

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**PH 0668656
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 1

DATA SHEET

DATE ENTERED

JUL 18 1978

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Vernon (Rockville Sect.) VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Connecticut

Tolland

/3

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO To be converted to 14 Apartment	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

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

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Vernon

Connecticut 06066

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Italinate 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 storms 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				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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 satinetts.

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 1 1 8 7 1 1 3 0 0 4 6 3 7 6 6 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
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	
ORGANIZATION	Peter C. Kasch, Project Manager	1/28/78
STREET & NUMBER	Barkon Development Corp.	DATE
CITY OR TOWN	1330 Boylston Street	617-734-9600
		TELEPHONE
		STATE
	Chestnut Hill	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 

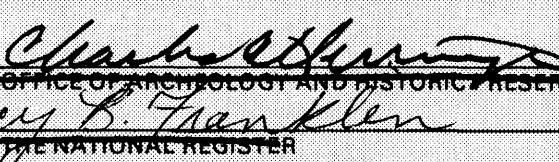
TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE 5/8/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: 

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-18-78

NUMBER ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-18-78

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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.

