

FORM A - AREA

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

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
K-5-1	521

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

Photo number _____

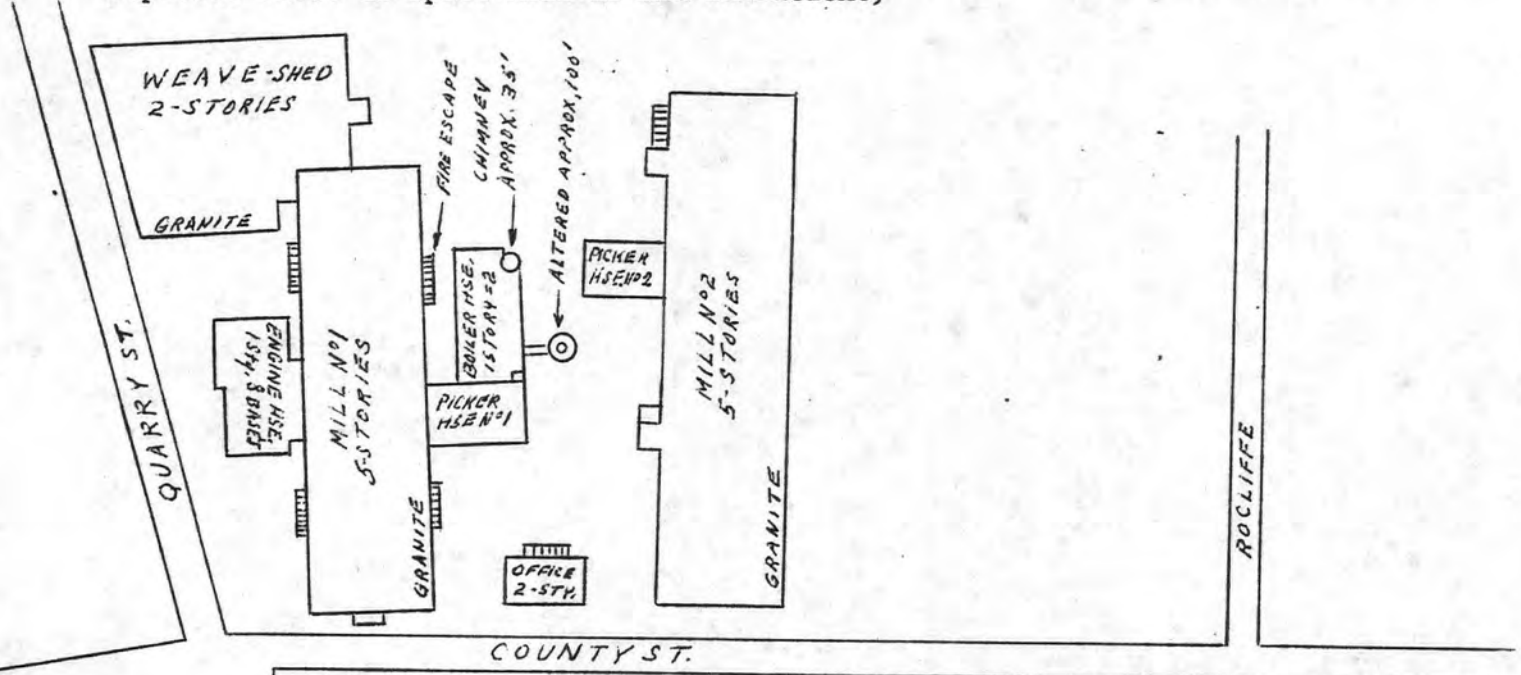
Town Fall River, Mass.

Name of area (if any) Stafford Mills

County Street

General date or period 1872-1896

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)



Recorded by Pereira/Vielmetti/Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 12/30/80

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

Although the organizer of the Stafford Mills is reported to have said, "Towers pay no dividends," and the early parts of the complex have no aesthetic pretensions, the Stafford is nonetheless notable for its site plan, workmanship, harmony of style and proportions, and generally intact quality. The principal buildings are two monumental granite mills, constructed in 1872 and 1888, and an 1896 detached brick Richardsonian Romanesque office which is among the finest of the city's mill offices and is unique in use of this style. The complex is located on a site originally 15 acres at the corner of County and Quarry Streets not far from the upper part of the Quequechan River, from which water was drawn. The 5-story Mill #1 has the characteristic low-pitched roof, 12/12 sash, bracketed wooden cornice, narrow plan (374' X 70') and irregular ashlar walls with parged joints except along the street end, where finished blocks were used. Mill #2 is also 5 stories but is slightly larger (425' X 75') with a later sash type. It was built almost parallel to the first to create a mill yard. Projecting (CONTINUED)

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

The Stafford Mills was one of 15 textile corporations founded between 1871 and 1872 during a period of rapid expansion of the city's manufacturing capacity. The company was organized in 1870 but reorganized in 1871 with a capital of \$550,000. It was named in honor of its founder and first president, Foster H. Stafford, a man who began working in mills as a young boy. At one time Stafford had been superintendent of 3 mills at once--the Fall River, Annawan and Metacomet--and he also served for 10 years as the first superintendent of the highly successful Union Mills. The original treasurer of the Stafford was Shubael P. Lovell. The 1872 Stafford Mill had a capacity of 34,928 spindles and 860 looms and manufactured 10 million yards of print cloth, 64" X 64". The mill was powered by a double Corliss 600 horse power engine, and machinery was partly foreign-made. Instead of buying land and building tenements for its operatives, the company loaned capital to land owners in the neighborhood and took leases on houses erected by them. One hundred forty-four (144) tenements were leased under these terms. The Stafford Mills closed in 1929. Mill #1 is presently used as a furniture showroom and #2 houses light industry and is partly vacant.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Fall River and Its Industries, p. 131-2
- History of Bristol County, Mass. p. 318
- Phillips' History of Fall River, Fascicle II, p. 127
- Barlow Insurance Plan No. 5053, 1878
- 1920 Corporate Millyard Plans
- "Mill Architecture in Fall River," p. 195

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

K-5-1

Property Name:

Stafford Mills

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation)

into the yard are the 1872 picker and boiler houses and 1888 picker house, also of irregular granite ashlar. In 1890 an engine house was added to Mill #1 and in 1890 a large 2-story granite weave shed was attached at the rear. The last building to be erected--the first with any architectural pretension--was the office, which was placed in the front center of the mill yard and provides a visual focus. The 2-story hip-roofed structure in brick with brownstone trim features a typically Richardsonian Syrian arched entrance, above which is a brownstone panel engraved STAFFORD MILLS. The contractor for the office was Beattie & Cornell. The windows, which are rectangular at Level 1 and arched at Level 2, have been blocked in below the transoms. Much of the original sash throughout the complex has also been removed and part of the end wall of Mill #1 has been painted.

The Stafford Mills complex meets criteria A and C of the National Register because of the distinctive and monumental designs of its mills and office buildings and for its role in Fall River's explosion of industrial development during the 1870s.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 1/5/83
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 9 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| 81. St. Joseph's Orphanage | Substantive Review | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 82. St. Louis Church | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 83. St. Mary's Cathedral and Rectory | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 84. St. Patrick's Church | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 85. Stafford Mills | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 86. Union Mills | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 87. Valentine-French House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 88. Wampanoag Mills | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 89. Winslow, Luther Jr., House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |
| 90. Woman's Club of Fall River | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | 2/16/83 <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | Attest | |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Stafford Mills (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83
Action: ACCEPT 2/16/83
Entered in the RETURN
National Register 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 _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
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"/> unexcavated		

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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Fall River MRA, Ma

Stafford Mills

looking north west

(No Neg. See Slide File)



Fall River MRA, Mo

Stafford Mills

Company Office

(No Neg. See Slide File)

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279