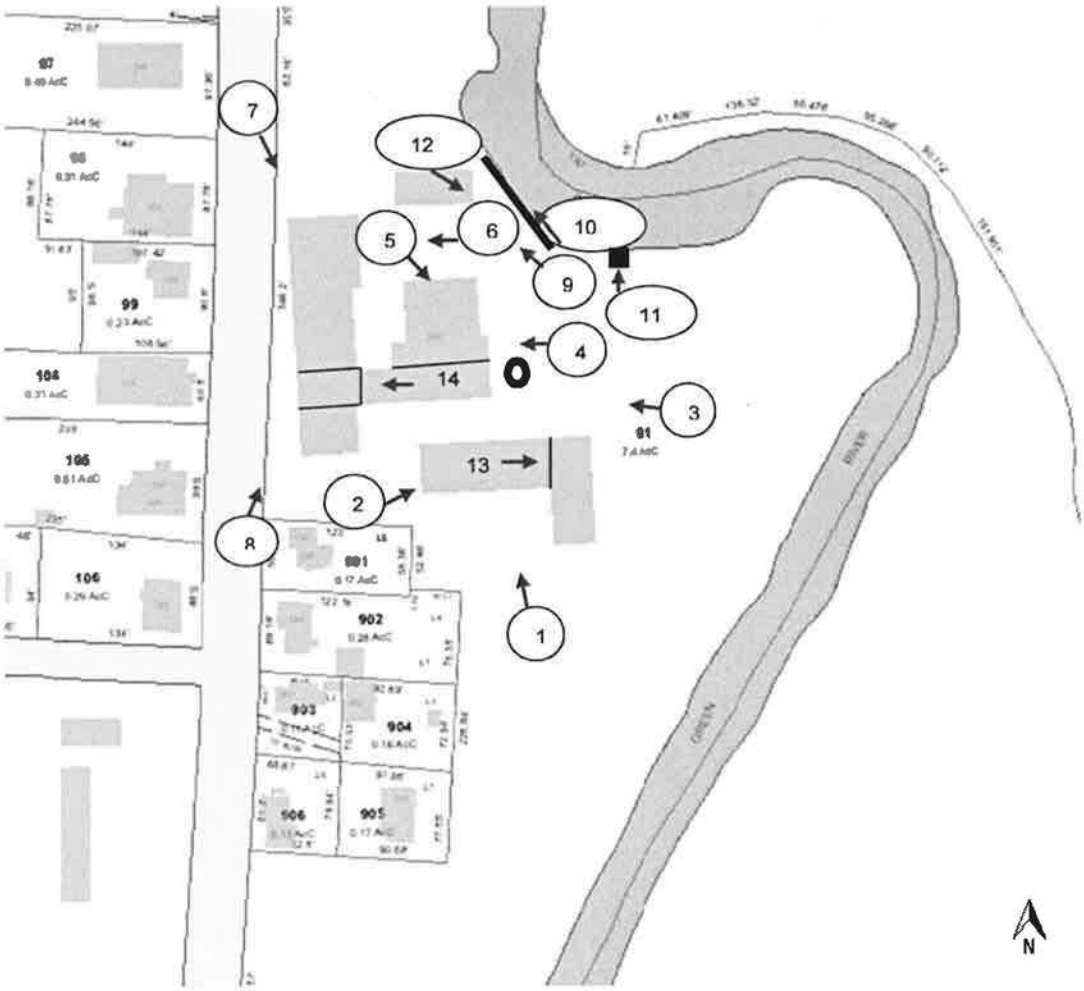
| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Property: | Boston Finishing Works |
| City or Vicinity: | Williamstown |
| County: | Berkshire |
| State: | MA |
| Photographer: | Brian Lever |
| Date Photographed: | May 2016 |
| Location of Original Digital Files: | 3 Clocktower Place, Maynard, MA 01754 |
| Number of Photographs: | 14 |

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 of 14: | View north of Buildings 4 (background), 10, 11, and smokestack. |
| 2 of 14: | View east of Buildings 4 (left), 10, 11 (right), and smokestack. |
| 3 of 14: | View northwest of Buildings 11 (left), 4, 6, 7A (right), and smokestack. |
| 4 of 14: | View west of Buildings 11 (left), 2-Addition, 4, 6, 5 (background), 7A (right), and smokestack. |
| 5 of 14: | View southeast of Buildings 6 (foreground), 4, and smokestack. |
| 6 of 14: | View west of Buildings 6 (left), 5 (center), and 7A (right). |
| 7 of 14: | View southeast of Buildings 7A (left), 6, 4, 5, 3, 2-Addition (right), and smokestack. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 of 14: | View northeast of buildings 5 (left), 3, 2-Addition, 4 (right), and smokestack. |
| 9 of 14: | View northwest of buildings 5 (left) and 7A (right). |
| 10 of 14: | View northwest of building 14 Foundation Wall (foreground), Building 5 (left, background), and Building 7A. |
| 11 of 14: | View north of Sluice Gate Structure. |
| 12 of 14: | View east of building 7A, second floor. |
| 13 of 14: | View east of building 10, ground floor. |
| 14 of 14: | View west of building 4, ground floor. |

**Key to Photographs**



**List of Figures**

1: locus map of Boston Finishing Works within Williamstown, MA.

2: 1876 Berkshire County Atlas for Williamstown, MA, by Frederick W. Beers, showing Boston Finishing Works.

3: 1889 Birds-eye Map, Williamstown, MA, by L. R. Burleigh, showing Boston Finishing Works.

4: 1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works

5: 1904 Atlas of Berkshire County for Williamstown, MA, by Barnes & Farnham, showing Boston Finishing Works.

6: 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works/John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company.

7: 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works/John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company.

8: 1931 (updated 1938), Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works/Cornish Wire.

9: ca. 1975 site map showing Boston Finishing Works/General Cable.

10: 2014 aerial photograph showing Boston Finishing Works.

11: ca. 1880, photograph of Loop, Hopkins & Company (Building 10, Boston Finishing Works), 160 Water Street, Williamstown, courtesy Williamstown Historical Museum.

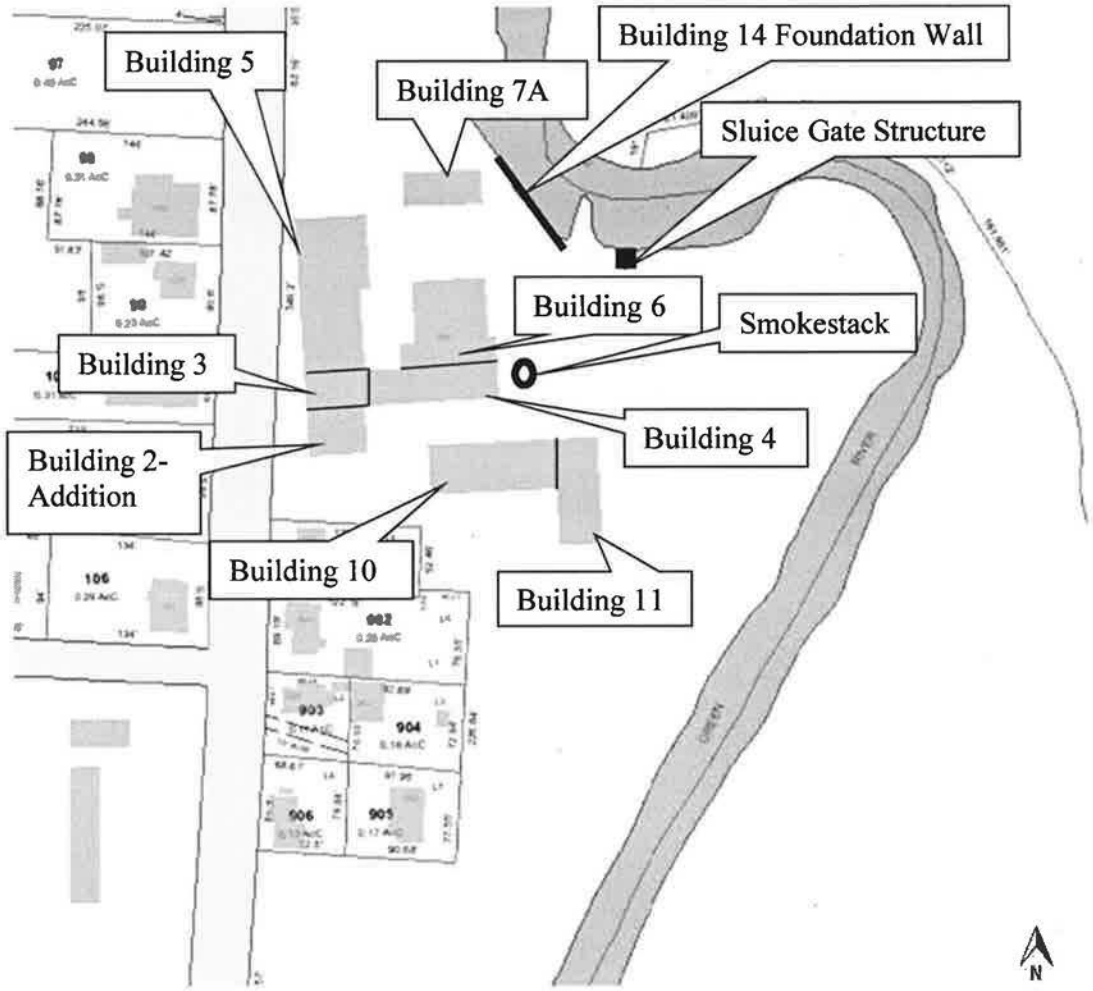
12: ca. 1885, photograph of Loop, Hopkins & Company (Building 10, left, Boston Finishing Works) and millpond at 160 Water Street, Williamstown, courtesy Williamstown Historical Museum.

## Boston Finishing Works Data Sheet

| MACRIS# | Building Name | Photo# | Construction Date | Architectural Style | Resource Type | Contributing / Non-contributing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WLL.667 | Building 2-Addition | 4, 7-8 | 1919 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.668 | Building 3 | 7-8 | 1895/1919 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.669 | Building 4 | 1-5,7-8, 14 | 1892/1919 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.670 | Building 5 | 4, 6-10 | ca. 1920/1928 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.671 | Building 6 | 3-7 | ca. 1895 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.672 | Building 7-A | 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12 | ca. 1920 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.98 | Building 10 | 1-2, 13 | 1873 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.674 | Building 11 | 1-3 | 1896/1927 | Classical Revival | Building | C |
| WLL.963 | Building 14 Foundation Wall | 10 | ca. 1950 | Utilitarian | Structure | C |
| WLL.964 | Sluice Gate | 11 | ca. 1895 | Utilitarian | Structure | C |
| WLL.965 | Smokestack | 1-5, 7-8 | ca. 1920 | Utilitarian | Structure | C |

**Total: 8 contributing buildings, 3 contributing structures**

## Sketch Map


Building 5
Building 7A
Building 14 Foundation Wall
Sluice Gate Structure
Building 6
Smokestack
Building 3
Building 4
Building 2-
Addition
Building 10
Building 11
N

## Figures

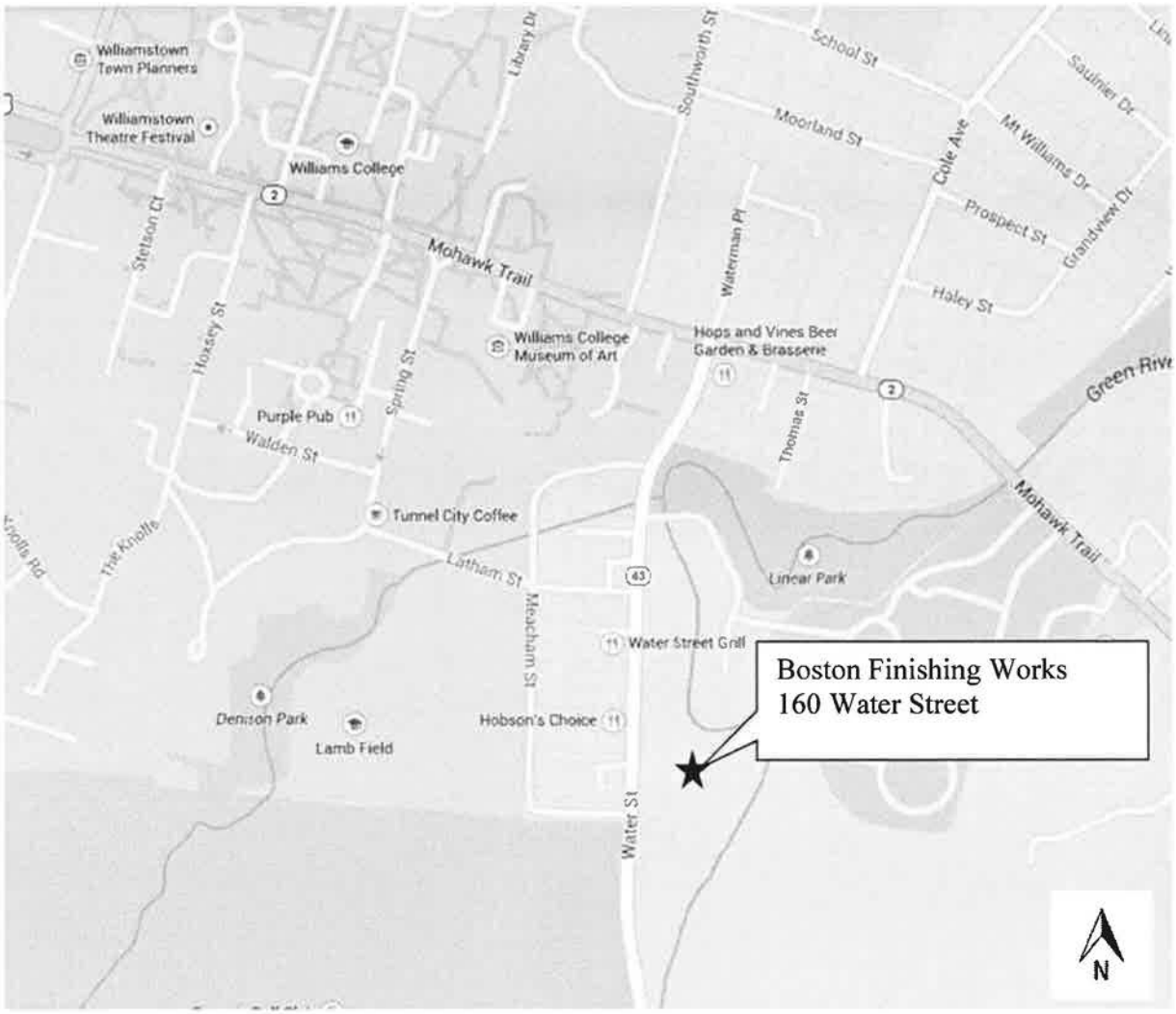



Figure 1, locus map of Boston Finishing Works within Williamstown, Massachusetts.

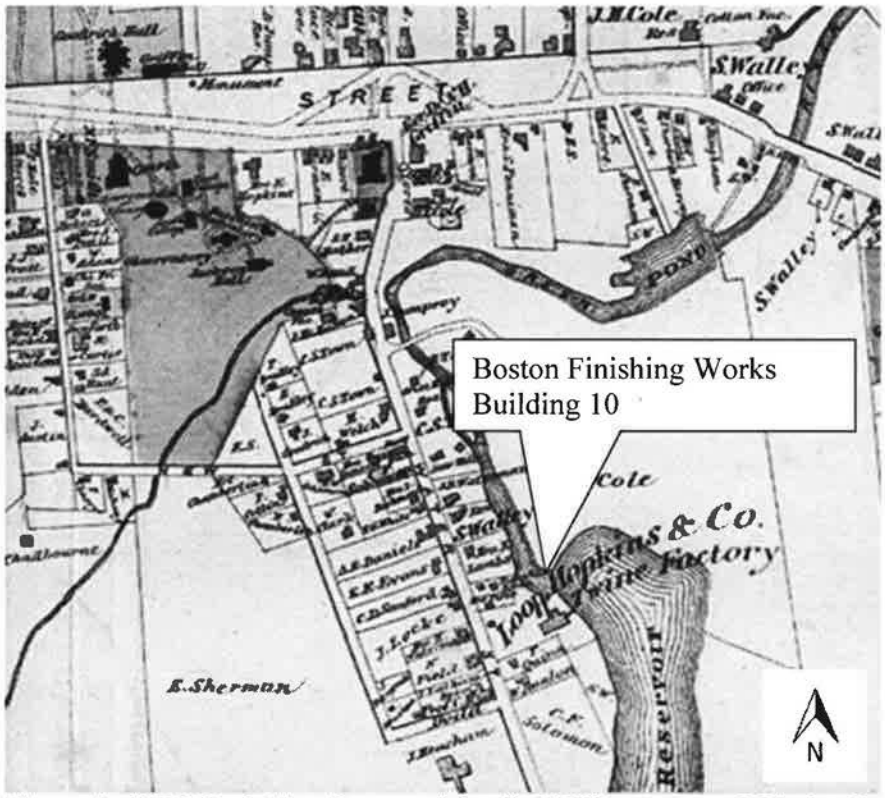



Figure 2, 1876 Berkshire County Atlas for Williamstown, MA, by Frederick W. Beers, showing Boston Finishing Works (then Loop, Hopkins & Co.)

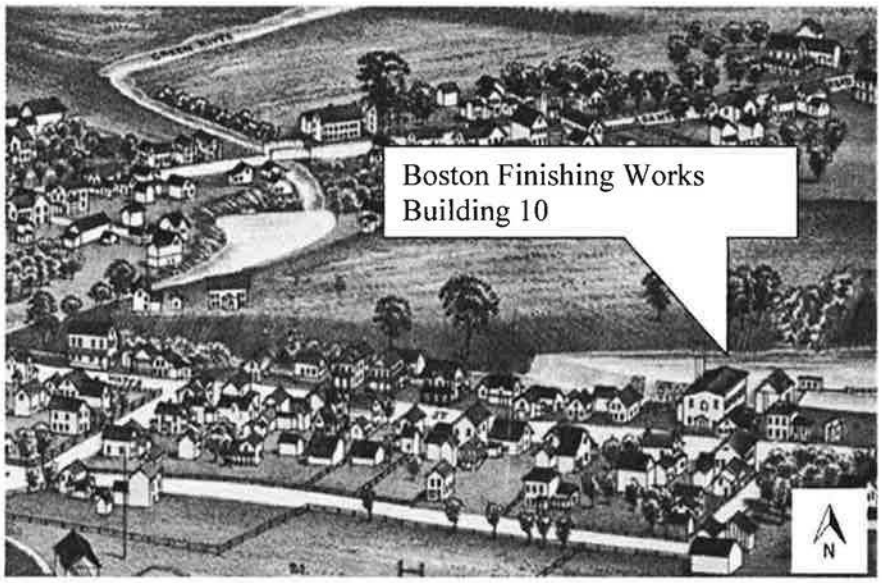



Figure 3, 1889 Bird's-eye Map, Williamstown, MA, by L. R. Burleigh, showing Boston Finishing Works.

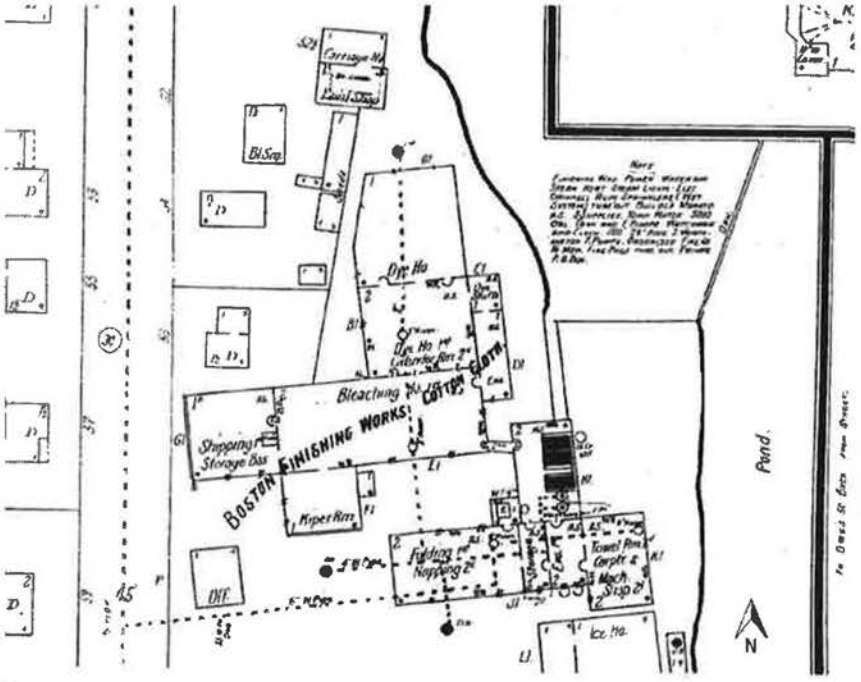



Figure 4, 1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works.

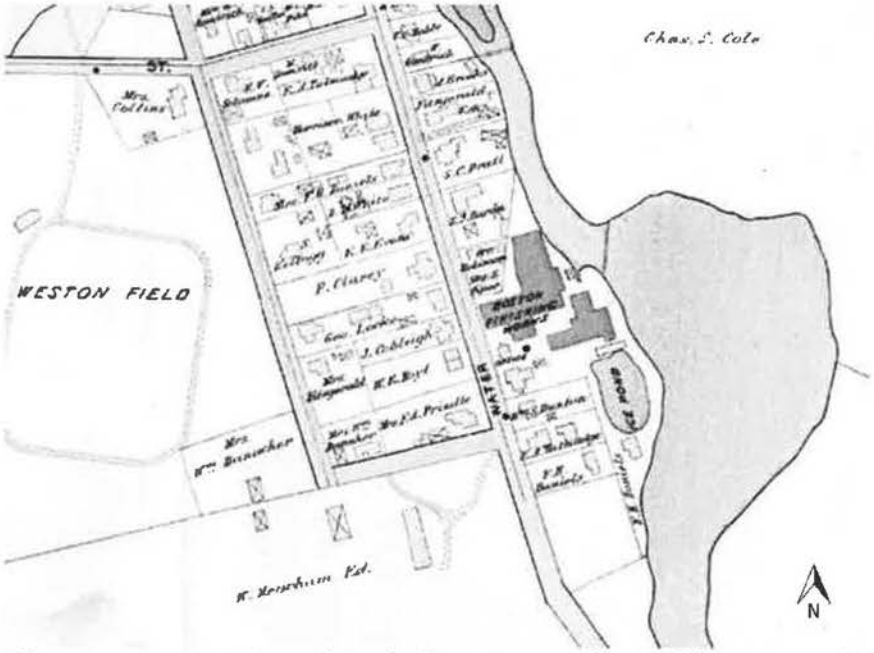



Figure 5, 1904 Atlas of Berkshire County for Williamstown, MA by Barnes & Farnham, showing Boston Finishing Works (in red).

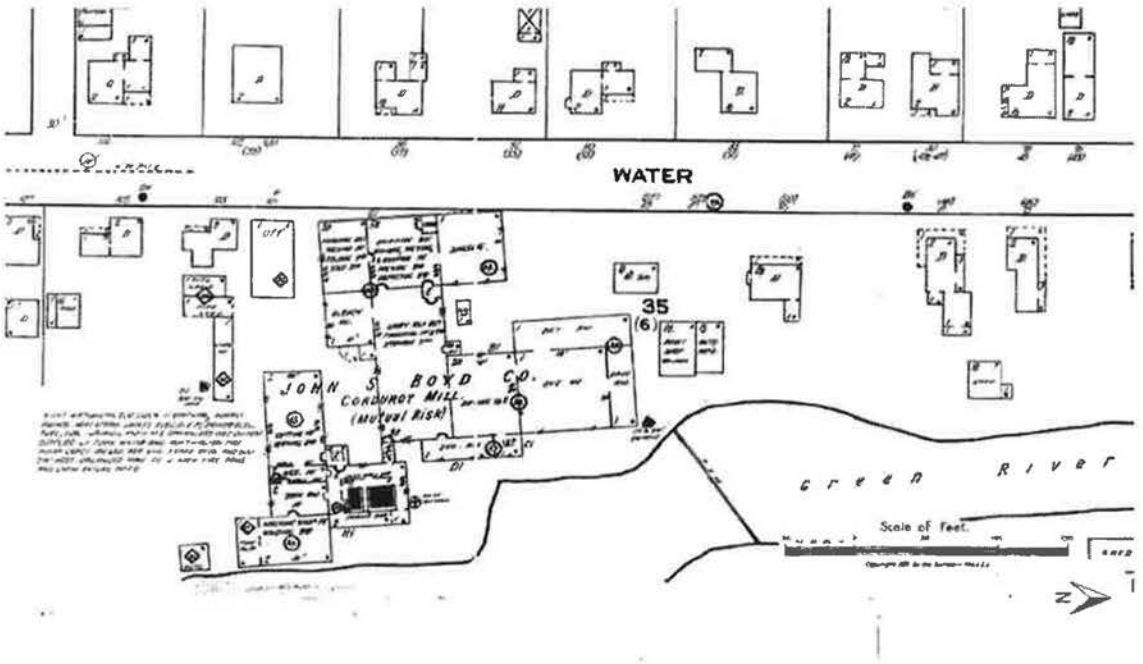



Figure 6, 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works/John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company.

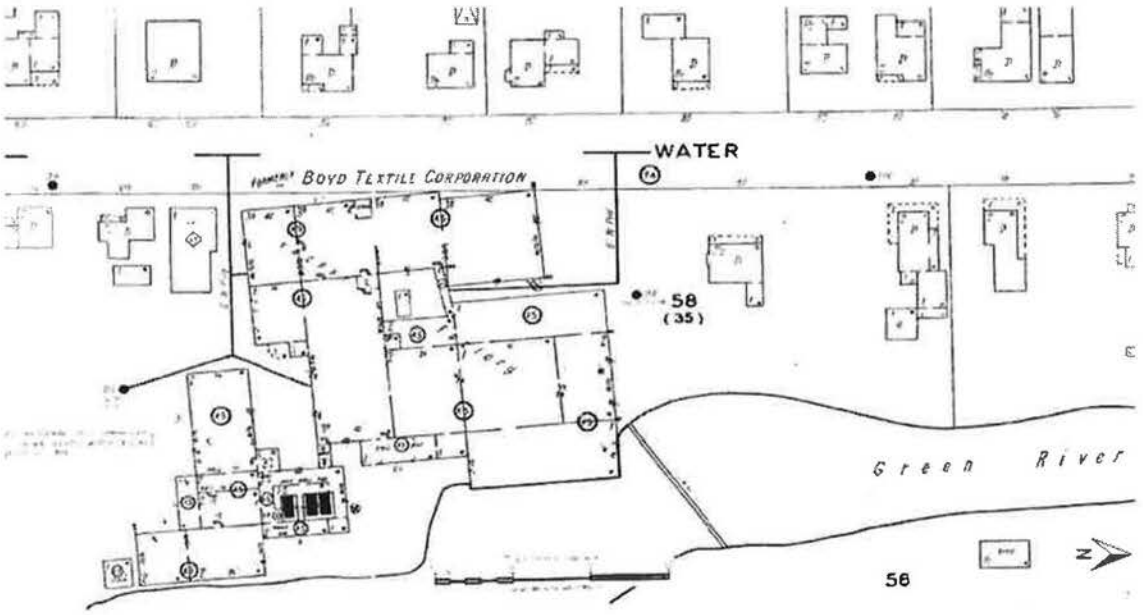



Figure 7, 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works/John S. Boyd Manufacturing Company.

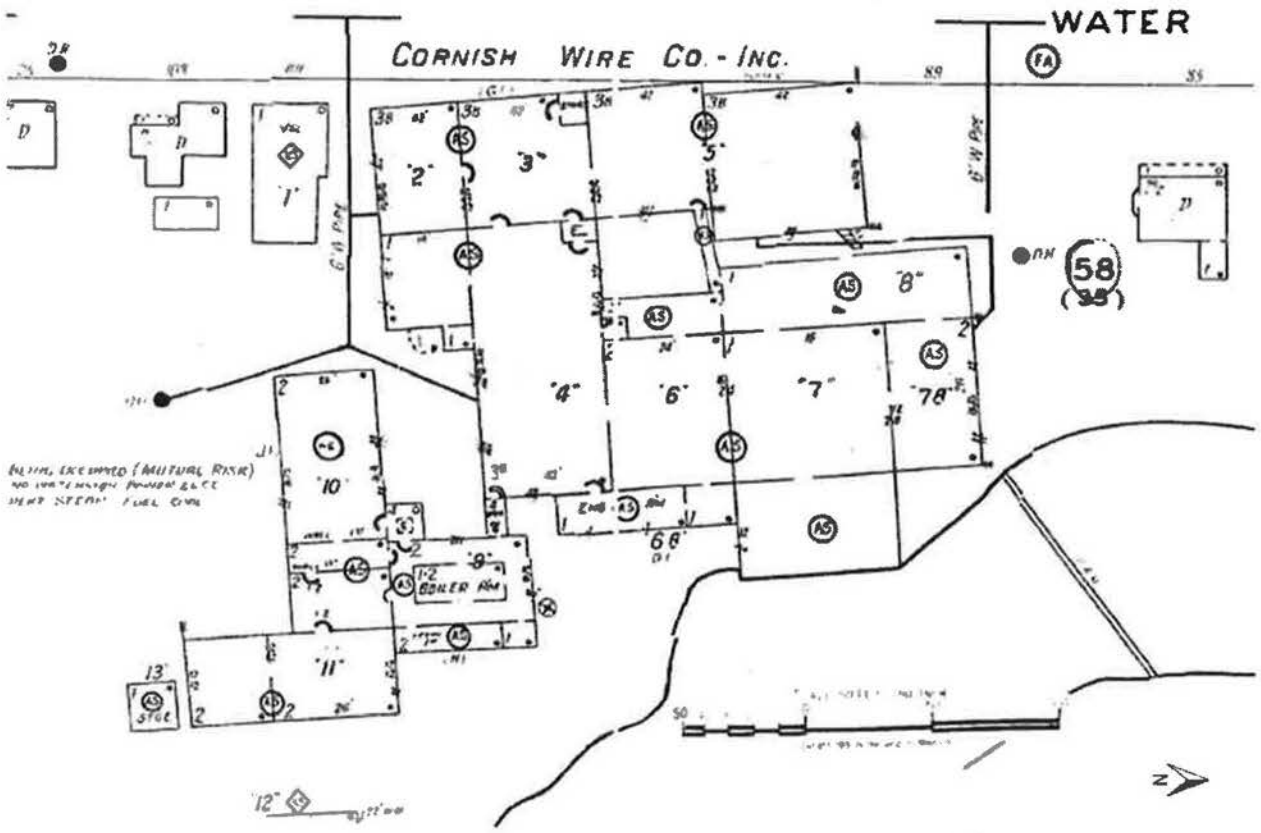



Figure 8, 1931 (updated 1938), Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Williamstown, MA, Sheet 1, showing Boston Finishing Works/Cornish Wire.

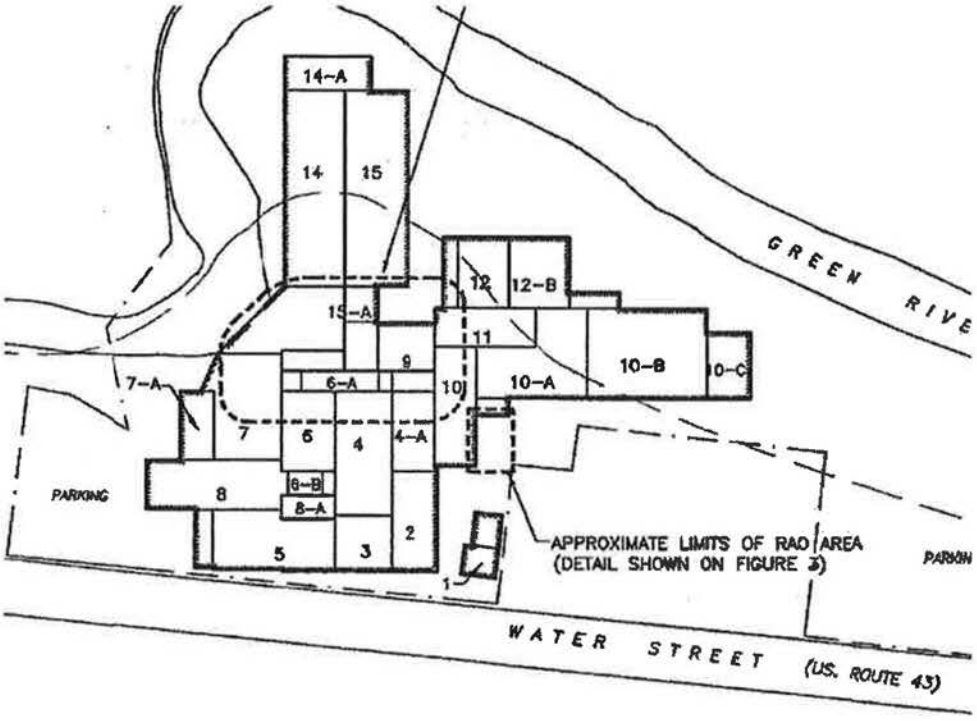



Figure 9, ca. 1975 site map showing Boston Finishing Works/General Cable.

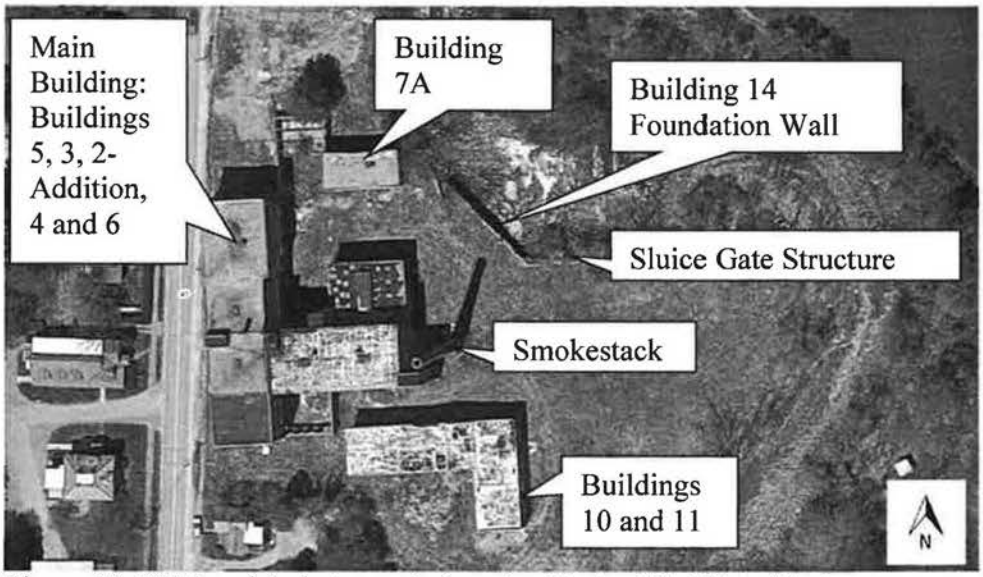



Figure 10, 2014 aerial photograph showing Boston Finishing Works.

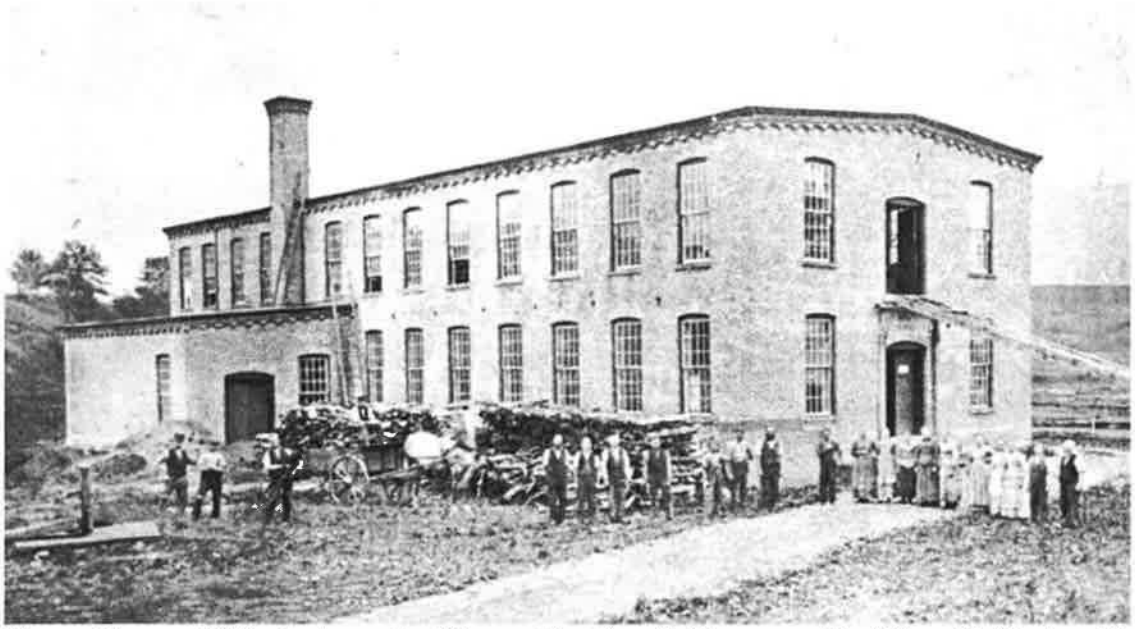


Figure 11, ca. 1880, photograph of Loop, Hopkins & Company (Building 10, Boston Finishing Works), 160 Water Street, Williamstown, courtesy Williamstown Historical Museum.

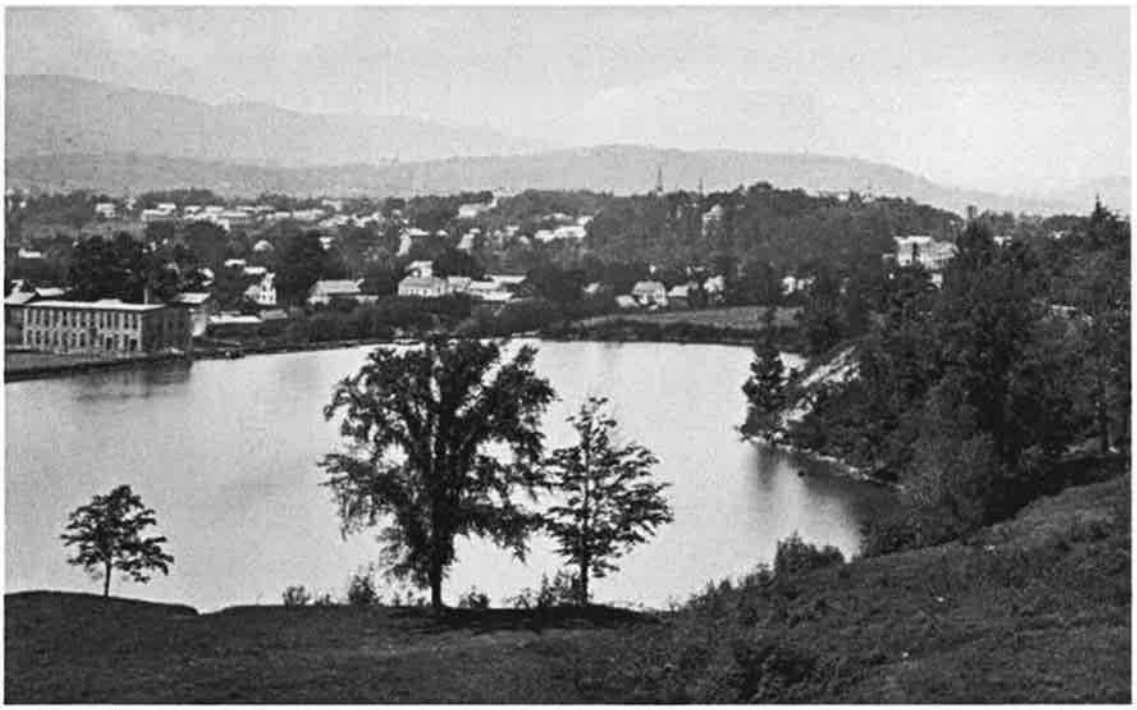


Figure 12, ca. 1885, photograph of Loop, Hopkins & Company (Building 10, left, Boston Finishing Works) and millpond at 160 Water Street, Williamstown, courtesy Williamstown Historical Museum.

# Boston Finishing Works

Williamstown (Berkshire Co.), MA

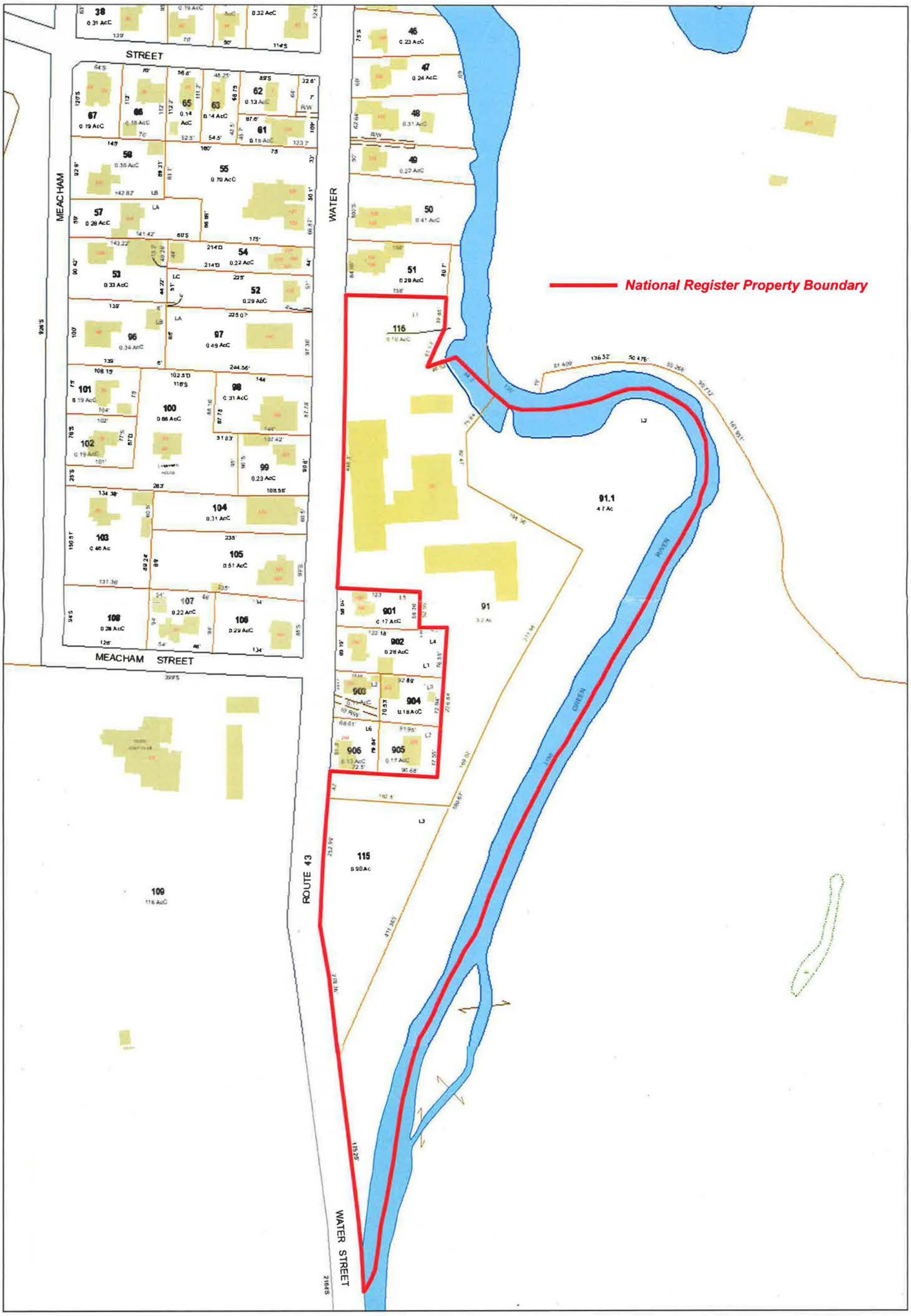
1 inch = 134 Feet

0 134 268 402

August 9, 2016

CAI Technologies

www.cai-tech.com

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# Boston Finishing Works

Williamstown (Berkshire Co.), MA

1 inch = 134 Feet

0 134 268 402

August 9, 2016

www.cai-tech.com

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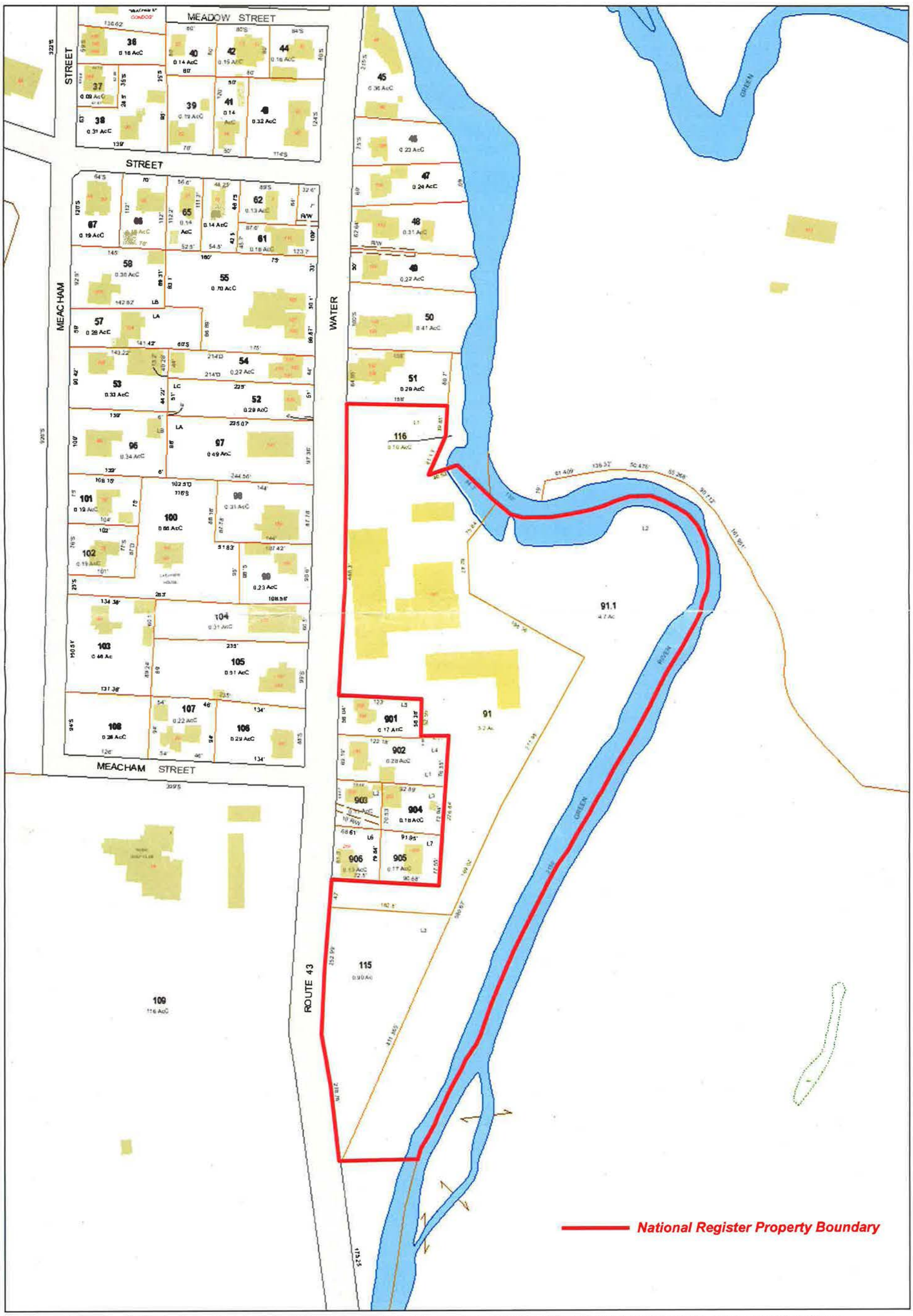


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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

# WILLIAMSTOWN QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS - VERMONT
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Boston Finishing Works
Zone 18 N

| | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|
| ① | 647368 | 4729895 |
| ② | 647505 | 4729851 |
| ③ | 647379 | 4729505 |

Boston Finishing Works
Zone 18N

| | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|
| ① | 647368 | 4729895 |
| ② | 647505 | 4729851 |
| ③ | 647379 | 4729505 |

Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1975
Revision by USDA Forest Service 1997

Topography compiled 1942. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1992 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1997

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection: Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone (Lambert conformal conic). 10 000-foot ticks: Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone and Vermont coordinate system
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 18

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Non-National Forest System lands within the National Forest
Inholdings may exist in other National or State reservations

This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private lands

MN GN
14° 249 MILS
1°14' 22 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1999 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

SCALE 1:24 000

1 0 1 MILES
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000 FEET
1 0 1 2 KILOMETERS
1000 0 METERS 1000 2000

CONTOUR INTERVALS 10 AND 20 FEET (SEE DIAGRAM)
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

20 FEET 10 FT 20 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 |

1 North Pownal
2 Pownal
3 Stamford
4 Berlin
5 North Adams
6 Hancock
7 Cheshire
8 Windsor

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

Interstate ..... 5
U. S. ..... 101
State ..... 79
County ..... 6
National Forest, suitable for passenger cars ..... 105 61
National Forest, suitable for high clearance vehicles ..... 61
National Forest Trail ..... 384

Primary highway .....
Secondary highway .....
Light-duty road
Composition: Unspecified...
Paved .....
Gravel .....
Dirt .....
Unimproved; 4 wheel drive ..... 4WD
Trail .....
Gate; Barrier .....

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Boston Finishing Works

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 8/19/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/19/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/04/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/04/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000690

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| APPEAL: | N | DATA PROBLEM: | N | LANDSCAPE: | N | LESS THAN 50 YEARS: | N |
| OTHER: | N | PDIL: | N | PERIOD: | N | PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: | N |
| REQUEST: | N | SAMPLE: | N | SLR DRAFT: | N | NATIONAL: | N |

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 10.4.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

August 8, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Boston Finishing Works, 160 Water Street, Williamstown (Berkshire), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Brian Lever, consultant
Jane Patton, Williamstown Board of Selectmen
William Barkin, Williamstown Historical Commission
Dave Traggorth, Traggorth Cos.
Amy Jeschawitz, Williamstown Planning Board

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc