

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

173-B

1. Town Worcester

Address 1511 Main Street

Name Ashworth & Jones Factory

Present use industrial/commercial

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Present owner Vivian Sigel
6 Birchwood Road
Worcester 01609

3. Description:

Date 1870 (main section)

Source exterior date plaque
Style elements of Italianate and
Second Empire

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) attached wing

Other features tower with slate

mansard roof centered on facade of
3-storey main section; recessed wall
panels with corbelling; brackets

3-storey addition early 20th

Altered to tower Date century

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 15, p.43A
Lot B 7.7 acres

One acre or less _____ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 450'

Approximate distance of building from street
20'

6. Recorded by S. Lee
ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date November 1977

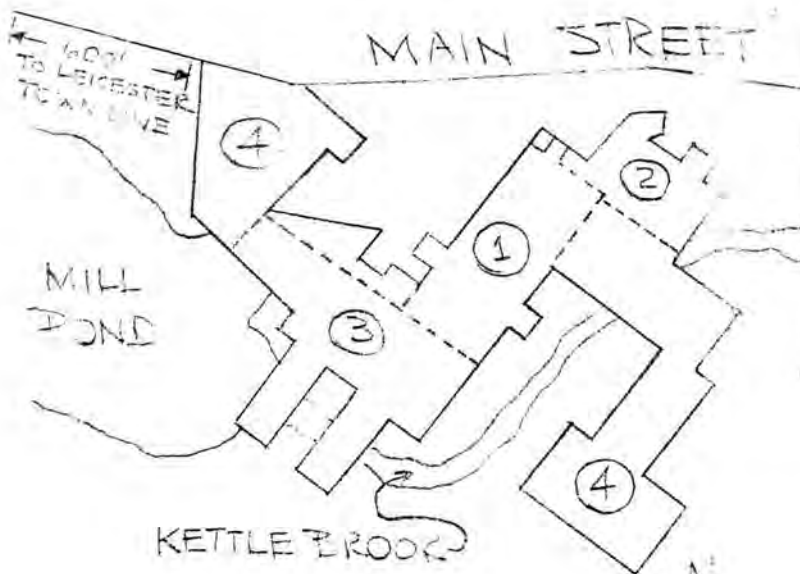
UTM

19/263900/4680140

(over)

Roll 11

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



7. Original owner (if known) Ashworth & Jones Company

Original use woolen mill

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates industrial/commercial (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	Exploration/ settlement	☐	Science/ invention	☐
The Arts	☐	Industry	☒	Social/ humanitarian	☐
Commerce	☐	Military	☐	Transportation	☐
Communication	☐	Political	☐		
Community development	☒				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Located on a section of Kettle Brook which had been used for textile manufacturing from the early nineteenth century, the Ashworth & Jones Factory is among Worcester's finest examples of mid-nineteenth century industrial architecture. The main section of the factory (section #1 on map) was built in 1870 and is a three-storey brick structure measuring 50' in width by 170' in length. Characteristic of many mills built in Worcester between ca. 1855 and the 1880s (of which few examples remain) the Ashworth & Jones Mill has an entry/bell tower centered on its facade (north). This tower contains loading platforms (first three stories), name and date plaques, and a mansard roof with dormers. Walls of the original section are divided into bays by brick piers which rise to corbelled heads and a cornice supported by paired brackets. Except for a small brick addition on the northwest side of the tower and loading bays on its west wall, this section of the mill is essentially intact. Between 1878 and 1886 one and two-storey additions were made northeast of the original mill. Employing the same system of bays (piers and corbelling) as the original mill, these additions (section #2 on map) may have contained some company offices. Between 1886 and 1896 further additions (section #3 on map) were made, again employing the same brick construction as that of the original mill; although this second set of additions were only two stories high. The factory's most recent section (#4 on map) dates from 1900-1915, and is of utilitarian brick construction, three stories high.

Thomas Ashworth, who immigrated to the United States in 1845, operated one of the country's first shoddy mills in Holden, Massachusetts by 1856.
(cont.)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Hyde, A.W. Worcester, Its Past and Present, p.113.

Washburn, C.G. Industrial Worcester, pp. 39-40

Property Name: Ashworth & Jones
Factory

2.

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. (Shoddy was a cloth made from both new wool and wool reclaimed from old cloth). In 1861, Ashworth and Edward Jones formed a partnership and purchased a mill privilege on the Kettle Brook at Valley Falls (the site of the Present building). By 1864 a woolen mill building on this site was being used for the manufacture of beaver cloth (a heavy woolen cloth, felted on one side, used primarily for overcoats). In 1870 the firm built the initial section of the present factory (#1 on map) which was operated by Ashworth & Jones until the deaths of Ashworth (1882) and Jones (1885) after which the business was sold to E.D. Thayer. Thayer expanded the mills (adding sections 2 and 3 on map) and manufactured woolens here until his death in 1907. In 1910 Thayer's heirs sold the business to George E. Duffy, who expanded the mill (adding section #4 on map) and manufactured "overcoatings and Cloakings" here.

During the factory's initial development, it served as the focal point of a small mill village owned by Ashworth and Jones. Containing "a handsome mansion and nine tenements," in 1886, this village was sold to individual owners between 1886 and 1888, and during the mid-twentieth century has been altered beyond recognition. In addition to its well preserved mill buildings, the former Ashworth & Jones Factory retains its mill pond (1870) which supplied power to the original factory.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

CONTROL

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description & statement of significance & the individual inventory sheets are well done. Each type of property included is well justified & reasons are listed for not including others at this time (e.g. 3-deckers). Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN

Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

Accept
MacDougal
2/28/80

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

KEEPER

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/81

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered _____

MAR 5 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



JAN 1978

JAN 1978

by Berkeley

Prestige Prints



Winchester MA

173-B

1511 Main St

Secl. 1

Ashworth + Jones Factory

West elevation

30 AUG 1979





by Berkeley

JAN 1978

M

JAN 1978

173-B

Ashworth Paper Factory

1511 Main St.

sect. 1 and 2

Worcester MA

Northwest elevation

30 AUG 1978



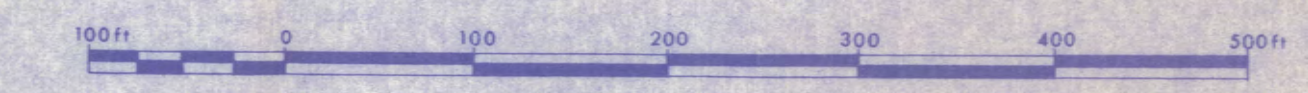
COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS

moore survey & mapping corp.

CONTROL BY MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY, U.S.C. & G.S., & M.S.&M. CORP.

UPDATED BY _____ DATE: _____

THIS MAP REPRODUCED
FROM MAPPING MEETING
NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY
STANDARDS AT A SCALE
OF 1"=200'



500 FOOT GRID BASED ON
MASS. RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM

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CITY OF WORCESTER
MASSACHUSETTS

PLANIMETRIC BASE MAP

PROJECT: M.S.M. 2517 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 4-27-75
SHEET 173 OF 220 SHEETS

