

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0668656
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 1 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 18 1978
DATA SHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Florence Mill

AND/OR COMMON

U.S. Envelope Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

121 West Main Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Vernon (Rockville Sect.) VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Connecticut

Tolland

13

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO To be converted to 114 Apartment

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S. Envelope Corporation; Division of Westvaco

STREET & NUMBER

P.O.Box 3300

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mass. 01011

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Town Clerk, Vernon Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

14 Park Place

CITY, TOWN

Vernon

STATE

Connecticut 06066

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original structure, built in 1864, is a four-story brick building with heavy timber floor framing (50' by 204') in an essentially Second Empire style with an Italianate bell tower. It rests on a stone foundation enclosing a full basement and a mill race leading from the Hockanum River; the race has been filled in. Apart from several additions, the addition of a freight elevator and the steel reinforcement of a few floor areas, the building appears to be essentially unaltered. (See attached site plan from survey by Edward O. Gardner Assoc., Tolland, Connecticut done in September 1977). The mill complex is situated in a string of mills; however, the Florence Mill is being individually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because it will soon undergo redevelopment with the assistance of federal funds and the developer wishes to benefit from the historic preservation tax incentives of the 1976 Tax Reform Act.

The floors are maple, over 3 inch splined planks on pairs of 4" X 12" timber on 8' centers. The timbers are supported by a row of wooden columns down the center of each open floor. These timbers are reinforced at times with a king pin truss or more recent welded steel beams. The wooden double-hung windows with recent aluminum storm windows are also in 8' bays on the first, second and third floors, the window openings have reddish sandstone sills and lintels. The mansard-roofed fourth story has gambrel-roofed dormers in every other bay with arched, double-hung wooden windows. Some of the intervening bays have skylights in the flatter portion of the roof, which is tar, while the sides and dormers are of slate. The bell tower has arched loading doors facing the street and a thin pair of rectangular windows on the other two sides topped by an ocular window on all four sides. A pair of ocular windows are located at either end of the top floor. At the top of the tower is a large arched glassless opening where a bell had been hung; the roof has a reverse curve peak which is terminated in a flagpole, now gone.

The two principal additions, each of which is four stories and complete the "U" shape of the overall structure, are virtually identical in construction and detailing on the first three floors, but lack a mansard roof. Rather, the roof is almost flat and the fourth story has the same number of windows as the lower floors, but with segmentally arched lintels trimmed in an Italianate manner. The cornice is wooden, bracketed between each bay. The basement windows are also arched, but without trim. The two-story addition is built in the same manner, although it lacks any windows on its southern side.

The carriage house is a one-and-a-half story, wood-frame, clapboarded building with an intersecting gable roof. Some scalloped shingles in the gable over the loading doors suggest the Queen Anne style and a late nineteenth century date. In the center of the roof is an Italianate cupola with a reverse curve roof similar to that on the bell tower.

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The maintenance garage is on the other side of the river, directly on the river bank. It is vacant 1-1½ story space with large segmentally arched windows trimmed in an Italianate manner similar to the additions on the main building. The roof is supported by riveted steel trusses.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
X1800-1899	XCOMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	XINDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1864, 1882, 1915, BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 1916

The Florence Mill, significant in local history, is a typical but well preserved, example of mill technology and architecture during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The different architectural styles evident in the mill complex illustrate the evolution of architectural taste during this period. The oldest section of the mill, characterized by Second Empire detailing, is presumed to have been constructed in 1864, making this mill an early example of Second Empire architecture in Connecticut.

The Florence Mill of 1864 replaced a structure which had burned in 1851. The older mill was constructed for the manufacture of textiles. In 1855, the Florence Mill employed 65 operators, 24 women and 41 men in the production of satinets.

The mill, containing some 45,000 square feet of manufacturing space. was purchased by White, Corbin and Company in 1881 to house their flourishing envelope business. Until the mid-nineteenth century, letters had been folded upon themselves and sealed, and envelopes were not generally used. In the mid-nineteenth century, envelope-making machinery created a new mass market. In 1898, U.S. Envelope Company was organized, having been formed several competing concerns. White and Corbin was part of this merger.

The U.S. Envelope Company occupied the Florence Mill for manufacturing purposes until 1975, when the company moved its operations to Springfield, Massachusetts. The full range of envelope types had been produced at the mill during its century of use in the envelope manufacturing business.

The Florence Mill retains little of the mechanical apparatus of a water-powered industrial plant. At sometime during its operation, the power-source of the U.S. Envelope Company was converted from a water-driven wheel to a combination turbine-wheel system. Later, electricity generated by the turbines was used. In more recent times, the mill utilized commercial electric power.

In 1882, the top story and bell tower of the mill burned but, they were rebuilt to the original specifications. A birds-eye view of Rockville (drawn before the fire) shows the early portions of the building as they appear today.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Tolland County Journal," June 27, 1867; Vernon Public Library
 "The Red Envelope." February, 1921, No.12"
History of Tolland County, J.R. Cole, W.W. Preston & Co., N.Y.C. 1888
 "History of Vernon & Rockville," Mrs. Gordon Stanley, Unpublished
 manuscript Vernon Public Library, 1936

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.43 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>711300</u>	<u>4637660</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A parcel of land located in the Town of Vernon bounded and described as follows

Northerly by West Main Street
 Easterly by land of Wilcox, Greystone Cabinet & Woodworking, James and Nic D'Agata, Peter Durieko and Sophie Pasternak in part by each Southerly by said Greystone Cabinet & Woodworking, said Durieko, Linden

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	N/A		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Florence Mill Associates
Peter C. Kasch, Project Manager 1/28/78
 ORGANIZATION Barkon Development Corp. DATE
 STREET & NUMBER 1330 Boylston Street TELEPHONE 617-734-9600
 CITY OR TOWN Chestnut Hill STATE Massachusetts 02167

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]
 TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission DATE 5/8/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>[Signature]</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	<u>[Signature]</u> DATE <u>7.18.78</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>7.18.78</u>

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Additions were made in 1915 and 1916; they reflect the more restrained architectural tastes of the early 20th century, but while the roofs are flat, with a simple bracketed cornice and corbel table, they retain the pattern and rhythm of the earlier section's fenestration.

The use of Second Empire detailing on the Florence Mill was in 1864, architecturally avant-garde in the design of a mill building, for that style did not achieve its zenith until the 1870 s.

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Place N/F Penn. Central Railroad Co. and land of LaPointe Industries Inc. in part by each and Westerly by said LaPointe Industries Inc. and Brooklyn Properties Lts. Said parcel contains 6.43 acres.

SCALE: 1"=40'



Hockanum River
Ownership not established

MAINTENANCE GARAGE
1/2 STORY BRICK C. 1915

1 STORY MACHINE ROOM
C. 1920 BRICK
2 STORY ADDITION
C. 1880 BRICK
SHED

4 STORY ADDITION
1915
BRICK
Elevator
217 St.
285 St.

LOADING DOCK
C. 1930
WOOD

4 STORY ADDITION
1916
BRICK

1864
FLORENCE MILL
4 STORY BRICK
& HEAVY TIMBER

CARLSON HOUSE
1 STORY
FRAME
C. 1890

West Main St.
No. 121

