NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

844



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Whitman Mills

other names/site number

## 2. Location

street & number 1, 90 and east side Riverside Ave., south side, north side and rear 1 Coffin Ave., 10 Manomet St.
__ not for publication

city or town New Bedford __ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02746

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

for Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director 7/8/03

Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☑ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall 8/29/03

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- x private
- _ public-local
- _ public-State
- _ public-Federal

(Check only one box)

- _ building(s)
- x district
- _ site
- _ structure
- _ object

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | | building |
| 1 | | sites |
| 2 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 14 | | Total |

**Name of related multiple property listing**
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing facility

Vacant/not in use

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick/stone/concrete

walls brick

roof tar and gravel/rubber

other

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Narrative Description *(continued)*

The complex of the former Whitman Mills is located on a 15.88 acre site between Riverside Avenue and the Acushnet River at the base of Coffin Avenue and Manomet Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Although Nash's Point, the promontory on which it stands, was planned as a subdivision to be named Riverside Park, it was occupied around the turn of the last century by several industrial plants and associated worker housing.

The Whitman Mills consist of a well-preserved grouping of 2-story, flat-roofed, brick buildings with utilitarian Romanesque Revival detailing configured to form a complex, narrow, U-shaped plan opening to Manomet Street. The extant plant is comprised of Mill No. 1 (1895) with attached No. 1 Engine House, Pipe House and Pump House; the Office Building (1895); Mill No. 2 (1902) including the saw tooth-roofed Weave Shed No. 2 (1902) and a Carpentry/Machine Shop (1902). Additionally, a free-standing, 3-story, trapezoidal-plan, brick, 72'-80' x 61', flat-roofed, Waste House (1920) and an adjacent, 1-story, rectangular, brick, Store House stand on the south side of Coffin Avenue opposite the south elevation of the main complex. A free-standing, trapezoidal-plan, brick, saw tooth-roofed Weave Shed No. 1 (368' x 585'-381') with attached Head House (368' x 78'-29'), formerly located across Riverside Avenue from Mill No. 1, was demolished by the city in 1950. Three, high, 1-story, ancillary buildings: an 80'-75' x 25' Turbine House, No. 2 Engine House, an 80' x 51' Boiler House and a 205' chimney, formerly in the mill yard near the junction of the weave shed with Mill No. 2, were removed c. 1960 (see attached diagram, Mill Yard Whitman Mills). Despite these losses, the plant remains enormous. Mill No. 1 at 90 Riverside Avenue is the most visible of the factory buildings. It commands the east side of the streetscape of Riverside Avenue for four blocks at the base of Coffin and Philips Avenues, Collette, and Davis Streets.

The Whitman Mill Nos. 1 and 2, like several other factories in the city, were designed by noted industrial architect Charles R. Makepeace of Providence, Rhode Island and built by prominent builder Benjamin F. Smith of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. An addition to Mill No. 2 (1923) and renovations to the Waste House (1923) were designed by the local architectural/ engineering firm, Leary and Walker (Frank J. Leary and Frank A. Walker) of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Nearly all of the New Bedford's textile mills were constructed in the Late Industrial Period (1870-1915) as the city was transformed from a whaling port to an industrial city focused on the manufacture of fine cotton textiles. Characteristic of factories in the city, the Whitman Mill complex is comprised of brick, pier and masonry spandrel buildings. Standard mill construction of plank on timber roofs and floors variously on wood trusses, steel beams, or steel trusses, with some boards on joists and concrete is used throughout. Automatic sprinklers were utilized in every part of the plant.

Functional in design, buildings display little ornamentation other than corbeled cornices and segmental-arched surrounds defined by radiating voussoirs and granite sills on the regularly spaced fenestration. Despite the introduction of electric lighting in the 1880s, abundant daylight continued to be the most important source of illumination to textile manufacture. Natural light remained cheaper and better suited to close work. Concentration of strength in the pilaster-and-panel masonry construction maximized the potential size of window openings. Regularity of bays in the structure engendered consistency

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

of the size and placement of fenestration promoting even lighting and ventilation. This uniformity not only serves the pragmatic but also the aesthetic in providing a sense of organization and dignity to the elevations of the mills. Oversized, five-foot-wide by ten-foot-high, double-hung sash windows surmounted by nearly three-foot-high, fixed transoms used on the 125 foot wide Mill No. 1 built in 1896 are surpassed by even larger casement and fixed windows with operable transoms used on the narrower, 104 foot-wide Mill No. 2 erected in 1902. Characteristic of "light" monitors in manufacturing space, the interior of the top floor of Mill No. 1 is further illuminated by a six-foot high clerestory over the entire width of its central interior bay. Evidence suggests no such monitor existed on Mill No. 2. No 2 Weave Shed (1902) is immediately identifiable by its sawtooth roof which by the last decade of the 19th century had become the common roof form for such buildings in the textile industry. Technical advances which made available faster machinery with electric drives and improved heating, ventilating and caulking systems which eliminated leaking and overheating promoted adoption of this roof type. Increased vibration caused by the new machinery enhanced interest in 1-story weave sheds. The greater illumination provided by the sawtooth roof allowed for much wider structures as evidenced by 301' x 303' Weave Shed No. 2.

Some window openings on all buildings have been in-filled with brick or accommodated with replacement windows. Fiberglass panels have been installed in nearly all others, but large-scale, original sash remains underneath in a majority of cases. Historical photographs indicate the main mill yard was initially surrounded by a high wooden picket fence (not extant).

Only Weave Shed No 2 continues in operation as a textile manufactory. It is the only building which retains textile machinery, although a few remnants of millwork may randomly exist.

**Mill No. 1**

Detail on the flat-roofed, 2 ½-story, 980' x 125', rectangular, Mill No. 1 (Photo Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9) is limited to radiating voussoirs above the segmentally-arched windows with granite sills. Fenestration consists of oversized, 15/20, double-hung sash surmounted by double-row, ten-light, segmental-arched transoms. Currently all are covered with fiberglass panels. The roofline is defined by a granite curb and includes a 6'-high, 3 bay-wide, center monitor (Photo Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). Evident on both the side elevations, originally it extended only about three-quarters the length of the building from the south end.

The, flat plane of the 121-bay facade (west) of Mill No. 1 along Riverside Avenue originally boasted regular window bays, an off-center main entrance, secondary entries at each end bay (north and south) and three interspersed doorways. Openings for each access are slightly wider than window apertures. In the second and thirtieth bays (from the northwest corner), upper-level window openings have been altered to a mid-floor level then subsequently in-filled with brick. This

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

fundamental regularity has been interrupted by three modern entries installed to accommodate retail uses in the 1950s or 1960s (Photo No. 5). The original, off-center, main entry in bays 71 and 72 (from the northwest corner) was enhanced only by a stepped up section of the parapet between bays 68 and 75. The currently-boarded, projecting, modern, 1-story, flat-roofed, metal and glass, enclosure with concrete base and concrete ramps running both north and south (scheduled to be removed in the certified rehabilitation) stands in its place occupying bays 62 to 81 (Photos No. 2 and 5).

Another original doorway in bay 44 has been supplanted by installation of an open, modern entry (scheduled to be removed in the certified rehabilitation). Adjacent window openings encompassing first floor bays 42 to 46 have been in-filled with cement block, glass block or plywood. Accessed by a modern, concrete platform with concrete stairs at the north and south ends and defined by the application of mosaic tiles, the modern entry is surmounted by a flat, corrugated metal hood supported by chains hung from the brick elevation.

Similar to but smaller than the new entrance in the area of the original main entry, a modern, 1-story, flat-roofed, metal and glass, enclosure with concrete base and concrete ramps running both north and south (scheduled to be removed in the certified rehabilitation) stands in bays 20 to 22 (Photo No. 5).

In the early 1960s, a small, 2-story, flat-roofed, brick, 1-bay x 1-bay addition with 1-story, shed-roofed, projecting, enclosed entry was added to the southwest corner of Mill No. 1 (Photos No. 1, 2, 3 and 4). Its detail of segmental-arched windows and multi-pane sash mimics that of the mill, but the 1-story, shed-roofed projection, double-leafed aluminum and glass doors and modern red brick distinguish its contemporary identity. The original exterior corner walls of the mill remain intact at this corner, but affected window openings on the facade (east) and south elevation have been in-filled with cement block. The third bay from the southwest corner of the facade had been in-filled with cement block and lowered to create an entrance with flush panel metal door accessed by brick edged concrete platform and north facing lateral stairs with a pipe rail.

The only extant original entrance on the facade stands in the northwest corner (Photo No.5). It consists of double-leafed, 6-panel, wooden doors with square light beneath a large, fixed 24-light transom. The original stairs have been replaced by a modern wooden platform with lateral stairs to the south. Historical photographs including those of the north and south elevations suggest similar original entries existed in the larger first floor openings in bays 34, 79 and 95 (from the northwest corner). Each has been replaced with flush panel wooden doors. Absent original plans for confirmation, evidence in the lack of exterior and interior stairs in each case suggests these openings were intended as loading docks.

Originally a symmetrical, 15-bay configuration with regular window bays centered on both floors by loading docks with double leafed wooden doors, the north elevation of Mill No. 1 (Photo No. 6) has been both enlarged and modified. Early in the 20th century, three regular bays were added to the east as the north side of a 25' x 70' addition which leads to a 14' x 11' water closet tower in the northeast corner resulting in an irregular, 19-bay formation. Flush panel, double-leafed, metal doors have replaced original, double-leafed, wooden doors in loading dock openings. Other modifications to accommodate

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

truck transport were made in the second half of the 20th century. The original, uncovered loading platform in the center bay has been extended through the adjacent two eastern bays where first floor windows have been removed and converted to loading docks. These two window openings retain their original width, but have been lowered to meet an open section of the enlarged concrete open platform and have been fitted with metal overhead doors surmounted by plywood panels. On the first floor, six of the nineteen window openings (the third through ninth bays from the northeast corner) have been blocked with brick or a combination of louvered panels and brick in-fill. The seventh bay has been modified to a truck dock of the same width by lowering the opening and installing an overhead door surmounted by a louvered panel. All basement window openings east of the loading dock have been bricked-in.

The westernmost 3 bays of the 15-bay south elevation of Mill No. 1 (Photo Nos. 1, 2, and 3) are covered by the modern addition in the southwest corner or in-filled with cement block. Asymmetrical by design, loading docks were originally located on both levels in the fifth bay from the southwest corner. The upper dock opening, originally closed by double-leafed wooden doors beneath a 24-light transom, was first reduced then completely bricked-in. It remains denoted by brick detailing and granite sill. The first floor opening has been modified into a truck dock with an overhead door. First level window openings in the seventh and ninth bays from the southwest corner have been also lowered to create truck docks. Pedestrian access has been created in the fourth bay by lowering the window opening, installing a cottage door with frame in-fill and an open simple wooden platform on posts with lateral-access, open-tread stairway.

The regularity of the east elevation of Mill No. 1 (Photo No. 7, 8 and 9) is interrupted by: 2-story, 24' x 10', 3 x 1-bay water closet towers at bays 44 through 46 and 95 through 97 from the northeast corner; the abutting 54' wide west wall of the Office Building at its southeast corner, and the attached and interconnected clustered brick structure of the 2-story, 62' x 15' Pipe Shop; 2-story high, 55' x 36' Boiler Room and the 1-story, 39' x 15' Pump House with 27' x 18' addition abutting bays 68 through 74 from the northeast corner with a 1-story, 27' x 18' projection adjacent to the north elevation of the Boiler Room. Occupying the corner between the mill and the Pipe Shop is a modern, 2-bay, 1 ½-story, shed-roof, windowless, 2-sided, corrugated metal enclosure added in the late 20th century to shelter an additional staircase. The flat-roofed, water closet towers are starkly detailed like the main mill. Side (north and south) elevations are blank; illumination is provided by the thee windows on the east wall.

The flat-roofed, 2-story, rectangular, 62' x 15', Pipe Shop (Photo Nos. 9 and 13) consists of blank walls except for a single, segmental-arched window with granite sill on each level of the south elevation and a door at the bottom of the east face. An electric shop on the second floor sat over the pipe shop on the first floor. Lacking an exterior exposure, a 15'-wide, brick-walled ropeway which housed a rope drive separates the Pipe Shop and Pump House. The ropeway extends 39' from the Boiler Room into the interior of the first floor of Mill No. 1 where dynamos were formerly located.

The shallow, hip roof of the rectangular-plan Boiler House (Photo Nos. 7, 9 and 13), formerly known as No. 1 Engine House, shelters one high expanse. A brick chimney penetrates the south slope and a clerestory along the west slope remains in place, but has been boarded. The north elevation is blank except for a door leading to the roof of the Pump

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

House. Two window bays define the exposed portion of the south elevation. Ornamentation is reserved to the east elevation defined by three, large, round-arched openings with radiating voussoirs. Two of these openings have been in-filled with cement block as have the two window openings in the off-set bays above. A modern, wooden, overhead door has been installed in the center arched opening.

The shallow, shed-roofed, rectangular, 39' x 15' Pump House, between the Boiler Room and Mill No. 1 is exposed only on its 2-bay, north elevation. It has a 2-bay, flat-roofed, accreted, 27' x 18 section with blank west elevation and 2 window openings blocked with plywood extending its 2-bay north elevation along that of the Boiler Room. The eastern window bay of the shed-roofed section remains denoted by its segmental arch, but has been in-filled with brick and fitted with a modern flush panel door accessed by a concrete stoop and stairs with pipe rail.

Two, large, modern, poured-concrete ramps leading to second-story loading docks (the north ramp, in place by 1954 was removed and original window openings were restored in the certified rehabilitation) had been introduced abutting both the north and south ends of the east elevation of Mill No. 1. The 1½-bay wide, 2½-bay deep, enclosed docking area on the north end of Mill No. 1 abutted the projecting, 2-bay, south face of the 81' x 23' projecting addition. The eastern opening had been in-filled with cement block. The western opening had been widened to accommodate an overhead door. A projecting cement block and poured concrete, shed-roofed enclosure has been added at the top of the southern ramp (post 1954) and abuts at approximately bays 103 and 104. It shelters two wooden overhead garage doors and one pedestrian door.

Additional loading docks have been added by lowering existing window openings on the first floor of the 10-bay east elevation where the projecting addition has been built. Openings in the third, fourth and seventh bays (from the southeast corner) of the addition have been partially bricked beneath the transom. Modern, metal overhead doors have been installed in the fourth and seventh bays. A flush-panel, wooden door has been added to the third bay. A concrete platform has been added beneath the third and fourth bays from the southeast corner.

**Mill No. 2**

Other buildings in the complex are separately owned. The 2½ -story, flat-roofed, 570' x 104', rectangular, main part of Mill No. 2 (Photo Nos. 10,11, 18 and 19), also designed by Charles R. Makepeace and built by Benjamin F. Smith, is nearly identical to Mill No. 1. Fenestration differs in being slightly larger and comprised of paired, 18-pane, casement and fixed-sash windows beneath 12-light, segmental-arched transoms, a window type characteristic of many local mill buildings. Most window openings have been covered with fiberglass panels, but original sash predominantly remains beneath. In a few instances, sections of original wooden sash have been replaced with inserts of aluminum and glass oversized, jalousie sash. A third story existed on Mill No. 2 and was removed between 1924 and 1951. Record of a building permit for the demolition was not found, but physical evidence of the removal may be suggested by the application of a metal cornice cap

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

opposed to the granite curb utilized on Mill No. 1. Detail is similarly spare to Mill No.1, limited to radiating voussoirs and granite sills on openings.

On the west elevation of Mill No. 2 (Photo Nos. 10 and 11), the main entry is located at the northwest corner. The original, multi-light transom remains, but modern, double-leafed, metal doors with 4-light, upper panels and solid lower panels have replaced original, double-leafed, wooden doors. The entrance is accessed by preformed concrete stairs with wrought iron railing. An original loading dock between the first and second floors in bay 9 from the northwest corner has been in-filled with brick. Another original loading dock at bay 48 from the northwest corner continues to be utilized. It is now sheltered by a metal canopy set on metal posts. On the first floor, a truck dock has been inserted into the 25th bay from the northwest corner. A metal pedestrian door and metal panel surmounted by fire escapes connecting the first and second floors has been installed in both bays 27 and 28. Metal doors have also been installed on the second floor in the 28th bay. Basement windows in alternating bays have been in-filled with cement block. A modern, 2-story high, 46 x 22, red cement-block tower has been built to project off the two southern end bays of the elevation.

New construction has been added to the 9-bay north elevation of Mill No. 2 (Photo No. 10). A concrete block 3-bay loading dock has been attached at oblique angle on its west end. A pedestrian entrance with pre-formed concrete stairs and wrought iron railing has also been built between the dock and the plane of the mill. On the second floor about ½ of the original fenestration remains beneath fiberglass panels. Others windows consist of aluminum replacements of awning jalousie sash half or 3/4 or more covered with fiberglass panels.

The regular bays of the east elevation of Mill No. 2 are interfused by two, flat-roofed, unornamented, water closet towers. One stands at bay 18, another at bays 38 and 39 from the northwest corner. Each tower has blank wall north and south elevations. The 14' x 10', northern tower has a two-bay east elevation. The larger 24' x 10' southern tower has thee-bay east elevation.

A 1-story, 3 x 2 bay, rectangular, 55' x 30' Opening House projects off the south end of Mill No. 2 adjacent to the north wall of No. 2 Weave Shop. Its flat roof has a saw tooth monitor whose fenestration has been covered with roofing material. Roof detail includes a corbeled cornice. Fenestration on the Opening House differs. Double-leaved, 18-pane, casement windows without transoms sit in the segmentally-arched openings with radiating voussoirs and granite sills.

**No. 2 Weave Shed**

The 301' x 303', 1 ½-story, saw tooth-roofed No. 2 Weave Shed (Photo Nos. 12, 13, 16 and 17), built in 1902 as designed by Charles R. Makepeace, has a 2-story section fronting on Coffin Avenue. The second story was added in 1923 according to the design of the firm Leary and Walker. Wall detail on the L-shaped, saw tooth-roofed weave shed includes pilasters which define corbeled bays centered by segmental-arched, 10-light, fixed windows with radiating voussoirs and granite

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

sills and similar basement windows. On both the east and west elevations, a simple open horizontal-slat, wooden railing protects a walkway above the wooden cornice supported by large ancons.

On the 11-bay, 1-story section of the west elevation of No. 2 Weave Shed (Photo Nos. 12 and 13), nearly the entire wall area between pilasters in bays 6, 7 and 8 from the southwest corner has been removed to create recessed loading spaces. The sixth and seventh bays are closed only by chain-link gates. The eighth bay is secured by a large, metal overhead door. Modern openings have been added to the second and fourth bays from the southwest corner to created truck docks. The dock which centers the second bay supplants the original window opening. The smaller dock in the fourth bay has a smaller off center opening which left the window intact. Subsequently abandoned, this dock has been in-filled with cement block. The southernmost bay of the 1-story section of the west elevation is centered by a segmental-arched opening for a recessed entry which retains a wooden stair and match stick paneling.

The north elevation of No. 2 Weave Shed projects out 3 bays beyond the east elevation of Mill No. 2 and four (smaller) bays beyond the west elevation of the Carpentry and Machine Shop. The eastern portion continues the pattern of shallow pilasters defining wide corbeled bays centered by segmental-arched, 10-light, fixed windows with radiating voussoirs and granite sills. Four narrower bays represent the western portion centered by and narrow, tall, square, exterior chimney sided on the east 20-light windows with segmental-arched, 10-light transoms in openings with details of radiating voussoirs and granite sills characteristic of the complex.

The second story added to the south elevation along Coffin Avenue creates a 37-bay facade south elevation of No. 2 Weave Shed that rises to the level of the adjacent Office Building and Mill No. 1 and adopts the ornament of a granite curb at the flat roofline. Picking up detail from the 1-story part of the weave shed designed by C. R. Makepeace, 37 bays are grouped into 12 sections demarcated by shallow piers and corbeling at the cornice. Except for the single window bay above the drive through, each section incorporates three segmental-arch openings on each level. Windows have common ornamentation of radiating voussoirs and granite sills. Although partially or entirely covered by wooden or fiberglass panels, original sash remains in a majority of the openings. Brick in-fill has been installed on the first floor in bays 3, 4, 8, 9, 11-15, 18, 22, 27, 31(from the drive through opening). All but one of the basement windows have been bricked in. The single exception is boarded. The entry in the bay adjacent to the drive through has been modified with the addition of brick and glass block in-fill (serving as sidelights) and a modern 6-panel metal door with top lights. Doorways have been added to modified window openings in bays 9 and 33 (from the drive through opening). Transom areas have been in-filled with brick. A brick-edged concrete stoop and stair with pipe railing serves the new entry in bay 9 comprised of a 6-panel metal door beneath a metal canopy. Originally an open inclined wooden ramp and platform set on posts beginning at bay 26 (from the drive through opening) ran along the facade as the approach to the loading dock in bay 36 enclosed by double-leafed wooden doors. It has been supplanted by a smaller and concrete loading dock with a lateral stair at bays 34-36 servicing the dock now secured by a modern, wooden, overhead door.

The 15-bay, 1-story east elevation of No. 2 Weave Shed includes the 2-story section at the south end where the second floor

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

was added in 1923. Like the facade, wall detail here repeats the earlier design of shallow piers and corbeling at the cornice. The end bay is much narrower, a characteristic also displayed on the north end of the 1-story section. A single window opening on the first floor at the southeast corner has been blocked. A narrow exterior chimney rises near the north end of the 2-story section.

**Carpentry and Machine Shop**

Like Mill No. 2, a third story also appears to have been removed from the flat-roofed, 2-story, pentagonal plan, 20' x 73' x 10' x 74' x 63' Carpentry and Machine Shop, also designed by Charles R. Makepeace. The regular, 6-bay northwest elevation of the Carpentry and Machine Shop (Photo No. 11) retains five, 20-pane sash windows with 10-pane transoms set in segmental-arched openings with radiating voussoirs and granite sills in the five eastern bays of the upper level. An original loading dock opening on the second floor remains in the easternmost bay. On the first floor, the center two window openings have been in-filled with brick. The two easternmost openings have been lowered. The west end bay has been transformed to a pedestrian entry with modern, metal cottage door accessed by wooden stairs. The adjacent bay retains its original size, but has been converted to a loading dock by the installation of an overhead door. The west elevation of the Carpentry and Machine Shop retains its original 2-bay configuration comprised of a loading dock at each level to the north and a window opening to the south.

**Office Building**

On the facade of the 2½-story, 12 x 6-bay, flat-roofed, irregular-shaped, 92'-100' x 54' Office Building (Photo No. 15), first floor windows in the fifth through twelfth bays from the southeast corner have been in-filled with brick, but original openings remain denoted by granite sills and radiating voussoirs. Modern awning windows have been installed in first floor bays five through eight, but original, 2/2, double-hung sash windows with 2-light transoms remain in the third and fourth bays of the first floor. On the second floor, original two-light transoms remain; top sash survives in the eighth bay and bottom sash endures in the eleventh bay. The main entry, located in the southwest corner of the building, has been modified with the introduction of replacement, metal and glass, double-leafed doors beneath a blocked transom. Otherwise, detail on the facade is limited to a curiously-whimsical chimney corbeled around a reduced window opening in the ninth bay and extending to a tall, shaped corbeled cap. The west elevation of the Office Building abuts Mill No. 1. Initially exposed, the east elevation is attached to No 2 Weave Shed on the second floor by a 1-bay wide bridge over a single-lane, segmental-arched passage to the mill yard. The side entry in the north end bay remains denoted by depressions in the face of the elevation, but has been blocked as have other openings on this side of the building which has been stuccoed. The first floor of the 10-bay, rear (north) elevation is obscured by the modern (post-1957) addition of a concrete and frame enclosed platform and loading dock. Second floor windows have been reduced to accommodate 2/2 replacement windows.

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

**Waste House**

Fenestration is limited to the facade and rear (south) elevation on the 2-story, brick, 72'-80' x 61' Waste House (Photo Nos. 20 and 21) at the corner of Coffin and Riverside Avenues. Most of the original, 8-light sash set in segmentally-arched openings with radiating voussoirs and cast concrete sills remains in place. Windows on the asymmetrical facade of the Waste House are banded together vertically in seven recessed bays defined by the top arch of the uppermost level windows. The off-center, shortened bay housed a doorway which has been bricked in, but is evidenced by the segmental arch with radiating voussoirs and granite threshold. A similar opening in the adjacent bay to the west remains functional, secured by a metal, overhead door. The roofline, stepped down toward the rear, is conspicuous when viewed from the west. Both side (east [Photo No. 16] and west) elevations are blank except for the introduction of a doorway in the northeast corner of the east elevation.

The 9-bay, rear (south) elevation of the Waste House maintains a flat plane. A majority of original fenestration survives except for louvered panel inserts in the second and fourth bays (from the west) in the top floor; the glass block in-fill in the sixth through ninth bays (from the west), and a metal door in an elongated first bay serviced by an exterior, iron stair on the middle level of windows and the metal door in the similarly-modified sixth bay (from the west) on the ground floor.

**Auto House**

A 1-story, flat-roofed, 43' x 150' auto house (Photo No. 22) abuts the Storage house. Its original wood facade has been replaced with brick. The rear (south) elevation is denoted only by an 8-light, segmental-arched window with radiating voussoirs and granite sill in the center. The interior is open except for an approximately 39' x 13' walled area set off as an oil house.

**No. 1 Store House**

A number of openings have been altered, blocked, covered or removed and a variety of facings have been applied to the original frame facade on the four sections of the long, 400' x 150', 1-story, compartmentalized, storage building (Photo No. 16) fronting Coffin Avenue. Sections are defined by fire walls which protrude above the roofline and forward the plane of the building. The brick, rear elevations are more intact with regularly-spaced, 8-pane, segmental-arched windows in openings with radiating voussoirs set high against the eaves and granite sills. Some window openings have been modified into doorways. A few new openings have been added and others have been enlarged to create loading docks. A square, interior chimney exists at the rear (south) wall between the second and third bays from the west.

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Narrative Description *(continued)*

**Cotton Cloth Manufacture**

Cotton manufacture[1] requires many highly skilled workers performing particular functions in the overall effort. The complex process that converts harvested, sieved and packed raw cotton to cloth can be divided into three operations: preparation, spinning and weaving, plus the preparation of a design to be applied to the woven cloth.

**Preparation**

Cleaning

At the factory, cotton is moved from the warehouse to the bale opening room. Selected bales are opened and placed in a line of machines (known as the **breaking and opening machine**) which work as a unit to tear apart and partially clean the compressed, matted, baled cotton into small, loose bunches. Bunches are placed into a group of devices called a **blending machine** which is synchronized to combine proportioned amounts of varying grades of cotton. Matted cotton and waste yarn salvaged from other operations are fed into a **waste machine** which beats, separates and fluffs them in preparation for reuse. Cotton from the blending and waste machines is fed into the **breaker picker** which also partially cleans the raw cotton by beating and fluffing and creates wide sheets of loosely matted cotton called *lap* which is further cleaned and fluffed by the **finisher picker**.

Carding

Next the cotton is processed by a **carding machine** which removes dirt and short fibers, lays other fibers parallel and forms them into rope-like stands called *slivers* which are deposited into large cylindrical containers call *cans*. If lower- grade, carded cotton is desired, processing immediately proceeds to the drawing frame.

Drawing and Combing

If better-grade, combed cotton is to be made, slivers are further processed by the **sliver lapping machine** which draws and unites several strands of sliver into a sheet of lap and winds it on a spool. This lap is processed by a **ribbon lapping machine** which draws and combines several rolls of lap into one roll of *ribbon lap* by straightening the fibers and enhancing uniformity in its weight and texture. Ribbon lap, an approximately 10"-wide roll of closely matted cotton fibers is fed into a **combing machine** which removes all remaining dirt and extracts all fibers below a predetermined length creating slivers which are deposited in cans.

Several strands of sliver are both combined into one and drawn out by the **drawing frame** which stretches by running it

Narrative Description *(continued)*

**(continued)**

between several pairs of rollers turning at increasing speeds so that the weight and size of the final strand remains the same as each original. The **slubbing machine** draws out and loosely twists the slivers together into *roving* which has sufficient strength for subsequent operations. Roving is passed through the **fly frame** in which two stands are combined and drawn into one until it reaches a prescribed weight before being loosely twisted for added strength.

**Spinning**

Spinning is the process of drawing out and twisting cotton fibers into a thin strand of *yarn*. One or more strands of slightly twisted roving are used to create one strand of spun yarn which is wound onto *bobbins*. Yarn is differentiated into *warp*, the set of yarn strands which runs lengthwise in fabric, and *filling, woof* or *welt* is the yarn which lays crosswise from salvage to salvage interlacing with the warp to form cloth.

In making warp, a **doubling machine** winds without twisting two or more strands of yarn into one *package* (a general term for any wound arrangement of yarn). The **twisting machine** then twists two or more strands of spun yarn into a heavier, stronger, single strand. This process is repeated until the desired number of plys in the yarn is produced. *Double or two-ply* yarn is made by combining two single yarns; *three-ply* yarn is made by combining three single yarns and so forth. Filling, woof or welt may be single-ply or multiple ply. For *single-ply*, the yarn is immediately conditioned after spinning. *Conditioning* is the process of exposing bobbins of yarn to steam or a spray of conditioning solution in order to set the twist, remove kinks and prevent kinking in subsequent processes.

The **winding machine** winds a continuous length of yarn from several bobbins onto a *spool*. Such spools are *cheeses* (rolls of yarn on paper rolls or wooden tubes that have no flanges or heads creating a form resembling bulk cheese) or *cones* (rolls of yarn on a tapered metal, wood or cardboard cylinder forming a conical shape). Cones are used in high speed warping.

The introduction of *ring spinning* allowed a continuous and simultaneous spinning operation from the roving to the spun yarn on the bobbin. *Mule spinning* requires intermittent-action spinning machines which first spin the yarn then winds it on a spindle into a small package called a *cop*.

If the warp is not to be dyed, it is next fed into a **warping machine** which takes about 500 strands of yarn and winds them side by side onto one, large (about 3' in diameter) spool called a *section beam*. Warp to be dyed is processed by the **ball warping machine** which gathers together about 500 strands of yarn into a large, loose, rope-like strand and winds it over a wooden core. Such rolls are sent to be dyed in a separate location. Rolls of dyed warp yarn are handled by the **beamer machine** which separates the individual strands of dyed yarn and winds then onto one large spool (*beam*) like that of the warping machine.

**(continued)**

Narrative Description *(continued)*

The **slashing machine** takes yarns from several section beams and winds them side by side onto one wider spool call a *loom beam.*

**Weaving**

Weaving is the interlacing of warp and woof. Warp yarn from the loom beam and woof yarn from spools or bobbins are woven on a **loom**. The loam beam must be *drawn in*, a process where each of the warp filaments is treaded from the loom beam into the loom or in the order indicated by the design to be applied to the cloth (see designing below). When a loom beam is emptied, ends of the yarn are twisted or knotted to the yarn ends from a full beam. As the loom runs, it raises every other strand of warp yarn while the *shuttle*, a pointed block of wood, to pull the woof or filling yarn through the strands. The position of the warp strands is then reversed before the shuttle pulls the woof yarn in the reverse direction. Bobbins are replaced when emptied. Any remaining yarn is removed and returned to the waste machine for salvage. Empty bobbins are returned to spinning operations.

Cloth from the loom is sent to the **stitching machine** which sews lengths of cloth together. A **shearing machine** cuts away knots and loose ends of yarn to assure a smooth surface to the fabric. The cloth is inspected and graded for quality before being scheduled for shipping.

**Designing**

Designing is the process of determining both the *weave* (plain, twill or satin) and the *pattern* (decoration). The two primary types of looms, the **dobby loom** (adequate for simple weaves) and the **jacquard loom** (required for complex weaves) are primarily differentiated by how individual warp yarn threads are controlled.

On the dobby loom, each strand of warp yarn is treaded through an eye in a fiber or metal strand called a *heddle* which is assembled into a *harness* attached to a *harness frame*. A separate harness is used for each group of strands of warp yarn that must be independently moved to create the desired weave. Each harness frame is fastened to a mechanism that raises and lowers it in proper sequence to form the *sheds* (openings across the warp) through which the shuttle carries the woof yarn. A two-harness loom produces plain weaves. Three or more harnesses are required to produce twill fabric. A minimum of five harnesses is necessary for other types of cloth.

The design is drawn on cross-section paper called a *design draft* which is converted into a *pattern chain*, an arrangement of wooden crossbars and metal pegs. The latter determine which and when harnesses are raised.

On the jacquard loom each strand of warp yarn can be individually controlled. Instead of a heddle harness, a series of

**(continued)**

Narrative Description *(continued)*

upright wires with hooks at their upper ends is attached to a controlling head high above the loom. The head is controlled by a punch card system. The design draft is converted into punched cards. The presence or absence of holes in each card determines whether each strand of warp yarn is raised or lowered. Cards pass through the head at the rate of one card for each pass of the shuttle.

**Utilization of the Whitman Mills**

The earthen-floored crawl space of Mill No. 1 was used[2] for storage. The northern part housed bobbins and spools; the middle section stored miscellaneous metal parts and old lumber; the south end was occupied by a dust room. On the first floor, drawing and fly frames, slubbers and twisting machinery were used on the northern part; combing and drawing dynamos sat in the middle area; carding was undertaken toward the southern end adjacent to pickers at the south terminus. Warping, spooling and slashing functions were housed on the northern end of the second floor with ring spinning situated in the opposite end.

In Mill No. 2, the north end of the crawl space was used for storage of storm windows. The south end was occupied by a dust room. Combing, slubbing, lap machines and fly frames occupied the northern three quarters of the first floor. Carding was carried on in the next section to the south; pickers were housed in the south end of the first floor. Mule spinning secured 4/5s of the floor area of the second floor with the northern extreme of the level used for winding. Slashing, spooling, warping and harnessing were carried on in the southern third of the top floor with ring spinning in the northern two thirds.

In Weave Shed No. 2, shafting and motors were housed in the crawl space for the plain and jacquard looms which ran on the first floor with a rewinding area at the southern extreme.

A motor and lumber occupied the crawl space of the Carpentry and Machine Shop. A water closet and woodworking shop filled the first floor surmounted by a machine shop on the second floor and harness storage on the third floor.

Jacquard cards were stored in the basement of the office building beneath the superintendent's office and supply room on the first floor and additional office space on the second floor.

Waste and waste bailing were housed on the first level of the Waste House beneath cotton in bins on the second floor.

The 1-story interior of No. 1 Store House is subdivided by the fire walls into sections (east to west): A, finished goods storage; B, cotton storage; C, bagged starch storage and D, cotton storage.

**(continued)**

Narrative Description *(continued)*

Although subdivided to various owners, the Whitman Mills retains architectural integrity representative of the enormous factories the cotton textile industry generated in New Bedford at the turn of the 20th century. Many such properties in the city stand vacant and threatened with demolition as has been the recent fate of several. In 2001-2002, Mill No. 1 was the subject of a certified rehabilitation in which approximately 135,000 SF of the mill space at the north end of the building was converted to an assisted living facility.

**Archaeological Description**

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the Whitman Mill District, sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the district indicate a high potential for the presence of Native American sites. The district is located on Nash Point, a promontory with level to moderate slope on the west bank of the Acushnet River. Soils in the area are classified as urban land; however, prior to industrial and residential development, soils were probably well drained. Five sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Floral and faunal resources associated with a marine related ecosystem and nearby upland and fresh water resources would have been available for Native American subsistence and settlement activities in the area. In general, however, the potential for recovering significant ancient Native American resources in the Whitman Mills District is low. Construction impacts associated with several 19th century industrial buildings and worker housing in the area and similar impacts associated with the present mill buildings which have basements, would have destroyed any Native American resources located in the district.

A high potential also exists for the presence of historic archaeological resources in the Whitman Mills District. Several 19th century industrial plants and associated worker housing occupied the site prior to construction of the existing mill complex. Given the size and below grade levels of the massive mill buildings in the district today, a low potential exists for recovering any cultural resources on the site that predate the existing structure. Any historic resources that were present in the district were destroyed by construction of the existing mill. A late 19th/early 20th century boiler house and chimney were demolished in the district in ca. 1960, however, most of these resources were removed and what remains has limited research potential.

**(end)**

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1. The Process of Making Cotton Cloth based on a diagram in Job Descriptions for the Cotton Textile Industry. Washington, D. C., 1932 accessed March 9, 2003 from the World Wide Web: http://www. gendex.com/users/kcates/glencoe/library/flow.htm.

2. *Mill area usages are those described on the Plan of the site by Associated Mutual Insurance Co.'s., Oct. 7, 1921, Index Number 14026.*

Whitman Mills
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

x **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

x **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

_ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_ **B** removed from its original location.

_ **C** a birthplace or grave.

_ **D** a cemetery.

_ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ **F** a commemorative property.

_ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

**Period of Significance**

1895-1933

**Significant Dates**

1896 1902 1910 1917 and 1923

**Significant Person**
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Charles Makepeace, Frank J. Leary and Frank A. Walker, architects/ Benj. F. Smith, builder

**Narrative Statement of Significance**
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested HPCA# 6034
_ previously listed in the National Register
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

**Primary location of additional data:**

x State Historic Preservation Office
_ Other State agency
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other

Name of repository:

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

The Whitman Mills in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a turn-of-the-20th-century textile mill complex, is representative of the large, self-contained, utilitarian, brick, pier and masonry spandrel, manufacturing facilities typically constructed in New Bedford as the city transformed from a whaling port to a major industrial city focused on the production of cotton textiles. The plant is also significant for its associations with internationally known mill architect/engineer Charles R. Makepeace of Providence, Rhode Island, notable contractor Benjamin F. Smith and leading textile manufacturer and commission agent William Whitman. These three men collaborated on several mill development projects in the City of New Bedford and elsewhere. Whitman Mills is also significant for its associations with the prominent local architectural and engineering firm, Leary and Walker, Frank J. Leary and Frank A. Walker principals. Their firm, responsible for several additions to the plant, was largely involved in industrial construction in New Bedford. The Whitman Mills complex retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, association, and workmanship. In recognition of its historic associations with the cotton textile industry of New Bedford, its eminent architect, builder and developer, and its architectural significance as a well-preserved example of industrial architecture, the Whitman Mills are eligible on a local level for listing in National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C.

The area of New Bedford was originally part of the Town of Dartmouth established in 1664. Like Dartmouth, many original settlers in the area of New Bedford were Quakers who had formerly been residents of Plymouth or Taunton, Massachusetts or Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Early settlement was dispersed as the colonial economy of the area retained an agricultural base. Maritime rather than agricultural potential initiated substantial settlement in the vicinity around 1764 when the value of its harbor was first exploited for whaling, local and foreign trade. By the 1760s rapid residential and commercial development focused on the waterfront. Associated industries - ship building, rendering, candle works, ropewalks - soon followed.

Whaling which became the predominant industry generated great wealth, but remained vulnerable to restraint during international conflicts. The Acushnet River was a haven for privateers during the Revolutionary War, but the whaling industry was devastated. In September 1778, the settlement was attacked by the British who burned down the homes vessels and businesses of the rebels.

New Bedford was incorporated as a town on February 23, 1787. Initial recovery by the early 19th century was interrupted by maritime trade restrictions imposed by the Embargo and the War of 1812. The end of the conflict introduced a forty-year period of prosperity in the whale fishery. By 1820, New Bedford overtook Nantucket in whaling. Numerous ancillary businesses including candleworks, ropewalks, brass and copper foundries, and a Prussian blue factory were also established.

Through the middle of the 19th century, New Bedford whalers brought back increasing quantities of whale and sperm oil for illumination and lubrication. By 1857, 329 locally-listed whaling ships brought nearly half such oil used in the nation through New Bedford. Despite the enormous profits earned from whaling, local businessmen failed to invest capital in

(continued)

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

alternative ventures. Local industries remained tied to whaling while other cities turned to textile manufacture. Built in 1847, the Wamsutta Mills, manufacturers of fine cotton goods chiefly shirtings, proved an immediate success, but failed to attract additional investment in textile manufactures. Twenty years passed before the next local textile factory, the Potomska Mills, was formed. The boom in the New Bedford textile industry did not begin for thirty years.
A nationwide recession beginning in 1857 reduced demand for an already oversupplied market in whale oil that was further compromised in 1859 by discovery in Pennsylvania of petroleum which gradually supplanted sperm and whale oil as an illuminant. By 1865, the whaling industry was consumed by depression. Furthermore, while the New Bedford whaling fleet was badly decimated by rebel cruisers during the Civil War, whaling capital began to move to the west coast and the Arctic fleet. From that base, whaling increasingly concentrated on securing Bowhead's bayleen, whale bone, whose demand as a natural plastic doubled. The steady rise in the price of bayleen and the introduction of steam powered whalers supported an active whaling industry in New Bedford until the advent of spring steel in 1905 eliminated the bayleen market.

Construction of a municipal water system in 1866-69 made possible expansion of textile manufacture in New Bedford. Other improvements in city services, institution of horse railways and development of rail connections with Fall River enhanced opportunities, but additional mills were not built until after 1880. Twenty four textile companies incorporated between 1880 and 1910. By 1892, New Bedford was exceeded only by Fall River and Lowell in the number of spindles in operation. In 1915, the city with thirty-three large mill complexes employing 30,000 workers had become the leading manufacturing center for fine cotton textiles in the country.

Between 1880 and 1920, the population of New Bedford tripled to more than 120,000. Most of the influx consisted of immigrants. The proportion of foreign-born in the community increased from 14 percent in 1865 to 40 percent in 1900.

The Whitman Mills is one of a group of manufacturing facilities including the Manomet Mills (1905), the Nonquitt Mills (1906) and the Nashawena Mills (1909) in New Bedford developed by William Whitman, president of the corporation from 1905 to 1909, and his associates. These men were among the first outsiders to construct textile manufacturing facilities in the city. William Whitman served as president of all these New Bedford plants which were recognized in their day as models of modern textile construction and production.

The head of many mills and managing partner of William Whitman and Company, Inc., commission merchants, William Whitman (b. Round Hill, Nova Scotia, May 9, 1842; d. Brookline, Mass., September 20, 1928) was a leader in the textile industry of New England for nearly half a century. He founded one of the world's largest cotton textile manufacturing organizations and was noted as one of the few heads of New England mills to refuse merger into the American Woolen Company. William Whitman was elected president of the Association of Wool Manufacturers 1884-1894 and 1904-1916. Author of numerous economic treatises, particularly on tariff policies relating to the textile industry, his advice was regularly sought by members of Congress.

**(continued)**

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

A self-educated and self-made man, Whitman left the family farm at age twelve. After working two years as an office boy and clerk's helper at a dry goods store in St. John, New Brunswick, he emigrated to Boston. Following employment with large wholesale dry goods merchant James M. Beebe, Richardson & Co., William Whitman was hired as treasurer by Robert M. Bailey & Co. which sought to rebuild the fire-razed Arlington Woolen Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Dissatisfied with management, Whitman resigned two years later and purchased a mill in Ashland, New Hampshire for the manufacture of flannels on his own account. He was recalled and rejoined the Arlington Mills after the firm's reorganization two years later. As treasurer from 1867 to 1902 and president between 1902 and 1913, Whitman developed that plant, also renowned for its outstanding architecture, into one of the largest wool and cotton goods manufacturing establishments in the country.

Whitman resigned as president of the Arlington Mills in 1913, but maintained an active interest in the organization for years. During his administration, the firm expanded to develop other facilities: the Whitman Mills (1895), the Manomet Mills (1905), the Nonquitt Spinning Company (1906), and the Nashawena Mills (1909), all in New Bedford. Whitman was also president of the Hoosac Worsted Mills in North Adams, a director of Hope Webbing Co. in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and of the Calhoun Mills in Calhoun Falls, South Carolina, as well as Policyholders' Director of the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

In 1887, William Whitman also joined the firm of Harding, Colby & Company, commission merchants and selling agents for the mills. Upon Colby's death, William Whitman became managing partner in the successor organization, Harding, Whitman & Co. The partnership was terminated in 1909, assumed by William Whitman & Co. and reincorporated in 1913 under his presidency as William Whitman Inc. with offices in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

Charles Roderick Makepeace (b. Fayetteville, North Carolina, May 20, 1860; d. Providence, Rhode Island, February 9, 1926), designer of the Whitman Mills and several other factories in the city, had an illustrious international career as a designing and consulting industrial architect and mechanical engineer. He is identified with the construction of more than 250 plants in the United States and abroad, among which are the commissions he undertook for William Whitman. Other than the Whitman Mills and the Arlington Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Makepeace is credited with the Oakland Mills in Rhode Island, Suncook Mills in New Hampshire, the Dana Warp Mills in Maine, the Miami Woolen Mills in Ohio, the Woodbury Cotton Mills in Baltimore, Maryland, the Eno Cotton Mills in North Carolina, the Clifton Manufacturing Company Mills in South Carolina, the Cluett-Peabody Mills in Connecticut, the Skenanadora Mills in Utica New York, the Louisville Cotton Mills in Kentucky, the California Cotton Mills in Oakland California, the Alden Knitting Mills in New Orleans, and the Galveston Cotton Mills in Galveston,Texas as well as factories in Mexico, Canada, South America, and Australia.

After attending local schools in Fayetteville, Charles R. Makepeace entered Trinity College (now Duke University), but due to illness, withdrew before graduation. He learned about textile equipment and mill operations at his father's factory at

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Fayetteville. In 1885, Makepeace moved to Providence, Rhode Island and joined the engineering firm of D. M. Thompson which a few years later became C. R. Makepeace & Company. Under his control, the concern specialized in the design, engineering and equipping of cotton or woolen textile plants, bleacheries, dye works, and incidental buildings such as power and water plants.

Charles R. Makepeace also pursued interests in public affairs and business. Between 1904 and 1910, he represented the Second Ward on the City Council of Providence where he sat on several committees concerned with public works and facilities management. He served as a director on the boards of the United States Bobbin & Shuttle Company; the Firemen's Mercantile and the Narragansett Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, the Rhode Island Investment Company and the American Supply Company. He was president of the United Lace & Braid Manufacturing Company as well as vice president and director of Res-Pro, Inc. As a member of the War Industries Board during World War I, he joined the sub-committee on parity of prices which set maximum charges for all cotton goods sold to the government by mills or brokers. Benjamin Ford Smith (b. Gloucester, Rhode Island, October, 23, 1846) contractor of the Whitman Mills was educated in public schools until aged sixteen. He apprenticed as a carpenter, then attended the Lapham Institute in North Scituate, Rhode Island for one year. He gained experience working with many different builders in various parts of the state. Between 1873 and 1878, he was employed as foreman by Kenyon Drown & Co. With Drown's retirement in 1878, Benjamin Smith was admitted to the firm which became Kenyon, Whittaker & Smith. The business was reformed as Whittaker & Smith in 1881 when Kenyon retired. In 1891, Benjamin Smith bought out Whittaker and in 1900, the business was incorporated as Benjamin F. Smith & Co. with himself as president and treasurer. Among the plants constructed by the company as Whittaker & Smith are the Slater and Lorraine Mills and the Durrell Printworks in Pawtucket, as well as the Nourse Mill in Woonsocket. With Benjamin F. Smith as sole proprietor, the firm undertook projects throughout New England including St. Joseph's Parochial School and the First Methodist Church in Pawtucket. The Whitman and Grinnell Mills, the Hill and Cutler Company Cotton Waste Mill, Nashawena Spinning Mills Power Plant and Manomet Mill No. 2 are among the more than seventeen mills Benjamin Smith is known to have constructed in New Bedford. His largest project was the Arlington Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts (NRDIS, 1/3/1985), also a collaboration with Charles Makepeace and William Whitman.

Frank J. Leary (b. New York City, October 3, 1890; d. New Bedford, July 2, 1951) graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and Columbia University School of Mines and Engineering. Having worked for Stone and Webster in Boston and W. G. Fargo in Michigan, Turner Construction in New York, and other engineering firms, he had already engaged in industrial construction in the United States and abroad before coming to New Bedford in 1916 intent on designing for the textile industry. With Frank A. Walker, he established the firm Leary and Walker. Frank Leary's first local commission was an addition to the New Bedford Textile Institute. Subsequent projects included additions and new construction at Continental Screw Company, Morse Twist Drill and Machine Company, the machine shop and rolling mill of the Taunton-New Bedford Copper Company (subsequently Revere Copper and Brass), additions to the Holmes Mill (now Cornell Dubilier Electric Corporation), and modernization of the Gosnold, Wamsutta, Hoosac, and New Bedford Rayon plants. Some of his local non-industrial efforts credits were: the Allen Office Building, State Theater, Normandin Junior High

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

School, schools, auditoriums, and churches for Saint Hyacinth and Saint Kilian parishes, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Saint Joseph Church and School, and Sacred Heart Academy. Noted accomplishment farther afield are spinning and weaving mills and hydroelectric plants for the Boston Duck Company at Bondsville; new mills and power plants for the Warren Mills in West Warren, new dams and warehouses for the Thorndike Company in Thorndike, a hydroelectric plant and factory renovations at the Continental Mills in Lewiston, Maine and a hydroelectric plant for Locks and Canals Company in Lowell. The firm of Leary and Walker was dissolved in March of 1930. Continuing with his own practice, Frank J. Leary carried out both architectural and engineering commissions in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, and Brazil. Leary also served twenty-two years as manager of the Industrial Division of the New Bedford Board of Commerce.

Little is known of the works about Frank A. Walker (d. New Bedford, October 31, 1940) who also maintained a separate local practice after dissolution of the firm. About a year before his death, he accepted a position as architect and technical director of the New Bedford Housing Authority.

The Whitman Mills were incorporated in 1895 with an original capitalization of $1,500,000. The first building to be constructed in the plant was the Office (1895; Photo Nos. 8 and 15). It was followed a year later by Mill No. 1, (1896; Photo Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8) with its interconnected Pipe Shop (1896; Photo No. 13), No. 1 Engine House/Boiler Room (1896; Photo No. 7, 9 and 13) and Pump House (1896) as well as No. 1 Store House (1896; Photo No. 20). All were designed by Charles R. Makepeace. The initial installation consisted of 132,000 spindles and 3,400 looms.

Although reported to be in sound financial condition and running at full capacity, economic difficulties affected the Whitman Mills soon after operations were initiated in 1896. A number of mill failures in 1897 in New Bedford and Fall River triggered a tightening of credit by local lending institutions. This condition prompted reorganization of the board, adjustment of management personnel and responsibilities, postponement of a planned expansion and undermined a new stock issue. Stockholders found it necessary to adopt a capital reorganization plan in 1898 when a new issue failed to leverage the amount of funds anticipated.

The size of the plant was more than doubled in 1902. A carding and spinning building, Mill No. 2 (Photo Nos. 10, 11, 18 and 19) and Weave Shed No. 2 (Photo Nos. 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17) were constructed with their interconnected carpentry and machine shop. Another substantial enlargement occurred in 1910. A 2-story, 81' x 125' section was added to the north end of Mill No. 1 and Weave Shed No. 1 (demolished ca. 1950) with its attached Head House (demolished ca. 1950) were built. Charles R. Makepeace designed both. In 1917, the 50' x 400' addition was constructed along the south elevation of No. 1 Store House.

The Whitman Mills produced all types of fancy, novelty, and staple cotton fabrics sold in gray and unbleached state. The business specialized in contract work in fancy goods and novelties made of combed cotton combined with mercerized and silk yarns. Some fabrics were made exclusively for an individual buyer. Contracted staple goods included plain and twill fabrics, sateens and fine lawns.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

During the first third of the 20th century, nearly 90% of the manufacturing workers in the city were employed in the production of cotton textiles. The years of World War I and immediately thereafter marked the period of peak prosperity for the cotton textile industry in New Bedford which specialized in quality goods especially sheeting. Between 1914 and 1920, capital investment doubled and earnings increased sixfold. Seventy factories employed more than 40,000 workers who operated 3.5 million spindles and 55,000 looms. The emphasis on quality helped differentiate New Bedford as well as Fall River production from the coarse good manufactured by other northern mill cities and delayed direct competition from southern manufactures. Humidity in the coastal location minimized static electricity and maximized elasticity and break strength in the fragile cotton fiber. This facilitation in working with fine cotton goods reduced labor costs and increased production.

Prime generators of increased business were government war orders for cotton goods and increased commercial production of automobiles which prompted a concomitant demand for tire yarn. New Bedford mills had the equipment and experience necessary to make the cotton goods used in tire yarn. Many local factories abandoned earlier production lines to concentrate on the manufacture of tire yarn.

These decisions left the firms increasingly vulnerable to Southern competition which began to gain market share in the early 1920s. Local cotton textile production peaked in 1924 when textile mills employed almost half the city's workforce. By the end of the decade, however, a number of the same factories were forced into liquidation while others operated on reduced schedules. Unemployment became a major problem. In 1928, a six-month strike of 27,000 workers also crippled plants, some of which failed to resume operations at its conclusion.

At their peak, the Whitman Mills employed 1,750 workers. By 1930 the mills were equipped with 177,608 spindles (140,648 ring spinners and 36,960 mule spinners) 4,610 looms and 22 boilers. But, having survived the economic dislocations and strikes of the 1920s, the firm was unable to outlast the Great Depression. The Whitman Mills declared bankruptcy in 1932. The city assumed control of the property the next year.

The complex remained vacant until 1939 when it was utilized by the Stokley Company as a canning factory for seven years. During World War II, part of the facilities were used to store Australian wool and government potatoes. Faced with a surplus of decaying and abandoned mill stock, the city council nearly demolished the plant in the 1950s.

Riverside Development Corporation purchased Mill No. 1 in 1952. In 1960, Mars Bargainland, USA a discount department store, occupied the first floor. During the late 1970s, Riverside Manufacturing Company and Cape Cod Curtains operated on the second floor. Mill No. 2 was rented to Samara Lighting of Massachusetts, Cameo Curtains, American Press, Acushnet Metal Company, Tobey Realty, and Trans-America Spinning. The storage buildings along Coffin Avenue were utilized by Isotronics, an electronics firm. Revere Sink and Star Plating Company were located in the Waste House. Jointly these enterprises employed 400-500 people.

**(continued)**

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Today, ownership of the Whitman Mills has been subdivided. The facilities continue to house several small enterprises, but remain underutilized. Since the failure of retailing outlets, Mill No. 1 along Riverside Avenue remained vacant for several years. In 2001-2002, it was the subject of a certified rehabilitation in which approximately 135,000 SF of mill space were adapted to residential use as an assisted living facility.

**(end)**

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(continued)

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(end)

Whitman Mills
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County, State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 15.88 acres

**UTM References See continuation sheet.**
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. 19 | 340200 | 4614240 | 3. 19 | 340100 | 4614240 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2. 19 | 340200 | 4613880 | 4. | | |
| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |

__ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne L. Siergiej, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2003

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

## Additional Documentation

**Submit the following items with the completed form:**

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple, see attached list

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the Whitman Mill complex are as shown as the bold line on the accompanying map entitled Site Map: Whitman Mills, New Bedford, Massachusetts and includes the following lot numbers 82, 85, 117, 118, 120, 122 and 123 on Assessors Map 100 City of New Bedford.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all the parcels totaling 15.88 acres which represents all extant buildings and the mill yard historically associated with the property of the Whitman Mills, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

**Property owners**

| Map/lot# | Property Address | Owner | Owner Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| 100/82 | east side Riverside Avenue | City of New Bedford | |
| 100/85 | south side Coffin Avenue | JST Realty Trust | 43 Woodcliff Rd., Wellesley 02481 |
| 100/117 | rear 1 Coffin Avenue | Tobey Ltd. Partnership | 74 Jordan Rd., Brookline 02446 |
| 100/118 | | Acushnet River Realty Tr. | 10 Manomet St., New Bedford 02746 |
| 100/120 | north side Coffin Avenue | Richard M. Vercellone | 34 Butterfly Tr., N. Dartmouth 02747 |
| 100/122 | 19 Coffin Avenue | HMT Realty Trust | 43 Woodcliff Rd., Wellesley 02481 |
| 100/123 | 1 Riverside Avenue | Century LLC | 1 Riverside Ave., New Bedford 02745 |

**(end)**

**Photograph Identifications**

All the photographs of the Whitman Mills were taken in May 2000 by D. L. Siergiej of Commonweal Collaborative. Negative are on file at Commonweal Collaborative 66 West Street, Leominster, Massachusetts.
Views are as follows:

Photograph No. 1 Southwest corner of Mill No. 1 showing the south elevation and a partial view of the west elevation of Mill No. 1, the facade (south elevation) of the adjacent Office Building and the facade (south elevation) of the No. 2 Weave Shed.

Photograph No. 2 Southwest corner of Mill No. 1 showing the south and west elevations.

Photograph No. 3 Southwest corner of Mill No. 1 showing the south elevation and a partial view of the west elevation of Mill No. 1, the facade (south elevation) of the adjacent Office Building and the facade (south elevation) of the No. 2 Weave Shed.

Photograph No. 4 Southwest corner of Mill No. 1 showing the south elevation and a partial view of the west elevation of Mill No. 1.

Photograph No. 5 Northwest corner of Mill No.1 looking south showing the west elevation and a partial view of the north elevation of Mill No.1.

Photograph No. 6 Northeast corner of Mill No. 1 looking south showing north elevation and a partial view of the east elevation of Mill No.1.

Photograph No. 7 In the mill yard looking northwest showing the east elevation of the Boiler House, a partial view of the east elevation of Mill No.1 and the south elevation of the Transformer House.

Photograph No. 8 In the mill yard looking southwest showing a partial view of the east elevation of Mill No. 1 and a partial view of the north elevation of the Office Building.

Photograph No. 9 In the mill yard looking northwest showing a partial view of the east elevation of Mill No.1, the south elevations of the Pipe Shop and the Boiler House.

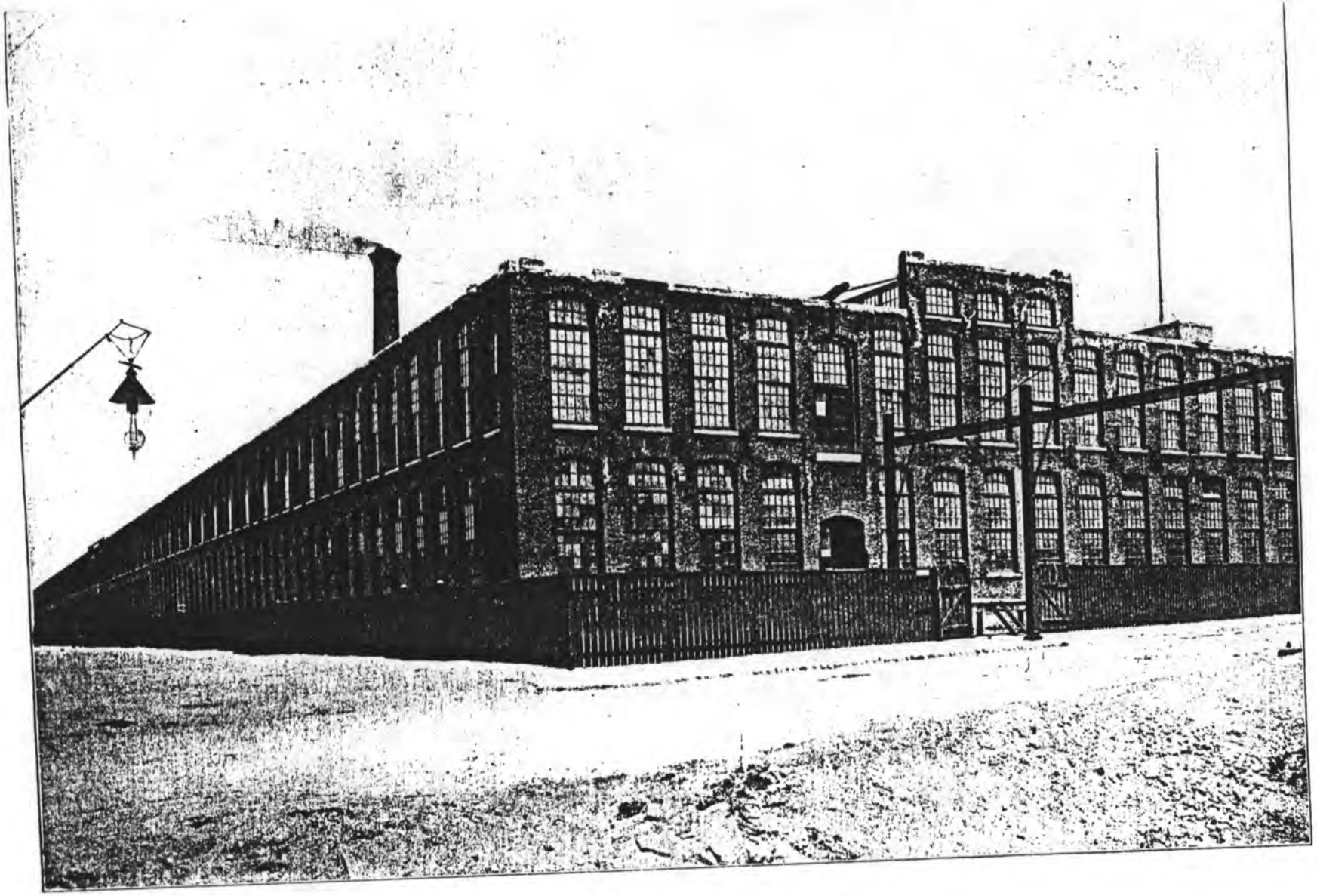
Photograph No. 10 Northwest corner of Mill No.2 showing its east and north elevations.

Photograph No. 11 In the mill yard looking northeast showing the west elevation of Mill No. 2 and the northwest elevation of the Carpentry/Machine Shop.

**(continued)**

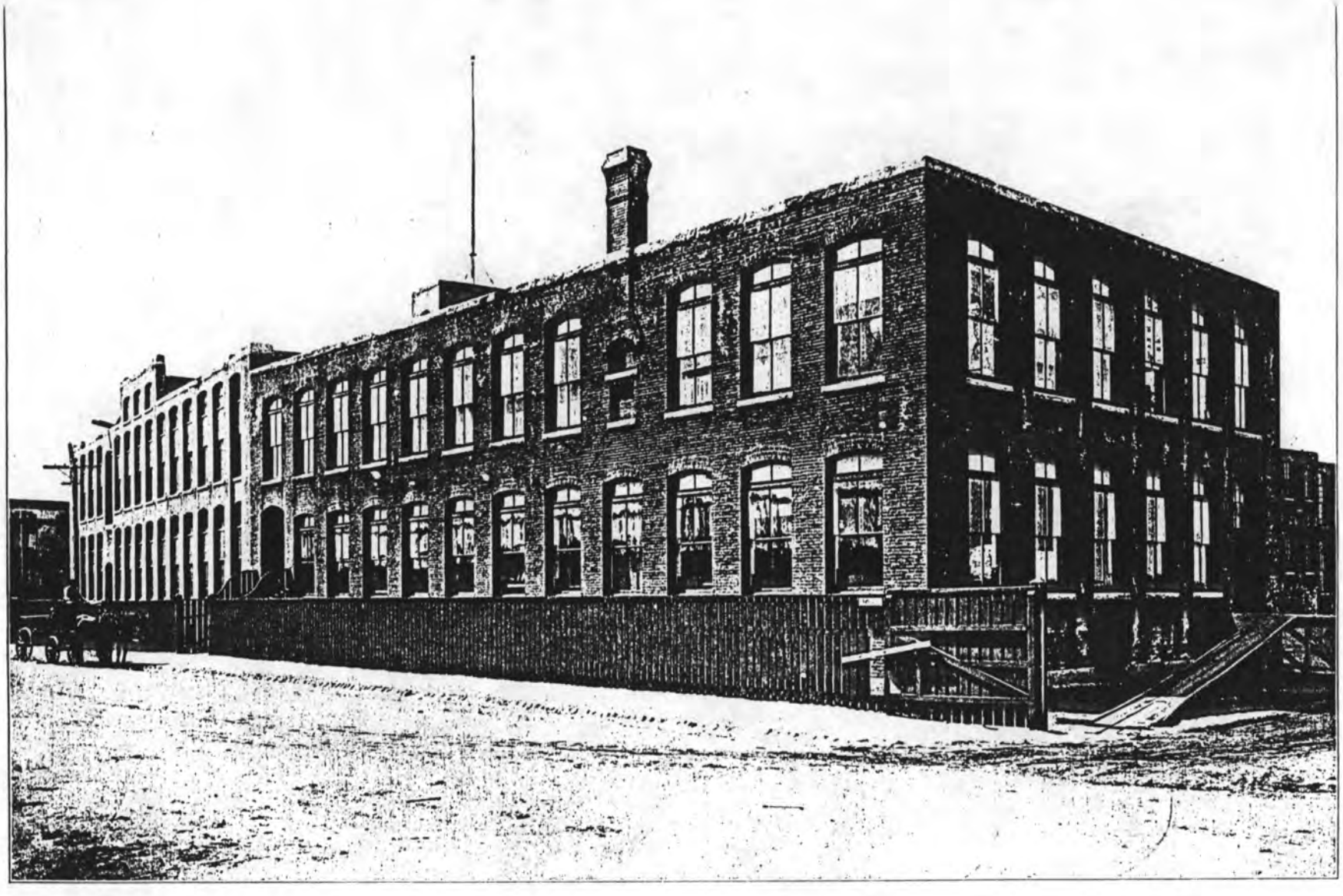
| | |
|---|---|
| Photograph No. 12 | In the mill yard looking northeast showing the west elevation of No. 2 Weave House. |
| Photograph No. 13 | In the mill yard looking northeast showing the west elevation of No. 2 Weave House. |
| Photograph No. 14 | On Coffin Avenue looking northeast showing the south elevation of No. 2 Weave House. |
| Photograph No. 15 | On Coffin Avenue looking northeast showing the south elevation of the Office Building. |
| Photograph No. 16 | On the west bank of the Acushnet River looking southwest showing the east elevation of No. 2 Weave House. |
| Photograph No. 17 | On the west bank of the Acushnet River looking southwest showing the north elevation of No. 2 Weave House, the east and north elevations of the Opening House and partial view of the east elevation of Mill No. 2. |
| Photograph No. 18 | On the west bank of the Acushnet River looking southwest showing the east elevation of Mill No. 2. |
| Photograph No. 19 | On the west bank of the Acushnet River looking southwest showing the coal bin and the north elevation and partial view of the east elevation of Mill No. 2. |
| Photograph No. 20 | On Coffin Avenue looking southeast showing the north and west elevations of the Waste House and the north elevation of the Store House. |
| Photograph No. 21 | On Coffin Avenue looking southeast showing the north and west elevations of the Waste House. |
| Photograph No. 22 | On Coffin Avenue looking southeast showing the north elevation of the Auto House. |

**(end)**

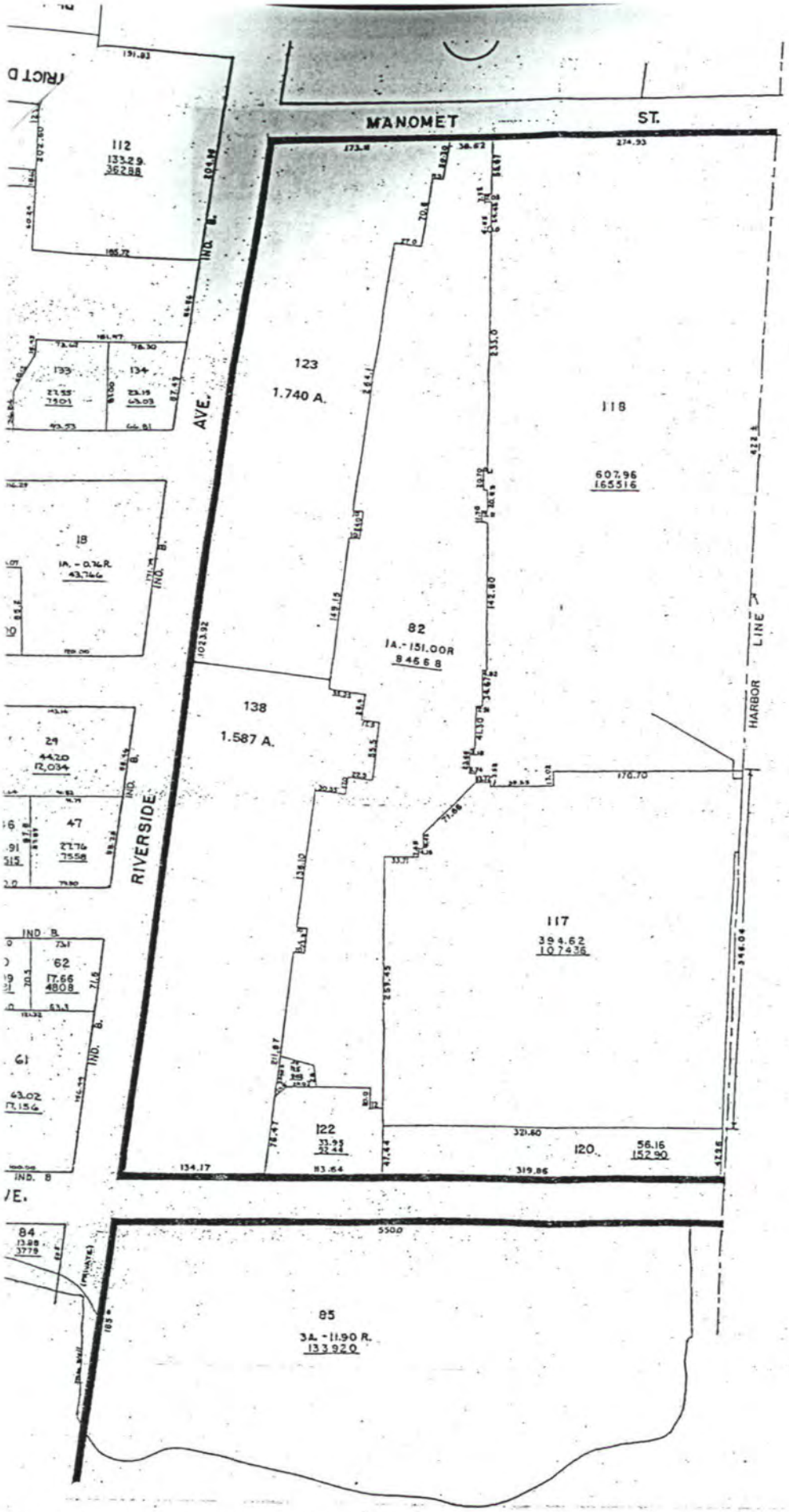


South and East Elevations Mill No. 1
( c. 1895)
Whitman Mills, New Bedford MA.

North and East Elèvations Mill No. 1
(c. 1895)
Whitman Mills, New Bedford MA.



L. to R. South Elevation Mill No. 1, Facade and
East Elevation Office Building (c. 1895)
Whitman Mills, New Bedford MA.




4/2/03
Updated
assessors map

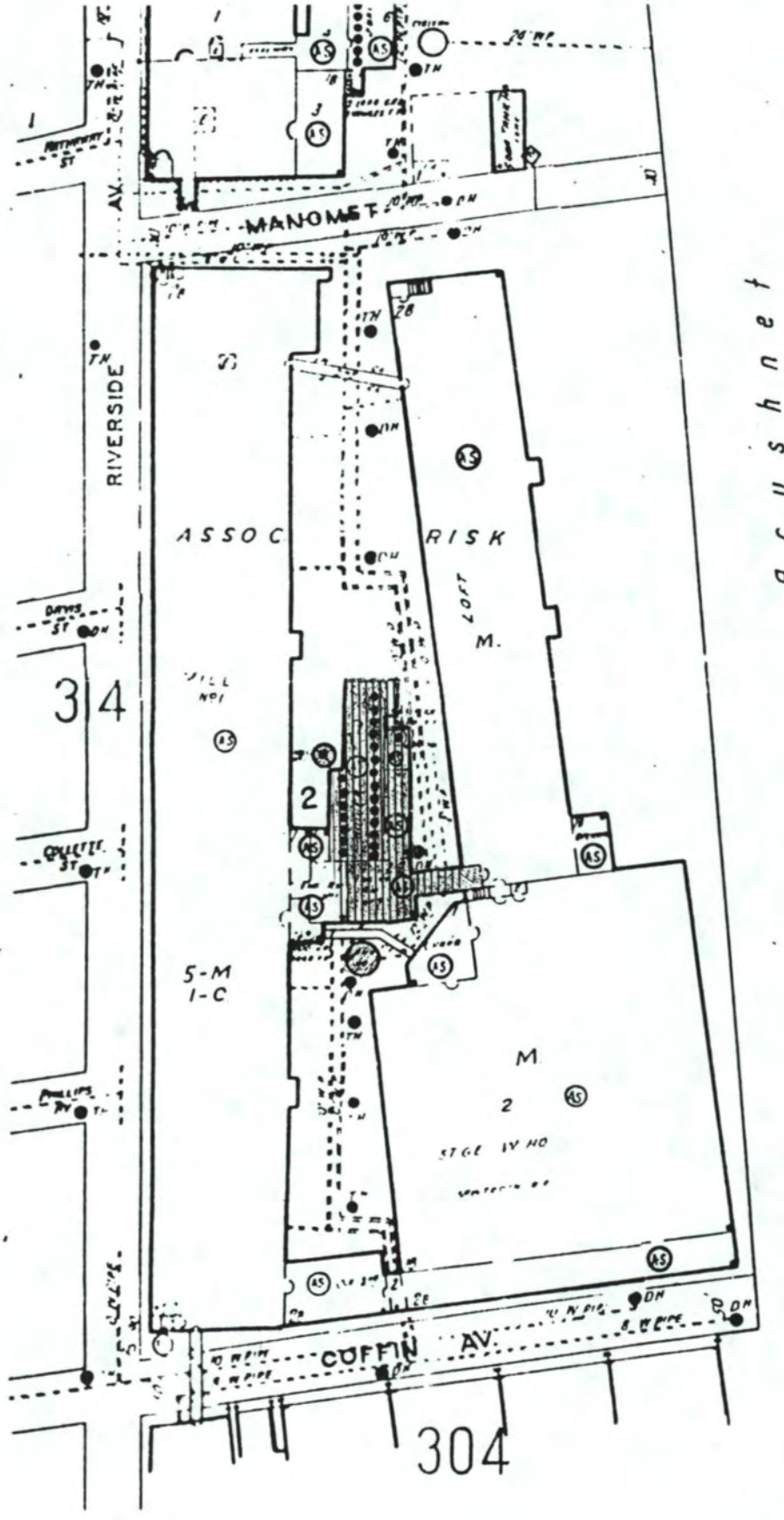
ASSESSORS LOTS
WHITMAN MILLS

rev. 4/03

# MILL YARD

## WHITMAN MILLS

New Bedford, Massachusetts




Demolished between 1924 and 1951

**RICT DATA SHEET:** **WHITMAN MILL**
**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

| Photograph Number | Assessors Map/Lot Number | Resource | Address | Material | Size | Date | Architect | Type | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 | 100/123 | 1) Mill No. 1 | 1 Riverside Avenue | Brick | 2 1/2-story, 980' x 125' | 1896 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| 6 | 100/123 | Mill No. 1 Addition | 1 Riverside Avenue | Brick | 2 1/2-story, 81' x 23' | 1910 | Charles R. Makepeace | | |
| 7, 9, 13 | 100/123 | 2) No. 1 Engine House/Boiler Room | 1 Riverside Avenue | Brick | 1-story, 56' x 36' | 1896 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| 13 | 100/123 | 3) Pipe Shop | 1 Riverside Avenue | Brick | 2-story, 62' x 15' | 1896 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| | 100/123 | 4) Pump House | 1 Riverside Avenue | Brick | 1-story, 39' x 15' | 1896 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| 8, 15 | 100/122 | 5) Office Building | 19 Coffin Avenue | Brick | 2 1/2-story, 92'-100' x 54' | 1895 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| 10, 11, 18, 19 | 100/118 | 6) Mill No. 2 | 10 Manomet Street | Brick | 2 1/2-story, 570' x 104' | 1902 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 | 100/117 | 7) Weave Shed No. 2 | R1 Coffin Avenue | Brick | 1-story, 301' x 303' | 1902 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| 3, 14 | 100/120 | Weave Shed No. 2 Addition | NS Coffin Avenue | Brick | second story added along Coffin Ave. | 1923 | Leary and Walker | | |
| 11 | 100/117 | 8) Carpentry/Machine Shop | R1 Coffin Avenue | Brick | 2 1/2-story, 20' x 73' x 10' x 74' x 63' | 1902 | Charles R. Makepeace | B | C |
| 18 | | 9) Coal Bin | | Concrete | | | | S | C |
| 20, 21 | 100/85 | 10) Waste House | SS Coffin Avenue | Brick | 2-story, 72'-80' x 61' | 1920 | Leary and Walker | B | C |
| 22 | 100/85 | 11) Auto House | SS Coffin Avenue | Brick | 1-story, 50' x 43' | c. 1921 | | B | C |
| 20 | 100/85 | 12) Store House | SS Coffin Avenue | Brick | 1-story, 400' x 100' | 1896 | | B | C |
| | | | | Brick | 1-story, 400' x 50' | 1917 | | | |
| 7, 11, 12 | 100/82 | 13) Transformer House | ES Riverside Avenue | Brick | 1-story, 25' x 10' | | | S | C |
| 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 | 100/82 | 14) Mill Yard | ES Riverside Avenue | | | | | Site | C |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Whitman Mills

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 7/15/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/13/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/29/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/29/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000844

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| APPEAL: | N | DATA PROBLEM: | N | LANDSCAPE: | N | LESS THAN 50 YEARS: | N |
| OTHER: | Y | PDIL: | N | PERIOD: | N | PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: | N |
| REQUEST: | N | SAMPLE: | N | SLR DRAFT: | N | NATIONAL: | N |

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER Patricia Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 8/29/03

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

5/2000

Photograph No. 2

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

SW CORNER MILL NO. 1

- S, W. ELEVATIONS

5/2000

Photograph No. 1

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

SW CORNER MILL NO. 1

- S ELEVATION, W ELEV. MILL NO 1
- FACADE, OFFICE BLDG.
- S. ELEVATION NO. 2 WEAVE SHED

5/2000

Photograph No. 3

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

SW CORNER, MILL NO. 1

- S., W ELEVATS., MILL NO 1
- S ELEVAT., OFFICE BLDG.
- S ELEVAT, NO. 2 WEAVE SHED

5/2000

Photograph No. 4

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

SW CORNER, MILL NO. 1

- S ELEVAT, PARTIAL N ELEVAT,
MILL NO 1

5/2000

Photograph No. 5

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

NW CORNER, MILL NO. 1

- W ELEVAT., PARTIAL N ELEVAT

5/2000

Photograph No. 6

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

NE CORNER, MILL NO 1

– N ELEVAT., PARTIAL E ELEVAT.


PARKING

5/2000

Photograph No. 8

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

IN MILL YARD LOOKING SW

- PARTIAL E ELEVAT. MILL NO 1
- PARTIAL N ELEVAT OFFICE BLDG.


RESERVED

5/2000

Photograph No. 7

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

IN MILL YARD, LOOKING NW

– E ELEVAT. BOILER HOUSE

– PARTIAL E ELEVAT, MILL NO 1

– S ELEVAT. TRANSFORMER HOUSE

5/2000

Photograph No. 9

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

MILL YARD LOOKING NW

- PARTIAL E ELEVAT. MILL NO. 1

- S ELEVATS. PIPE HOUSE, BOILER HOUSE

5/2000

Photograph No. 10

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

NW CORNER, MILL NO 2

E, N ELEVATS.


DISPOSAL

5/2000

Photograph No. 11

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

MILL YARD, LOOKING NE

– W ELEVAT. MILL NO. 2

– NW ELEVAT CARPENTRY / MACHINE SHOP

5/2000

Photograph No. 12

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

MILL YARD, LOOKING NE

— W ELEVAT. NO 2 WEAVE HOUSE

5/2000

Photograph No. 13

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

MILL YARD, LOOKING NW

– W ELEVAT. NO. 2 WEAVE HOUSE


AMERICAN PRESS PRINTERS

5/2000

Photograph No. 14

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

COFFIN AVE. LOOKING NE

- S ELEVAT. NO 2 WEAVE HOUSE

5/2000

Photograph No. 15

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

COFFIN AVE. LOOKING NE

— S ELEVAT. OFFICE BLDG.

5/2000

Photograph No. 16

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

W. BANK ACUSHNET RIVER

LOOKING SW

– E ELEVAT., NO 2 WEAVE HOUSE

5/2000

Photograph No. 17

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

W. BANK ACUSHNET R. LOOKING SW

~~E ELEVAT. NO 2 WEAVE HOUSE~~

- N ELEVAT. NO 2 WEAVE HOUSE
- E, N ELEVATS. OPENING HOUSE
- PARTIAL E ELEV. MILL NO. 2

5/2000

Photograph No. 18

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

W. BANK ACUSHNET R. LOOKING SW

- E ELEVAT. MILL NO. 2

5/2000

Photograph No. 19

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

W. BANK ACUSHNET RIVER LOOKING SW

— COAL BIN

— N. ELEVAT., PARTIAL E ELEVAT.
MILL NO. 2

5 / 2000

Photograph No. 20

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

COFFIN AVE. LOOKING SE

- N, W. ELEVATS. WASTE HOUSE

- N ELEVAT. STORE HOUSE

5/2000

Photograph No. 21

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

COFFIN AVE. LOOKING SE

– N, W ELEVATS. WASTE HOUSE


RD PARKING

5/2000

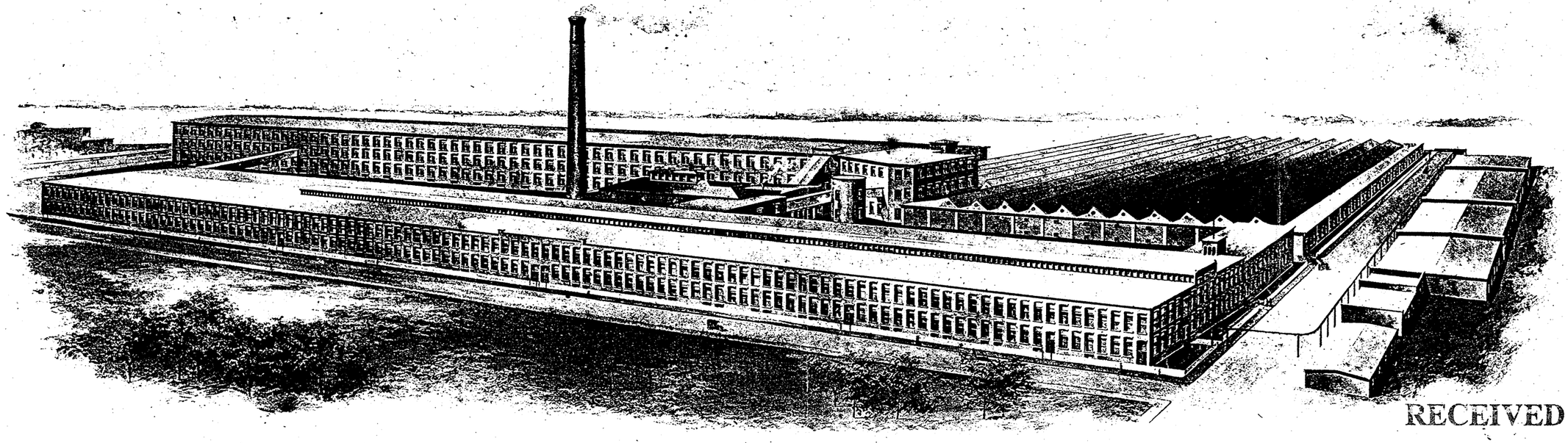
Photograph No. 22

Whitman Mills, New Bedford

Bristol County, Massachusetts

COFFIN AVE. LOOKING SE

– N ELEVAT. AUTO HOUSE





WHITMAN MILLS,

NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

HARDING, WHITMAN & CO., SELLING AGENTS,
BOSTON, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA,
BALTIMORE, CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS.

525

WHITMAN MILLS
NEW BEDFORD
(BRISTOL), MA

ZONE 19

1. 340200
4614240

2. 340200
4613880

3. 340100
4614240

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

# NEW BEDFORD NORTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6787 I SE (ASSONET)

6867 IV SW (ASSAWOMPSET POND)

6867 IV SE (SNIPATUIT POND)

71°00′ — 41°45′ — 70°52′30″ — 41°45′

770 000 FEET

270 000 FEET

230 000 FEET

740 000 FEET

41°37′30″ — 71°00′ — 41°37′30″ — 70°52′30″

(WESTPORT) 6767 I SE

(SCONTICUT NECK) 6867 III SE

(FALL RIVER EAST) 6767 II NE

(MARION) 6867 III NE

(NEW BEDFORD SOUTH) 6867 III SW

## Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1964
Revised 1975 from aerial photographs taken 1974
Field checked 1975. Map edited 1979

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 353 (1973)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:25 000

1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET— DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 3.7 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

CONVERSION SCALES

| Feet | Meters |
|---|---|
| 1 | .3048 |
| 2 | .6096 |
| 3 | .9144 |
| 4 | 1.2192 |
| 5 | 1.5240 |
| 6 | 1.8288 |
| 7 | 2.1336 |
| 8 | 2.4384 |
| 9 | 2.7432 |
| 10 | 3.0480 |

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

## NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS.
N4137.5—W7052.5/7.5

1979

DMA 6867 III NW—SERIES V814

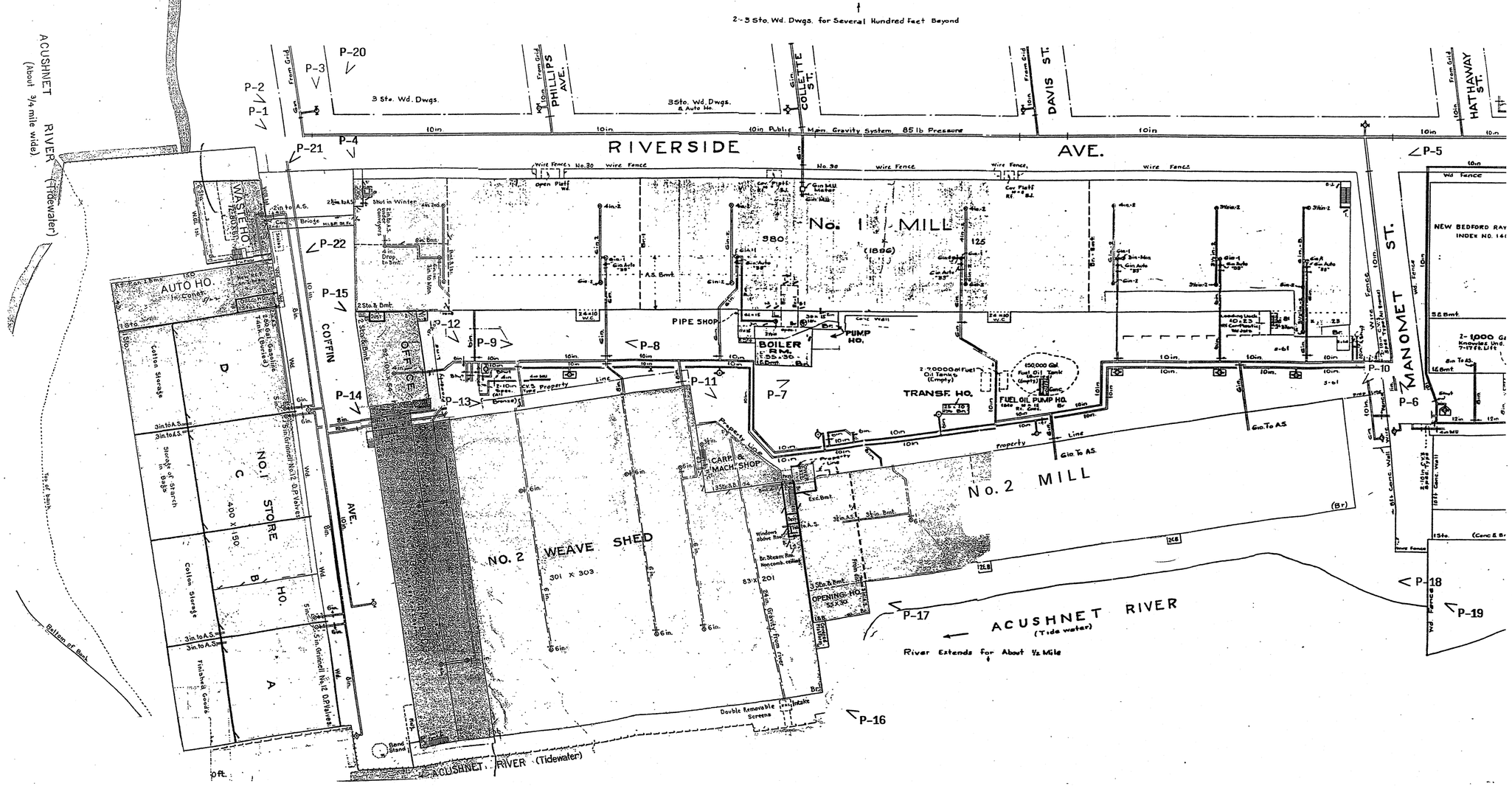
INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1979

MOOR & MOUNTAIN
3 RAILROAD ST.
ANDOVER, MA 01810
TEL. 978-475-3665

ISBN 0-607-23362-1

WHITMAN MILLS
NEW BEDFORD
(BRISTOL), MA

# THE WHITMAN MILLS
## New Bedford, Massachusetts



Whitman Mills NRPC


# NEW BEDFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Thirty Three William Street • New Bedford • Massachusetts • 02740
Telephone: 508.996.4095 ext 11 • Fax: 508.984.1250




May 31, 2002

Ms. Cara Metz, Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

**RE: Whitman Mills National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Ms. Metz:

The New Bedford Historical Commission (NBHC) is pleased to support the nomination of the Whitman Mills to the National Register of Historic Places.

The mill complex is representative of a turn-of-the twentieth-century manufacturing facility that is typical of others constructed in the city as New Bedford was transformed from whaling port to a major industrial city. The opinion of the NBHC is that the Whitman Mills Complex is eligible to the National Register as voted on and passed at the 4.3.02 meeting of the commission.

We strongly urge you to give this nomination your highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Antone G. Souza, Jr.
Chairman


# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 10, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Whitman Mills, New Bedford (Bristol), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in the Certified Local Government community of New Bedford were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
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enclosure

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