

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Amoskeag Mfg. Co. Housing Item number District A Page 1
Thematic Group Nomination

DESCRIPTION

District A consists of seven tenement blocks grouped around a quadrangle. The six-acre district is bounded by Bedford, Granite, State and West Pleasant Streets. When built, the blocks were sandwiched between the Upper and Lower Canals which have since been filled in. Constructed between 1845 and 1852, the blocks within the district are particularly significant architecturally as the most intact group of Amoskeag housing.

Each of the seven blocks is constructed of brick and employs Greek Revival design features characteristic of housing blocks erected by Amoskeag during this period (and described in detail in Part 7). Planar wall surfaces are crisply broken by windows set between rectangular granite lintels and sills, and doors capped by glazed transoms and granite lintels. Many entries have shallow-pitched frame door-hoods supported by curved iron brackets which were added later in the 19th century. The blocks are surmounted by medium-pitched gable roofs (originally slate, since replaced by asphalt shingles) punctured at regular intervals by gabled dormers. Paired chimneys divide interior units. The gable ends of each block are treated distinctively, End chimneys are bridged, (except on Blocks #6 and 7), and the parapet is capped with granite. The facade cornice is stepped, and the returns terminate in granite caps. Along the raking eaves, the brick cornice projects, linked to the main wall plane by an angled brick at the end of each course.

Block #1¹ (ca. 1847) is a 3-1/2 story, six stepped-unit block with six-over-six sash and simply molded wooden entry surrounds. The transoms, which originally contained five lights, now hold a single pane of glass. The rear wooden porches date from the early 20th century.

Blocks #2 and 3 (1847-49) and #4 and 5 (1850-52), though erected at two different periods, were designed similarly and constitute the only surviving tenement blocks of this period that are sited north-south longitudinally. Each stands 3-1/2 stories. Interiors are divided into six units, but the rooflines are not stepped. The original entries were replaced by Amoskeag ca. 1913 with classical surrounds consisting of fluted pilasters and a five-light transom above the storm door. Three-story iron porches on the rear elevations are also early 20th century.

Blocks #6 and 7 (1847-49) are the only surviving 2-1/2 story Amoskeag blocks of the period. Sited back-to-back on the slope of the hill, each block is divided into ten three-bay stepped units with a front and rear dormer on all but the end units. Entries are typical of the 1838-60 period: the door and transom are framed with a simple wood surround and capped by a granite lintel. Double kitchen ells (now clad in aluminum siding) replaced continuous detached sheds ca. 1869.

¹
NOTE: Block numbers refer to district sketch maps and not to numbers assigned by Amoskeag.

OMP 100-1024-7010
EXP. 12/31/84

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Thematic Group Nomination

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

District A possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and workmanship. It is significant historically for its association with one of the nation's earliest major cotton manufacturers, the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, which later became the largest textile manufacturer in the world. Architecturally, the district gains significance as one of the most intact complexes of mid-19th century company housing in the nation.

The seven tenement blocks were among ten located between the two canals and erected by Amoskeag for the Manchester Mills between 1843 and 1852. (A block north of #1 was removed ca. 1862; two blocks south of #7 were demolished ca. 1974.) An additional five blocks were erected at the same time on the east side of Canal Street and are included in District B.

Manchester Mills was organized in 1839 to manufacture and print delaines, a high quality worsted cloth that had heretofore never been produced in this country. Ezekial Straw, engineer for Amoskeag, was sent to Europe to learn the secrets of making and printing the cloth. Upon his return, a mill and print works were constructed and put into operation in 1846. Over the next three years, four blocks to house printery workers (including #6 and 7) were erected at the southern end of the millyard near the print works. An additional four blocks (including #1,2,3) were built at the northern end across from Mill No. 1 for those employees. Following the construction of Mill No. 2 in 1850, Blocks #4 and 5 were erected. The five blocks on the east side of Canal Street (one tenement and four overseers' blocks) were also intended for workers at Manchester Mill No. 1. The agent resided on Franklin Street. Agents for the Print Works lived on the opposite side of the river where, ca. 1866, the company also erected three frame tenements on Douglas Street.²

Manchester Mills (also known variously as Merrimack Mills and Manchester Print Works) remained the sole printing establishment of the millyard. In 1906 it was absorbed by Amoskeag.

² The Douglas Street tenements are typical post-Civil War frame buildings common to industrial cities in New England. Because of recent alterations, they are not eligible for listing on the National Register. The agents' houses are no longer standing.

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Item number District A Page 3

OWNERS OF PROPERTY

<u>SKETCH MAP #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>OWNER & ADDRESS</u>	<u>ASSESSORS' MAP #</u>	<u>LOT #</u>
1	7-23 Mulsey Street 129 State Street	Amoskeag Millyard Assoc., 77 N. Washington Street, Boston, MA 02114	837	7
2	109 State Street 32 Mulsey Street	Amoskeag Millyard Assoc., 77 N. Washington Street, Boston, MA 02114	837	6
3	100 Bedford Street 6 Mulsey Street 179-81 W. Central St.	State Street Apts. 531 Union Street Manchester, NH 03103	837	9
4	65-87 State Street	State Street Apts. 531 Union Street Manchester, NH 03103	837	5
5	62-78 Bedford Street	State Street Apts. 531 Union Street Manchester, NH 03103	837	10
6	6-32 Payson Street	Amoskeag Millyard Assoc. 77 N. Washington Street Boston, MA 02114	837	2
7	3-27 Newell Street	Amoskeag Millyard Assoc. 77 N. Washington Street Boston, MA 02114	837	2
VL-1	137-49 Granite Street 2 Bedford Street	Manchester Housing Authority, 34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH 03101	837	1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage: 6 acres

Quadrangle name: Manchester South, New Hampshire

Scale: 1:24000

UTM:	ZONE	NORTHING	EASTING	ZONE	NORTHING	EASTING		
	A	19	47-62-260	2-98-765	D	19	47-62-010	2-98-785
	B	19	47-62-200	2-98-795	E	19	47-62-190	2-98-735
	C	19	47-62-035	2-98-840	F	19	47-62-260	2-98-720

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Item number

District A

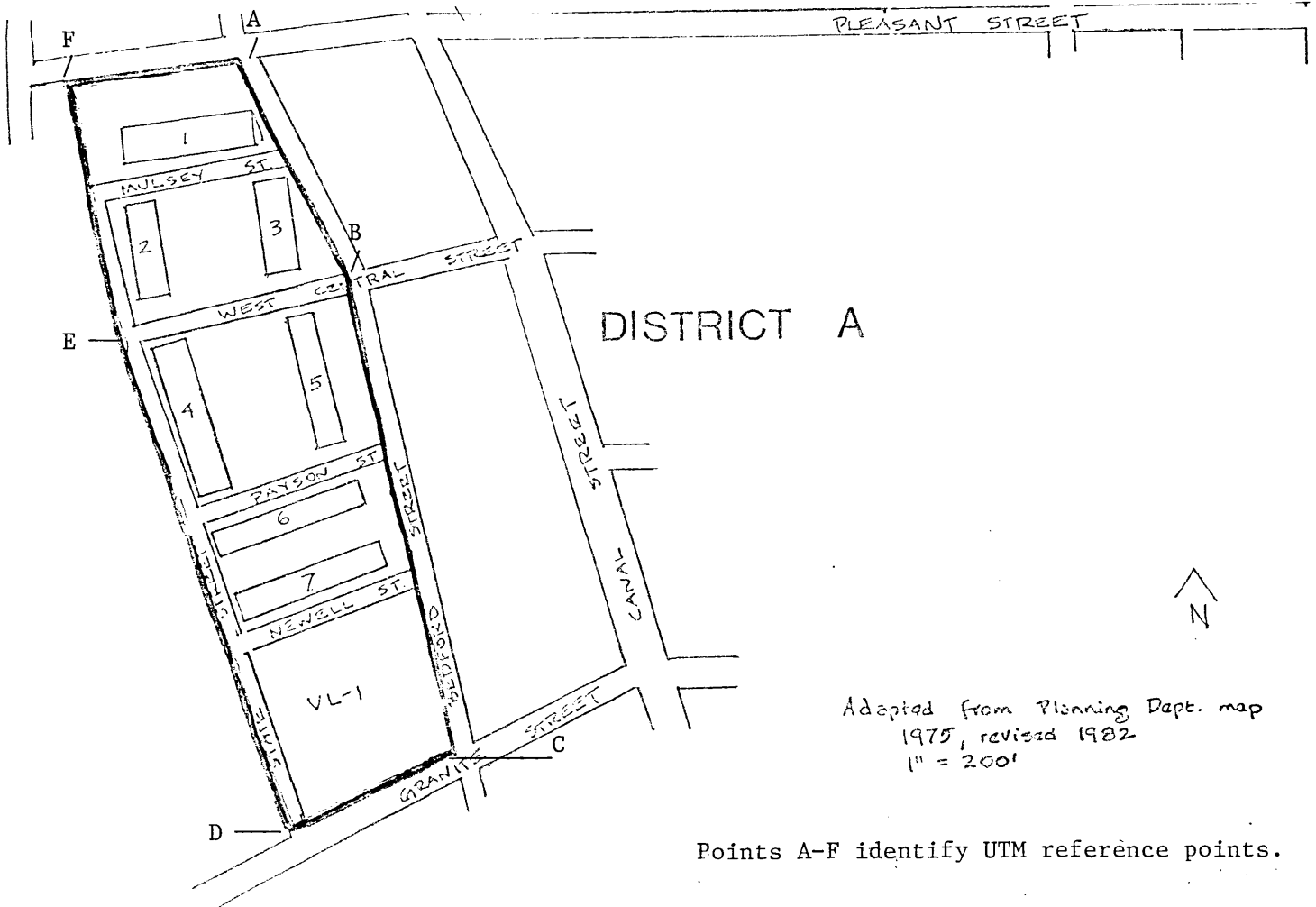
Page 4

Verbal boundary description and justification:

District boundaries are marked in red on accompanying map and described as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of the district at the southwest corner of West Pleasant and Bedford Streets, the boundary line moves southeast following the west side of Bedford Street to Granite Street, proceeds west along the north side of Granite Street to State Street, continues north along the west side of State Street to West Pleasant Street, then turns east along the south side of West Pleasant Street to the starting point.

Boundaries were selected to include the seven extant tenement blocks erected for Manchester Mills which were located between the Upper and Lower Canals and were physically separate from the company housing on the east side of Canal Street. Vacant Lot #1 is the site of two print works blocks which is now grassy, open space. The western boundary includes the full width of State Street since the land drops sharply just west of the street.

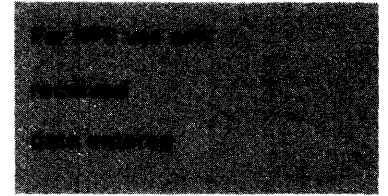


Adapted from Planning Dept. map
1975, revised 1982
1" = 200'

Points A-F identify UTM reference points.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Amoskeag Manufacturing Company Housing Districts Thematic Resources
State New Hampshire

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | District A | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Francis [Signature] 11/14/84</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | District B | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Francis [Signature] 11/12/84</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | District C | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Francis [Signature] 11/12/84</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | District D | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Francis [Signature] 11/12/84</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | District E | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Francis [Signature] 11/12/84</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ |