

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
None	46-D

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

Town Uxbridge

Name of area (if any) Central Woolen

Mills District (U.M.R.A.)

General date or period 1852-1925

Mendon and Cross Sts.

Roll 9 frames 2-7

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

Acreage: 4 acres

UTM	QUAD	BL
A 19	283240	4661850
B 19	283250	4661740
C 19	283140	4661740
D 19	283140	4771850

Recorded by B.R.Pfeiffer

Organization Uxbridge Historical Commission

Date May 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Built over the course of nearly seventy-five years, the former Central Woolen Mill preserves buildings from all periods of its development and serves as an excellent example of the moderate-size mills which dominated Uxbridge's industrial development during the nineteenth century.

The following buildings and additions remain on the mill site; building numbers used in the following descriptions correspond to those on the map on the reverse side of this form:

- 1 & 2 The Main Building is a four-storey wood frame structure, sheathed with wood shingles and enclosed by a pitched roof of asphalt shingles.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

In addition to the preservation of its nineteenth-century architecture and its adaptation of the former Blackstone Canal to a water-power canal, the Central Mill possesses historical associations with several of Uxbridge's leading industrialists and with the town's major industry, ie., woolen goods. Built in 1852 by Moses Taft, the impetus to develop the Central Mill site came from the burning in 1849-1850 of Taft's Burrillville, Rhode Island mill where Taft and Samuel Scott had manufactured satinets. Looking for new ventures, Taft rented the old Capron Mill near Uxbridge Center in 1849 and began manufacturing satinets with Joseph Day, a grandson of Daniel Day who had built Uxbridge's first textile mill. Even though Taft continued his partnership with Day until 1862, he was involved in several other enterprises the largest of which was the Central Mill which he completed in 1853. Upon completion, the mill was rented to Israel Southwick and Richard Sayles, who sold their lease to Bradford, (Daniel) Taft & Co. of Providence, Rhode Island, in 1859.

Between July 1, 1859 and January 1, 1864, the mill produced "indigo blue goods for officers and suitings"; all goods were purchased by the U.S. government. During the Civil War, the mill is reported to have been kept in operation days and nights to meet the government's demand.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Barlow & Bancroft Insurance Plans. "Central Mills, Daniel W. Taft" (No. 3632, March 6, 1875 with supplements to 1886).
Factory Mutual Insurance Plans. "Stanley Woolen Co." (index no. 761 serial no. 3348, May 14, 1913)
Clarke 1855: Map of Uxbridge, view of mill at border
Chapin 1881: 150-151
Hurd 1888 I: 171
Jewett 1879 II: 433-434
Sprague 1927: 46, 50, 88 & 108
Stone 1930 II: 1968

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Uxbridge

Form No:

46-D

Property Name: Central Woolen
Mills

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1852, this building originally consisted of its west end (#1) and its western stairtower, which originally rose to an open belfry. In 1873-1874, the east end of the main building (#2) and an additional stairtower were constructed, bringing the mill to its present size.

- 3 & 4 Store House No. 1 is a two-storey brick building with a low-pitched roof. The building's eastern end (#3) was built in 1852 and was enlarged (#4), presumably in 1873-1874, when the Main Building was enlarged.
- 5 & 6 Built between 1855 & 1870, probably in 1866, to house boilers on the first storey and picker rooms above, the original section of the Picker and Boiler House (#5) was built as a nearly free-standing brick building of three-stories' height with a low-pitched roof. Subsequent enlargements in the 1880's or 1890's increased its width and attached it to neighboring structures. In 1895, a new boiler house (#6) was added to the rear of the original building.
- 7 & 8 The Assorting Building (#7) was built prior to 1875, perhaps in 1873-1874, as a free-standing brick building, 2½ stories high with a gabled facade. In 1885, a Dye House addition (#8) was built on the north wall of the Assorting Building. This addition was also built of brick, one storey high with a low-pitched roof. Some time after 1913, perhaps in the early 1920's, the original pitched roof of the Assorting Building was raised, connecting the building with the neighboring Picker House (#5) beneath a continuous cornice.
- 9 & 10 At the east end of the Assorting Building and Dye House stands a 2-storey, wood-frame building with a gabled facade (#9). Built in 1880-1881 as a Machine Shop, this building was connected to the Assorting Building by a two-storey wood frame addition (#10) between 1913 and 1925.
- 11 & 12 The Office Building (#11) is a two-storey frame building of Italianate design. Standing on the site of an original one-storey office building, the present structure appears, by its design, to have been built as a house in the 1860's or 1870's; however, it was reportedly built on its present site (perhaps moved here) in 1881. Between 1913 and 1925, a one-storey ell (#12) was added to the Office's east end.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Uxbridge	Form No: 46-D
Property Name: Central Woolen Mills	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- 13 & 14 Standing at the west end of the Main Building are two twentieth-century additions. The first of these (#13) was built between 1905 and 1913 as a one-storey wood-frame structure with a low-pitched roof and monitor; in 1923, its height had been increased to 4 stories. Subsequently, by 1939, the height had been increased to the 5 stories which presently exist. Located on the north elevation of this earlier addition is a four-storey addition of ca. 1923-1925, also built of wood-frame construction with a low-pitched roof and large paired windows.
- 15 Connecting Store House No. 1 (3&4) and the addition to the Main Building (#13) is a two-storey brick storehouse ^{which was} built after 1939, probably during the 1940's or 1950's.

The water power around which the Central Mill developed was not an earlier mill site, as was the case with many local mills. Instead, the water power was provided by the flow of the former Blackstone Canal which was closed to commercial traffic in 1848. By 1851-1852 Moses Taft had purchased the canal bed between Mendon Street and Hartford Avenue. By diverting the lower portion canal beneath the Main Building, power was provided to the main mill, and the tail race fed into the Hecla Pond east of the Central Mill, which allowed the water to be used a second time to provide power at the Hecla Mill, downstream. In 1865, the flow was increased by the construction of a dam at Hartford Avenue; a 100-acre plain was flooded, creating a new reservoir. Again, in 1883 the water power was improved by widening the canal and raising its banks to increase the water pressure (head) at the mill. As late as 1913, the mill maintained a 212 h.p. water wheel which provided much of the motive power needed by the mill.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1865, the mill was sold to R & J. Taft of Uxbridge, who enlarged the water power and added steam power to carry manufacturing through dry seasons. In 1869, the property was leased to Daniel Taft, who had been the mill's general manager since 1864. When Taft's lease expired in 1883, the Calumet Woolen Company was formed with Isaac Fenno of Boston as president and Silas M. Wheelock of Uxbridge as treasurer. With Arthur Wheelock as general superintendant and agent, this firm operated the mill, producing fancy cassimers, until 1905; however, much of the period following the Depression of 1893 was spent with the mill in partial production. By 1905, the company was dissolved and its property (including the Hecla Mill) was sold at auction.

Arthur Wheelock purchased the Central Mill, and renamed the business Stanley Woolen Company. During World War I, the firm produced khakis for the U.S. government in addition to overcoatings for the French and Italian governments. Since 1905, the mill has remained in continuous ownership by the same company.

See Continuation Sheet #4

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

#4

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Uxbridge

Form No:

46-D

Property Name: Central Woolen Mills

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Central Woolen Mills possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling from several periods of development. In addition, the Mills possess historical associations with Moses Taft, a prominent local manufacturer, and with the conversion of the former Blackstone Canal to a source of water power.

The Central Woolen Mills meet criteria A, B and C of the NRHP.

OWNER

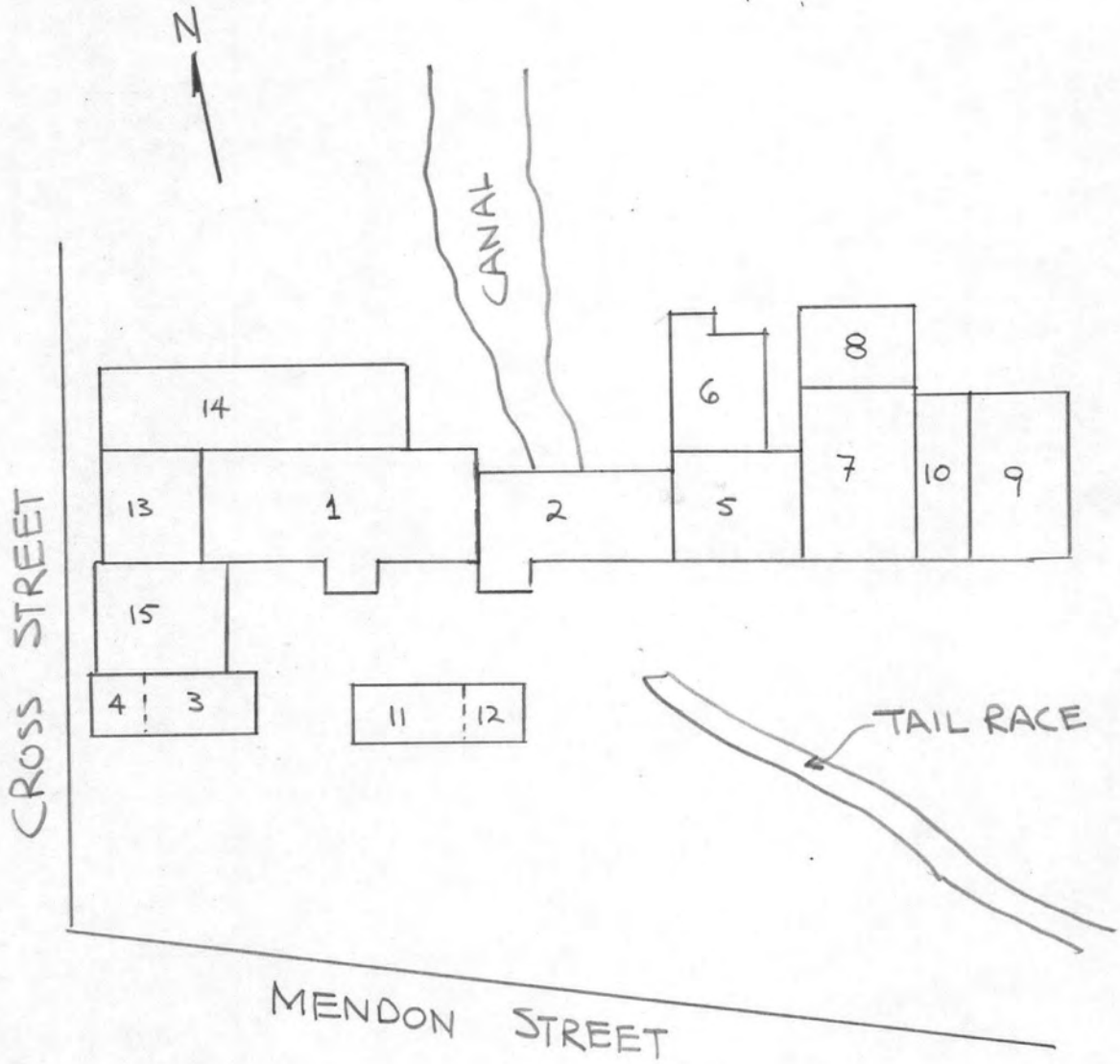
Stanley Woolen Company
140 Mendon St.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Uxbridge	Form No: 46-D
Property Name: Central Mill	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



Stable to Inventory form at bottom

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Central Woolen Mills District (Uxbridge MRA)
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

AUG 26 1983

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 9/22/83 - 10/10/83

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 10/7/83

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

The district is an eligible resource that should be accepted after technical corrections. The group retains a high degree of integrity and is architecturally and historically significant that exhibits the physical evolution of a nineteenth century textile mill complex.

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Bushong

Discipline History

Date 10/6/83

see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

General (of a Historic District)
 National Register
 811321-90-122A M

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
 Quadrange name _____
 UTM References _____

Please provide acreage

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Bill Bushong

Signed Patrick Arlous Date 10/1/83 Phone: _____

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

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

For NPS use only
received 8/26/83
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Uxbridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Capron, Charles, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

12. Chapin, A., House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

13. Cook, A. E., House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

14. Central Woolen Mills
District Substantive Review

for Keeper Bruce Van Duzend 1/20/84

Attest

15. Deane, Francis, Cottage Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

16. Farnum Block Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

17. Farnum, Moses, House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

18. Farnum, R., House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

19. Granite Store Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

20. Hall, S. A., House Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melrose Byers 10/7/83

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

*Central Woolen Mills District
(Uxbridge MRA)
Worcester County
MA*

Working No. 8-26-83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 1/20/84
Action: ACCEPT 1/20/84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept / ABC
Reviewer Tom [unclear]
Discipline A.H.
Date 1-20-84
_____ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Town: Uxbridge *M.A. Mc*
Form #46-D
Central Woolen Mills
Buildings #3 & 4
(foreground)



Town: Uxbridge *MRA, Mo*
Form #46-D
Central Woolen Mills
Buildings #5 & 7



Town: Uxbridge *MRA Ma*

Form #46-D

Central Woolen Mills

right to left

Buildings #15, 13, 14



Town: Uxbridge *MRA, Ma*

Form #46-D

Central Woolen Mill

Buildings #1 & 2(center)



Town: Uxbridge *MA, Ma*
Form #46-D
Central Woolen Mills
Buildings #11 & 12
(foreground)

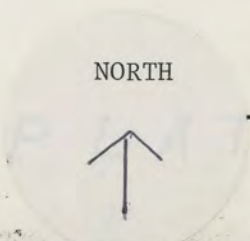
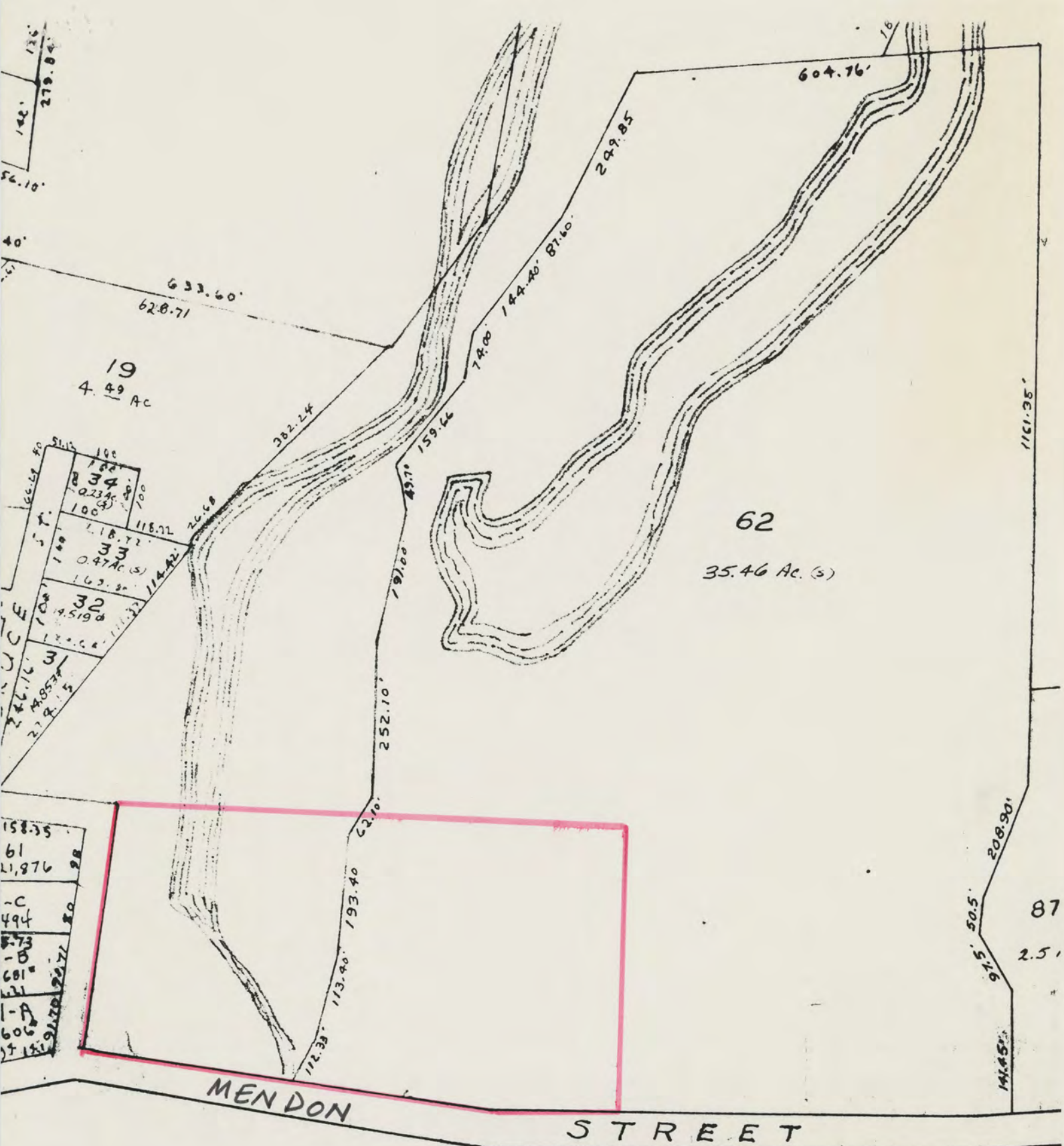


Town: Uxbridge *MRA Ma*

Form #46-D

Central Woolen Mill

Buildings #9 & 10



Uxbridge Multiple Resource Area
 Central Woolen Mills District
 Map #46 Lot #62

Uxbridge Assessors
 1" = 200' 1983

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000299