

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 10 1978
DATE ENTERED FEB 9 1979

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
Winooski Falls Mill District
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North bank of Winooski River ^{to Center & Canal Sts, S down to} at Winooski
~~Falls and approximately 950'~~ on south bank NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Burlington & Winooski VICINITY OF Vermont CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Vermont CODE 50 COUNTY Chittenden CODE 07

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Multiple (See Continuation Sheet)
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Burlington & Winooski VICINITY OF Vermont STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Assessor's Office, City Hall City Clerk's Office, City Hall
STREET & NUMBER Church Street 27 West Allen Street
CITY, TOWN Burlington Winooski STATE Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> _EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> _MOVED DATE_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Winooski Falls Mill District covers approximately 20.6 acres at the southern edge of the City of Winooski, and extends across the Winooski River to include a portion of the City of Burlington. The District contains ten structures, the focal points of which are three large mills and their associated wheelhouses, penstocks, and raceways. Nearly all the structures are of brick and stone construction, and span the period 1837-1912. The structures and power canals are in a variety of conditions, from good to ruins.

The structures in the District are as follows:

1. Chase Cotton Mill, 1892.

The only building in the District located in the City of Burlington, the Chase Mill was constructed at the upper falls by the Burlington Cotton Mill Company. It is a massive brick structure, 33 bays long, rising three stories on the west end but only two on the east because of a large rock outcropping. The windows are very tall, much larger than is found in residential use, to light the work areas and are set in segmentally-arched surrounds. Water to power the machinery entered through two head gates connected to the upper dam. One gate opens into a small sluiceway and directly behind the gate is a horizontally placed wheel. The gearing mechanism to change the direction of the power produced and transferred it to machinery inside the mill is still intact. The other gate controls water entering an open iron flume which leads to the remains of a large wheelhouse from an earlier mill on the site.

2. Champlain Mill, 1912.

Constructed of brick above a battered concrete foundation, it rises five stories above the river. The main section is 28 bays (280 feet) on the river facade, and eight bays (100 feet) on the side facades. A slightly smaller one-story clerestory rests on the nearly flat roof. At the west end of the mill a small square tower rises two stories above the main mass, and its flat roof and corbelled corner brackets impart an Italianate sense to the building. Windows in the main block are very large and set within segmental arches. Each window is centrally divided by a heavy mullion and each has a transom bar approximately one-third of the distance from the top. Each window thus contains a total of 42 panes. Basement windows on the river facade are shortened due to the foundation, and consist of only the 12 panes above the transom bar.

The building has a hint of a cornice, created by corbelling out four courses, so that the arches of the top story windows are in deeper reveals than those below.

At the northeast corner of the building is a rectangular tower, one story taller than the main mass. It contains the most elaborate decorative elements of the building which is still minimal. All ornament is structural rather than applied, and is all done by corbelling. Corner pilasters project slightly, creating visual buttresses, and their corbelled capitals support a plain corbelled entablature. The wooden eaves project to reinforce the Italianate sense of the main block.

3 and 4. Intrusions.

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5. The commercial block at 22 Lower Main Street was built c. 1845. A 2-1/2 story, three-bay Greek Revival commercial structure, it was constructed of brick with a gable end fronting on Main Street. Around 1890, another story was added, and the gable front was replaced with simple corbelled brick bands. The original storefront was removed and three new ones added at that time. The building has been painted several colors since its construction.

6. The residence at 22 West Canal Street is a simple, three-bay, 2-1/2 story workman's cottage. Constructed in the 1850's, the frame building was originally clad in clapboards and had a slate roof. It has undergone numerous alterations, including the changing of window and door openings, and sheathing of the walls in asphalt shingles.

7. Colchester Millyard, standing on a large rock outcropping at a bend in the Winooski, was built in several stages from c. 1860 to 1902. The predominant style of the buildings is Romanesque Revival. Major portions of the complex include the Colchester Merino Mill, which runs generally north-south; it is three stories, brick, with large rectangular 20-pane windows under three-course segmental arches. Completed in 1880, its interior is heavy beam construction. The building was extended to the south in 1902 by the addition of a 150-foot long wing of similar design, spanning the existing raceway.

Attached to the west of this building is the Winooski Worsted Mill, built in 1895 and incorporating parts of a c. 1860 mill. Generally similar in design to the Colchester Merino Mill, it is also brick, with windows set in relieving arches. Because of the severity of the slope upon which it is built, the basement level is heavily buttressed. The interior wood beam construction is further strengthened by an elaborate metal tie-rod system. The mill spans a section of the earlier canal to the Burlington Woolen Mill.

As built, the Winooski Worsted Mill was not connected to the Colchester Mill; the attachment was accomplished by means of a 1902 addition.

8. Substantial portions of the water-power systems remain, the most significant of which is the wheelhouse. At the Colchester Merino Mill, water passed under the building through a sluiceway which was a section of the earlier canal. Flow of water underneath the mill was controlled by a set of four head gates at the bend of the Winooski River. Beneath the mill, a pair of sluice gates controlled entry of water into two penstocks. One of these led to the wheelhouse, which now contains a water turbine. Built to power an earlier mill, it was enlarged when the Colchester Merino Mill was constructed. The second penstock leads to the remains of another wheelhouse. It was built before 1880 and may have been constructed for one of the additions to the Burlington Mill (#11).

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9. The Mill Office was built c. 1880 in the Colchester Millyard off West Canal Street. A five-bay structure with central entrance, it is two stories on the street facade and three bays in the rear, due to the steeply sloping site. Like the other buildings in the yard, it is brick and utilizes simple Romanesque Revival detailing.

10. Mill Boarding House, c. 1840.

Adjacent to the Colchester Millyard, the boarding house was built to house mill workers. It is vaguely Greek Revival in stylistic aspiration, revealed in the narrow cornice returns on the gable (Weaver Street) elevation. This facade is three bays wide with a central entrance. The two-story building is brick over a stone foundation.

The long West Canal Street facade is 18 bays long, and originally contained six row houses each three bays wide. These included a door and two windows on the first floor and two windows on the second. A brick parapet extends above the gabled roof at the center of the long facade. The building has been altered for commercial use.

11. Remains of original Burlington Woolen Mill.

Built in 1837, the mill was constructed of local stone and rose five stories plus clerestory and stair tower with cupola. (See enclosed copy of c. 1865 lithograph.) The mill was powered by a large canal running under the building. Fire destroyed the building in 1961.

12. Timber dam at lower falls, built 1837.

The dam created a pond which provided power for the Burlington Woolen Mill, and later for the Colchester Merino Mill. The dam was heavily damaged in the Flood of 1927 which devastated Vermont, and it was never repaired.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Winooski Falls Mill District is significant for its association with the City's historic role as a major textile center. The city still reflects the strong heritage of the mills' Irish and French-Canadian workers and the institutions they began. The Winooski Falls Mill District also presents an important record of industrial archeology. The District's mill complex grew almost continuously for seventy-five years and so provides a unique look at the evolution and adaptation of mill structures and their associated power systems into the rugged topography along the falls.

Winooski's early settlers were quick to take advantage of the energy available from the two sets of falls in the Winooski River. In 1786, Ira Allen, one of the town's founders, built a dam across the river at the upper falls, and constructed sawmills at each end to produce lumber for the Quebec and British markets. Allen's mill was the first in a line of business ventures that were attracted to the river because of the power available at the site.

In 1835, a group of Burlington businessmen organized the Burlington Mill Company and secured title to all the water privileges on the Colchester (now Winooski) side of the river in what was then known as the Village of Winooski Falls. In 1837, the Burlington Woolen Mill (#11) and its power canal were constructed below the lower falls. During its earliest years, the Burlington Woolen Company employed single girls similar to the system established earlier in Lowell, Massachusetts. Housing for the factory operatives was built around a large common which climbed the hill to the village's meeting house in a series of terraces.

In 1846, the Winooski Mill Company was organized to manufacture cotton products, and the Winooski Mill was built on the Burlington side of the river by the upper falls. The Winooski Mill Company remained in operation until 1888, when it was reorganized as the Burlington Cotton Mill.

On the Winooski side of the river, frequent changes in ownership of the mill complex and wool business occurred throughout the early history of the original mill. In 1860, however, one of the mill's owners discovered a new cleaning process which made wool production more profitable. In the 1860's, the effects of the "cotton famine" combined with new management under the Burlington Woolen Company to produce a period of dramatic expansion for the mills. New mills were built and replaced in a matter of years. Water systems, and new steam-power systems were continuously constructed and adapted to meet expanding production needs and the demands of the site. This rapid growth in the textile industry brought to the village large numbers of French-Canadian and Irish workers, along with their respective cultures and social institutions. In the 1880's and 1890's, the Colchester Merino Mill and Winooski

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Woolen Company, American Woolen Company Mills, Boston, 1921,
 Burlington Free Press, 1849-1952.
 Carlisle, Lillian Baker, Look Around Winooski, George Little Press, Burlington, 1972.
 Rann, W. S., History of Chittenden County, Vermont, D. Mason & Company, Syracuse, 1886.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20
 UTM REFERENCES E 18/643865/4927640 G 18/644340/4927720
 F 18/643960/4927830

A	1,8	6,4,4	4,0,5	4,9	2,7	6,7,5	B	1,8	6,4,4	4,1,5	4,9	2,7	4,8,5
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,8	6,4,4	1,2,0	4,9	2,7	4,7,0	D	1,8	6,4,4	0,0,0	4,9	2,7	3,7,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

NO 2/5/78 TELEPHONE SLIP

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Hugh A. Boyd, Architect, Vision, Inc. / Roger Brevoort, Historic Preservation Program
 ORGANIZATION DATE University of Vermont

Winooski Community Development May 9, 1978
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

27 West Allen Street 802-655-0773
 CITY OR TOWN STATE

Winooski Vermont 05404

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

William B. Pinney

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/30/78

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles A. Henry

DATE *2/7/79*

ATTEST:

Anna Mae Boyd

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/5/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Worsted Mill (#7) were built. In 1902, the American Woolen Company bought the entire Burlington Woolen Company and expanded the mills into one of the most modern woolen plants in the country. The Champlain Mill (#2) was constructed in 1912. By the 1920's, the American Woolen Company at Winooski Falls was one of the state's largest employers, and provided both economic and social focus for the village.

In 1922, the village split off from the Town of Colchester, incorporating itself as the City of Winooski. Just five years later, disaster struck the city and the mills when a major flood of the Winooski River destroyed the two dams and damaged the mills extensively. The city never fully recovered. The American Woolen Company closed down its Winooski operations in 1954, leaving behind the mills, wheelhouses, and canals as a testament to Winooski's textile dominance.

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The boundaries of the Winooski Falls Mill District are described as follows:

beginning at a Point A, the intersection of the north bank of the Winooski River with the extension in a southwesterly direction of the western boundary of the Dichter Realty property (containing the Colchester Mill, #7 on map) proceeding generally northeast along said extension and property line, and its extension in a northeasterly direction, to Point B, the intersection with the centerline of West Canal Street; thence proceeding generally southeast along said centerline to Point C, the intersection with the centerline of Mayo Street; thence proceeding generally northeast along the latter centerline to Point D, the intersection with the centerline of West Center Street; thence proceeding generally southeast along the latter centerline to Point E, the intersection with centerline of Weaver Street; thence proceeding generally southwest along the latter centerline to Point F, the intersection with the centerline of West Canal Street; thence proceeding generally southeast and east along the centerline of West Canal Street and East Canal Street to Point G, the intersection of said centerline with the westernmost edge of the driveway on the west side of the building facing north on East Canal Street in Phase I of the Winooski Urban Renewal project; thence proceeding south along said western edge to Point H, where said driveway turns east; thence proceeding east along the south edge of said driveway and its extension in an easterly direction to Point I, the intersection of said extension with a line running north and south and passing through a point 200 feet east of the easternmost wall of the Champlain Mill (#2); thence proceeding south along said line, crossing the Winooski River into the City of Burlington, to Point J, the northeastern corner of the property of Anwimo Associates, containing the Chase Cotton Mill; thence proceeding generally south, along the eastern boundary of said property, to Point K, the southeastern corner of said property; thence proceeding generally west, along the southern boundary of said property, to Point L, the southwestern corner of said property; thence proceeding generally northwest, along the western boundary of said property and its extension in a northwesterly direction, to Point M, the intersection of this extension with the centerline of ^{MILL} Bartlett Street; thence proceeding generally west along said centerline, and its extension in a westerly direction, to Point N, the intersection with the Winooski-Burlington boundary; thence proceeding generally south, southwest, north, and northwest, along said boundary to Point O, a point on said boundary from which a line drawn to Point A (the point of beginning) intersects the line from Point A to Point B at right angles to Point A; thence proceeding generally northwest along said line to Point A, the point of beginning.

422 2/5
BARTLETT STREET
MILL

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#4 WINOOSKI FALLS MILL DISTRICT - OWNER ✓

BURLINGTON

MILL
Bartlet Street

1. Chase Cotton Mill

Anwimo Associates
Mill Street; Burlington, Vermont 05401

WINOOSKI

East Canal Street

2. Champlain Woolen Mill

Winooski Real Estate Trust
10 Kearney; Needham, Massachusetts 02192

Lower Main Street

3. Contemporary intrusion (4)

Rodney Myers
127 West Street; Winooski, Vermont 05404

4. Contemporary intrusion (6-8)

Louis Lapidou
129 Prospect Parkway; Burlington, Vermont
05401

5. Commercial block (22)

John O'Brien
149 Ferguson; Burlington, Vermont 05401

West Canal Street

6. Private residence (22)

Ernest Le Sage
129 South Willard Street; Burlington,
Vermont 05401

7. Colchester Mill (24-28)

Dichter Realty Corporation
11 Clements Street; Newton,
Massachusetts 02158

8. Old Wheelhouse & Penstock

Green Mountain Power Company
1 Main Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401

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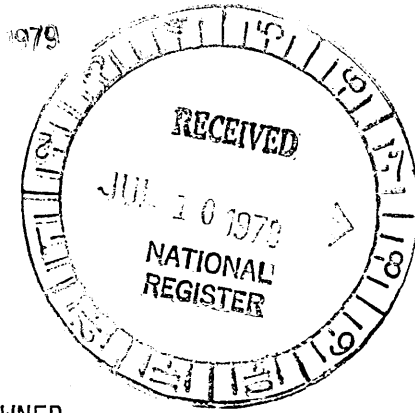
PAGE 3

West Canal Street (cont.)

9. Mill Office (30) Regular Veterans Association
30 West Canal Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
11. Remains of Burlington Woolen Mill Edward Matte
320 Malletts Bay Avenue
Winooski, Vermont 05404
12. Remains of Timber Dam Green Mountain Power Company
One Main Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401

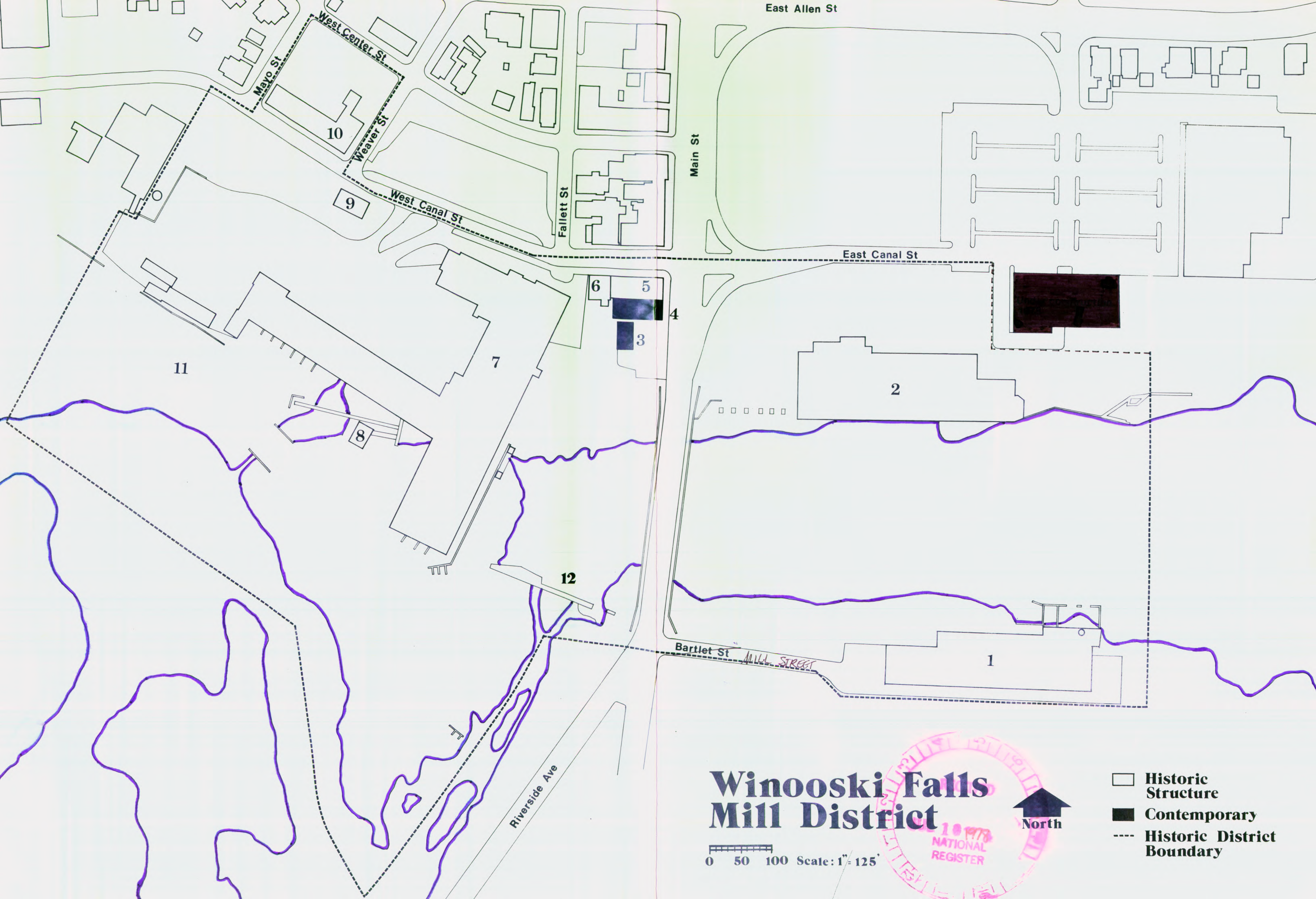
Weaver Street

10. Mill Boarding House Julia Melanson
24 Weaver Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404



WINOOSKI FALLS MILL DISTRICT BUILDINGS




<u>NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OWNER</u>
1	Chase Cotton Mill	1892	Anwimo Associates
2	Champlain Woolen Mill	1912	Winooski Real Estate Trust
3	Contemporary intrusion		Rodney Myers
4	Contemporary intrusion		Louis Lapidou
5	Commercial block	c.1850	John O'Brien
		c.1880	
6	Private residence	c.1850	Ernest Le Sage
7	Colchester Millyard	c.1860	Dichter Realty Corporation
		1880	
		1895	
		1902	
8	Old Wheelhouse & Penstocks	c.1850	Green Mountain Power
		1880	
9	Mill Office	c.1880	Regular Veterans Association
10	Mill Boarding House	c.1840	Julia Melanson
11	Remnants of Burlington Woolen Mill	1837	Edward Matte
12	Timber Dam	1837	Green Mountain Power



Winooski Falls Mill District

0 50 100 Scale: 1" = 125'



-  Historic Structure
-  Contemporary
-  Historic District Boundary

