

0T7300235



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Worumbo Mill Additional Documentation - Removal

Other names/site number: _____

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

REMOVED
from
National Register

2. Location

Street & number: Canal Street on the banks of Androscoggin River

City or town: Lisbon Falls State: Maine County: Androscoggin

Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Krist A. Mohney, SHPO</u>	<u>8/2/2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

**WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9-28-17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

This documentation is presented to remove the Worumbo Mill in Lisbon, Maine from the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Worumbo Mill (NR: 73000235) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1973 in recognition of its Industrial significance. Set in the Village of Lisbon Falls within the Town of Lisbon, Androscoggin County the mill was an example of a typical woolen mill with utilitarian architecture. The mill was the dominant industry in town for more than one hundred years and as such significantly affected the everyday lives of local townspeople.

On July 24, 1987 a fast moving fire destroyed the 1864 mill building, which was subsequently demolished. Four buildings survived the fire: the 1864 office, two 1920 concrete buildings and the 1936 (or later) storage building. The mill was not removed from the National Register after the 1987 fire because the 1920 mill continued in use and conveyed the resource's industrial significance. In July of 2016 the large 1920 concrete mill building was demolished. This was the remaining manufacturing building. The 1864 two-story brick office, 1920 one-story concrete dynamo house, and circa 1936 one-story brick storage building are the remaining scattered components of the historic mill complex. The buildings are inadequate to convey the industrial significance of the once massive, sprawling, interconnected four-story brick Worumbo Mill complex.

This additional documentation is submitted in order to remove the Worumbo Mill from the National Register as per 36 CFR 60.15 (a)(1) because "the property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed...". Copies of two newspaper articles recording the 1987 fire, an article regarding the 2016 demolition, and photographs of the remaining buildings are enclosed.

**WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

8. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Associated Press. "Fire guts Lisbon Falls mill." *Kennebec Journal*, July 24, 1987.

Hammond, Sara. "Fire traced to welder's torch." *Portland Press Herald*, July 25, 1987.

<http://nasser.bangordailynews.com/2016/07/11/home/the-life-death-of-worumbo-mill/> accessed June 20, 2017.

Merriam, Kendall. *Worumbo Mill National Register Nomination Form*. (#73000235). Maine Historic Preservation Agency, Augusta, Maine. October 15, 1973.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 245-0076

**WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

9. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain, Architectural Historian
organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
street & number: 55 Capitol St, State House Station 65
city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333
e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov
telephone: (207) 287-5435
date: 9 June 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Worumbo Mill

**WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

City or Vicinity: Lisbon

County: Androscoggin State: Maine

Photographer: Michael Goebel-Bain

Date Photographed: 11 June 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 1 ME_ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY_WORUMBO MILL_0001.TIF
View of dynamo and office buildings looking southeast across the vacant lot where the demolished 1920 concrete mill stood.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

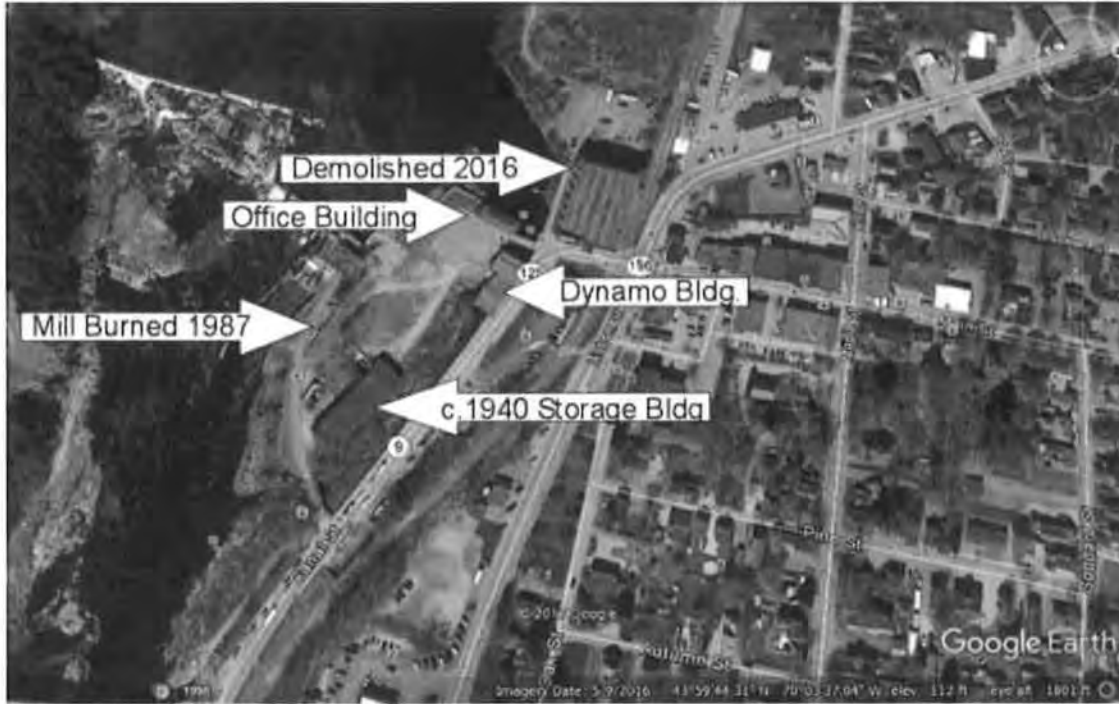


Figure 1 May 9, 2016 Google Earth image of Worumbo prior to demolition of 1920 mill.



Figure 2 A 1973 aerial view of Worumbo Mill from the National Register nomination documentation.

**WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL**

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

MAINE'S CAPITAL NEWSPAPER AUGUSTA, MAINE / 35¢

KENNEBEC JOURNAL

WEATHER

Becoming mostly sunny in the south today, except for fog near the coast. In the north, partly sunny with scattered showers. Highs in the 80s. Chance of showers tonight and early Saturday. The high temperature in the nation was 102 at Phoenix, Ariz. PAGE 2

Fire guts Lisbon Falls mill

Firefighters from 14 towns battle blaze at landmark

By The Associated Press

LISBON FALLS — A spectacular fire Thursday destroyed the Worumbo mill, a century-old landmark along the Androscoggin River that now houses the Camden Yarns company.

Police said there were no reports of injuries, and the cause was undetermined as firefighters brought the flames under control around 8 p.m.

The fire began shortly before 2 p.m. at the three-story brick building and forced the evacuation of about two dozen workers.

Still winds fanned the flames, hindering the efforts of scores of firefighters, who came from as far away as Scarborough and Cundy's Harbor to control the blaze. By mid-afternoon the fire had engulfed the building, and firefighters created walls of water to protect nearby buildings.

Officials at the town office, just up the street from the mill, packed valuable documents and prepared to evacuate in the event the fire might spread to their building.

Workers along Main Street watered the roofs of their businesses while helicopters dumped buckets of water on the buildings.

"There are two blocks of very old buildings which are very susceptible to flames," said town librarian Sheryl Whitmore.

Alfred "Bud" Jenkins, who lives two miles from the mill, said he could see a huge column of gray smoke that "looks like the mushroom cloud from an atomic bomb."

Lisbon Falls firefighter Phil Palmora, one of the first people inside the building, said the fire had started in a storage room in the rear of the mill.

"The two of us got it pretty well down. Then we lost (the) water (supply) and the whole room was completely enveloped in flames within minutes. We were forced to leave the building," he said.

"Once it gets going like this, it just keeps going. There's nothing you can do," he said.

Investigators planned to interview employees and workers at an adjacent construction site this morning to determine a cause.

The old brick building had been damaged during the worst flooding in Maine's history last April, and operations within the building were not at maximum levels, officials said.

Jenkins, a local historian, said the original section of the mill dates from the mid-19th century, while the adjacent part was added in 1920.

The building is still known as the Worumbo mill but is now owned by Miller Associates, which produces fabrics at the mill, Whitmore said.

Firefighters from Lewiston, Auburn, Brunswick, Scarborough, South Portland, Topsham, Sabbathus, Freeport, Bath, Yarmouth, Cundy's Harbor and Durham were at the scene, assisting the Lisbon and Lisbon Falls departments.

There were several unconfirmed reports that workers demolishing a building damaged by the April flooding were using an acetylene torch which, some on the scene felt, may have touched off the fire.

Phil Palmora, Lisbon Falls firefighter

"The two of us got it pretty well down. Then we lost (the) water (supply) and the whole room was completely enveloped in flames within minutes. We were forced to leave the building. Once it gets going like this, it just keeps going. There's nothing you can do."



Associated Press

Figure 3 Kennebec Journal, July 24, 1987.

WORUMBO MILL ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION - REMOVAL

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD
PORTLAND, ME
JUL 25 1987



A burnt-out frame is all that remains today of the 120-year-old Worumbo Mill in Lisbon Falls.

Fire traced to welder's torch

By SARA HARRISON
Staff-Dispatched Bureau

LIBBON FALLS — Hot molten material from a welder's torch that dropped on combustible material set off the blaze that destroyed the historic Worumbo Mill Thursday afternoon.

Sgt. Saverio Norris of the State Fire Marshal's Office said the cause was determined after investigators interviewed workers from a demolition site on the river side of the mill complex. The work crew was taking out a section of a building that was damaged during the spring flooding.

The area is being cleared for a \$20 million hydroelectric redevelopment project next to the mill buildings. It is being constructed by Christie Corp.

Norris said six to 12 people employed by Christie were working at the site, cutting drain pipe and sprinkler pipe.

Several of the employees tried to put out the fire, Norris said, while others went to call for help. Wind blowing up the Androscoggin River fanned the flames, pushing the fire out of control within minutes.

"There really was no way to stop it," Norris said. "It was just an accidental occurrence."

Norris said the workers were on a second-floor level and the hot metal dropped on material on that floor and on the first floor.

Fire Chief Howard Ricker



Sgt. Saverio Norris of the State Fire Marshal's Office says the fire was accidental.

said the mill's spokesman again had been shut off for the demolition work.

The destroyed section of the complex, constructed in 1866, was on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It is owned by Miller Industries, which also owns mill buildings in Lisbon Center, Lewis

ton and the Edwards Mill in Augusta, also badly damaged by the spring floods.

Miller Hydro owns the hydroelectric project under construction, while a separate company, Cannon Vapors, leases space in the complex from Miller Industries.

But all of the companies and property belong to Herbert Miller of Topsham, according to town officials.

Norris said, an officer in Miller's company, had little to say about the future of the mill complex Friday afternoon.

He said it is "too early to tell" if the buildings will be rebuilt and if redevelopment plans will go forward.

Insurance would not put a dollar amount on the damage caused by the fire.

He said textile operations had been going on in all sections of the complex, and workers had been shifted to the computer center plant.

The undamaged building at the corner of Main and Canal streets could be open as early as Monday, Insacco said. That structure was added to the mill complex in 1920.

When firefighters realized the large red-brick building was lost to the fire, they turned their attention to saving the 1920 structure which housed the yarn twisting operation.

Firefighters put up a water wall between the older and

newer buildings, pumping as many as 15,000 gallons of water a minute from the Androscoggin in one go, a firefighter said.

Two ladder trucks focused their water on the roof of the white building, keeping it cool and extinguishing pieces of debris falling from the interior.

From Canal Street, firefighters on the ground aimed their hoses at a small walkway connecting the two structures. It was there that the fire was stopped from traveling into the newer building.

People climbed onto many of the Main Street roofs and on the tops of buildings on Route 198 facing the mill, using garden hoses to wet down the surfaces.

A major concern, as it became clear that the fire was spreading, was saving the rest of downtown.

In town hall, important records were boxed and made ready to move if the fire spread onto Main Street.

Town Manager John Bulter noted that several blocks of Main Street had burned in 1961.

Crowhead, a Maine Forestry Service helicopter circled the burning mill complex and flew over adjacent areas, keeping watch for sparks that could start fires.

Using a 215-gallon bucket, pilot Harold Jones filled it in the river and passed over buildings close to the fire scene, wetting roofs and sides of adjacent buildings.

Rare firefighting pact invoked for mill fire

By SARA HARRISON
Staff-Dispatched Bureau

LIBBON FALLS — When a fire as large as the one at the Worumbo Mill breaks out, assistance comes in many forms from many places.

Firefighters and equipment from at least 28 departments in four surrounding counties were involved in fighting the blaze that destroyed the century-old mill complex Thursday.

In addition to those towns with whom Lisbon has a "mutual aid" pact — departments that step in to help one another for

major structure and woods fires — another system went to work on this fire.

The system was the Cumberland County fire task force, activated by South Portland Fire Chief Philip D. McGonidrick, its head. McGonidrick was in Lisbon at the command post when it was decided additional help was needed to fight the fire.

The county cooperative effort began around 1965, according to Scarborough Fire Chief Robert Caron.

It was formed to "supplement mutual aid," he said.

When a fire started, Caron said, all of the towns used to respond at one time. Now, it is

used other mutual aid to coordinate and more help is needed.

The activation marked the first time in more than two years the task force was formally activated to fight a fire.

Stan LeCours, the chief dispatcher for the Portland Fire Department, explained Friday that Cumberland County is divided into 23 groups for the fire task force, with three pieces of fire apparatus in each group.

Each town or city in the county has at least one piece of equipment committed to the task force, with the larger communities supplying more.

Figure 4 Portland Press Herald, July 25, 1987.



East

Way



PH0014-03 H15 E414350
2019 N4871490

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Androscoggin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 15 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Worumbo Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *on the bank of the Androscoggin River*
Ten Mile Falls, Village of Lisbon Falls

CITY OR TOWN: **Lisbon Falls** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **2nd: Hon. William Cohen**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Androscoggin** CODE: **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Herbert Miller**

STREET AND NUMBER: **The Miller Company**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lisbon Falls** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Androscoggin County Courthouse, Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Auburn** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **None**

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Androscoggin**

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: **OCT 15 1973**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Worumbo Woolen Mills are located in the Town of Lisbon in the village of Lisbon Falls. The mills were built on the Androscoggin River at a place called Ten Mile Falls.

The original structure is the largest part of the mill that was built in 1864. This original section of the mill has the two towers with their very decorative roofs. An early photograph points out however, that these towers had flat roofs until a later date. In 1920 two buildings of concrete were added to complete the mill complex as it exists today. Overhead walkways connect the three buildings making it possible to get from one building to the other without going out of doors. There are also several small wooden storage sheds as part of the complex.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1864, 1920**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | <u>Labor</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Worumbo Mills, named for Worumbo, a tribal chief of the Anasagunticook Indians, was begun in 1864 with a capital investment of \$250,000. It was built on land of the former Barker Estate at Ten Mile Falls in the Town of Lisbon.

Edward Plummer and Oliver and Galen Moses of Bath were the moving spirits in this corporate venture.

Frank Gutmann, a native of Germany, became Agent for Worumbo in 1865. He was skilled in woolen mill manufacture, having studied the process in Germany, England and Scotland. He remained with the mill until his death in 1918. His son, Walter Gutmann, succeeded him in the business.

In 1876 the Worumbo Mills won a gold medal at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Another gold medal was to be awarded to the mill at Columbia Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

In 1920 a large concrete addition to the mill was constructed which housed a dye house and a boiler house.

In 1956 the mill became a division of the J.P. Stevens Co. On July 29, 1964 the announcement came that the mill would be closing. At this time, the mill was the largest employer in the Town of Lisbon. It was

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Plummer, Francis, Sr. Lisbon: The History of a Small Maine Town.
 Lewiston, Maine: Twin City Printery, 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 59 ' 40 "	70 ° 03 ' 39 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kendall A. Merriam

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: 231 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lisbon Falls STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: James H. Munday

Title: State Historic Pres. Officer

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Associate Director
 Professional Services

Date: OCT 15 1973

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-9-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Androscoggin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
001 15	1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

2

later purchased by Mr. Robert G. Fromkin and reopened under the name of Lisbon Weaving Company. The mill has since changed hands again and is now owned by Mr. Herbert Miller of the Miller Company.

The Worumbo Mill is significant as a typical woolen mill with utilitarian architecture that dominated the life of so many 19th century river towns in New England. In the case of the Worumbo Mill, it still does dominate the life of so many in the village of Lisbon Falls. The mill still operates using much of the same technology that it did at the time of its founding. It stands today on the banks of the Androscoggin as a monument to the men who built it and the thousands who worked within its rooms.





#1 Worumbo Mill, Lisbon Falls
View towards the Northwest

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
The Worumbo Mill		23/001 OCT 15 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maine	Androscoggin	Lisbon
STREET AND NUMBER		
Ten Mile Falls, Village of Lisbon Falls		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Richard D. Kelly	July 20, 1973	Maine Historic Preservation Commission
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Photo #1: View towards the Northwest.



GPO 932-009

July 20, 1973 R.D. Kelly



FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	
The Worumbo Mill		23/001
OCT 15 1973		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maine	Androscoggin	Lisbon
STREET AND NUMBER		
Ten Mile Falls, Village of Lisbon Falls		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Richard D. Kelly	July 20, 1973	Maine Historic Preservation Commission
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Photo #2: Close-up of towers towards Northwest.		



GPO 932-009

#2 Worumbo Mill, Lisbon Falls.
Close up of towers toward
Northwest

July 20, 1973 R. D. Kelly



#3 Worumbo Mill, Lisbon Falls
View towards the West

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

The Worumbo Mill

23/001

OCT 15 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

COUNTY

TOWN

Maine

Androscoggin

Lisbon

STREET AND NUMBER

Ten Mile Falls, Village of Lisbon Falls

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DATE

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Richard D. Kelly

July 20, 1973

Maine Historic Preservation
Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Photo #3: View towards the West.



GPO 932-009

July 20, 1973 R.D. Kelly



WORUMBO MILL ~~WATER~~ LISBON FALLS

Ambro Pacygen Co

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

OCT 15 1973

The Worumbo Mill

23/001

2. LOCATION

STATE

COUNTY

TOWN

Maine

Androscoggin

Lisbon

STREET AND NUMBER

Ten Mile Falls, Village of Lisbon Falls

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

DATE

SCALE

U.S.G.S.
Freeport Quadrangle

1957

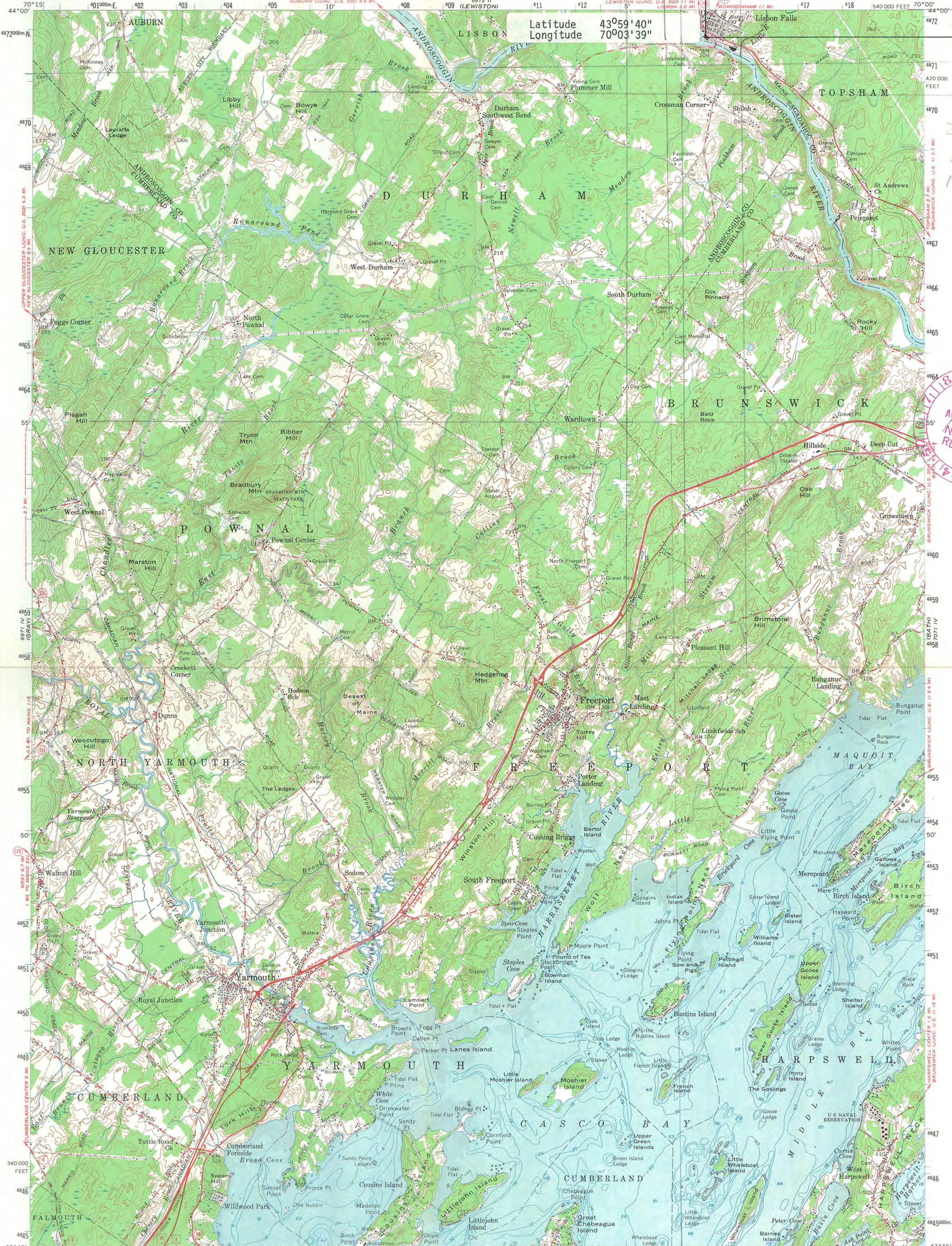
1:62500

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

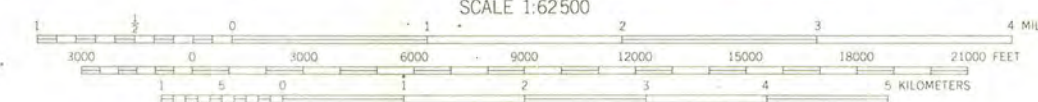


Latitude 43°59'40"
Longitude 70°03'39"

HB
219
= 414350
N 4871490



Mapped by the Geological Survey and the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maine Geodetic Survey
Topography on north half by planetable surveys 1941. Revised 1957
South half compiled in 1959 from USGS 1:24 000-scale maps of
Freeport and Yarmouth 7.5 minute quadrangles, surveyed 1941.
Revised 1957
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 315 (1955)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maine coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
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 9 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

The south half of this map also covered by
1:24 000-scale maps of Freeport and Yarmouth
7.5 minute quadrangles, surveyed 1957

FREEMPORT, MAINE
N4345—W7000/15

1957

AMS 6971 I—SERIES V711

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

PROPERTY

Wouumbo Mill

STATE

Maine

WORKING NUMBER

8-16-13.3444

TECH REVIEW

Photos

3

Maps

1

Androscoggin

CONTROL REVIEW

cm

8-16-

73

HISTORIAN

hist. sign. appears OK - suspect #7 is inadequate - no arch. descrip. - up to Arch. Hist. it wants to return OK by me

OK

Accept

AME

8/17/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

I'm not gung-ho about a more detailed description -- after all it's not a distinctive mill bldg.

Accept

KITC 8/27/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept 9-11-73
C. Shul

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Inventoried by HARR Accept 9/10/73

Eub

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept 10/5/73
Rogers

KEEPER

Wm
10/9

National Register write-up _____

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry

12-4-73

Re-submit _____

Entered

OCT 15 1973

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MAINE

Date Entered OCT 15 1973

Name

Location

The Worumb Mill

Lisbon
Androscoggin County

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic
Church

Grand Isle vicinity
Aroostook County

Also Notified

Hon. Edmund S. Muskie
Hon. William D. Hathaway
Hon. William S. Cohen

Director, Northeast Region

PHR MMott 10/25/73

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. James Mundy, Director
Maine Historical Preservation Commission
31 Western Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330

Life on the Androscoggin

Preserving Maine history by highlighting architectural relics

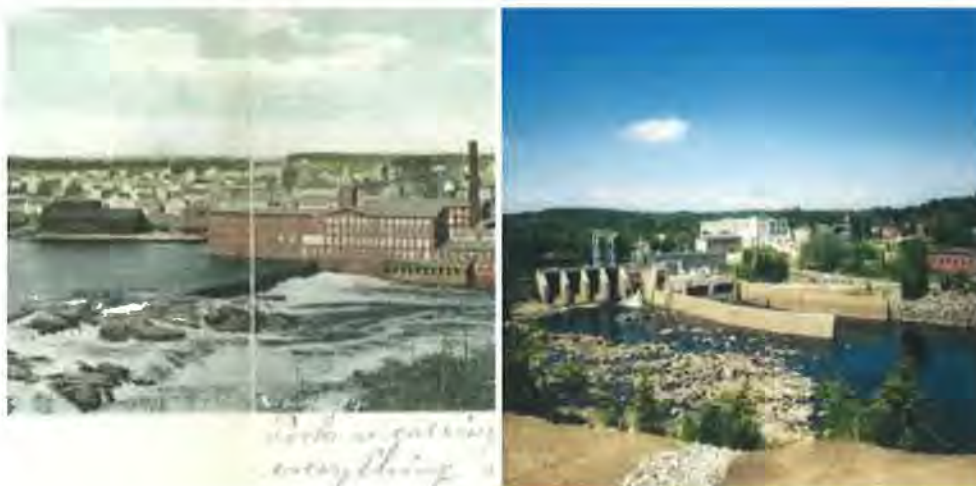


The Life & Death of Worumbo Mill

🕒 July 11, 2016 🏠 Home 📌 architecture, historic, landmark, manufacturing, textiles

By Brooke Nasser

An established piece of Maine history, the Worumbo Mill in Lisbon Falls, is now a broken and crumbling monument to Androscoggin County's once-roaring industrial era and is being demolished as I write.



Worumbo Mill, on the northern shore of the Androscoggin River, was founded by Lisbon businessmen, Edward Plummer and H.A. Tibbetts, and Bath resident, Oliver Moses. It was named in honor of Worumbo, a tribal chief of the Anasagunticook Indians, the original inhabitants of the area. Plummer and Tibbetts purchased territory on the river known as the "Barker Estate" in 1861, realizing its water-power potential situated as it was at the base of Ten Mile Falls. With an investment of \$250,000, ground broke in 1864 and the factory began producing fine woolens in 1865.

Lisbon Falls was first dubbed Little River, then Ten Mile Falls, then Lisbon Falls and, though small in geographical space, became an industrial powerhouse. It had six sawmills at the turn of the 19th Century and by the early 1900s, woolen and cotton mills (Worumbo, Farwell, Farnsworth) were the town's largest employers, earning Lisbon a preeminent spot globally as a textile manufacturing center.

By 1890, the mill employed 340 men and 110 women and the monthly payroll was \$15,000. The force generated by the falls was estimated at 5,063 horsepower. From the Lisbon Town Register, Worumbo Mill reported producing:

"Montevideo and Australian wools used in the manufacturing of beavers, kerseys, cloaks, full indigo, flannels, shetlands, chinchillas and floconnee goods." Floconnee, translated from the French, is flocking, a process in textile manufacturing of adding natural fibers to create a decorative and/or functional characteristic to a fabric.

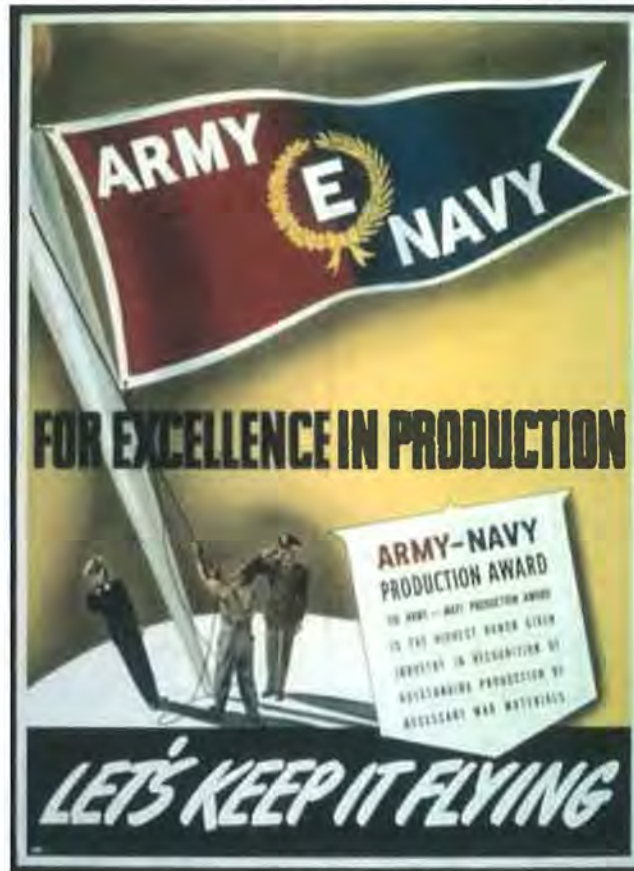


Worumbo Mill 1882. Maine Memory Network.



Weave Room 1950 Mary Galgovitch (far left), worked in the Worumbo Mill weaving textiles from the age of 14 until 70 years old. The other three women in the weaving room of the Worumbo are unidentified. Maine Memory Network.

The triangular pin had a white border emblazoned with a capital "E" within a yellow wreath of oak and laurel leaves on a blue and red background. On the read was printed "ARMY" with "NAVY" in white lettering on the blue background.



*Office of War Information. Domestic Operations Branch.
Bureau of Special Services. (03/09/1943 – 09/15/1945)*

The original structure, and the largest part of the mill, featured a flat roof and two towers. In 1920 two concrete buildings — a dye house and a boiler house — were added to complete the mill complex as it looks today. Overhead walkways were built so employees could travel between buildings in the winter without braving the bitter cold outside. You may recognize the 1920s portion from the Stephen King Hulu series "11/22/63" starring James Franco and Cherry Jones.

Oliver Moses II, son of the founder, served on the Board of Directors when his uncle died and built a ball park behind the mill. He also started a city league baseball team called the Lemons, which eventually became the semi-pro team, the Worumbo Indians.



Worumbo Baseball Stock. Maine Memory Network.

The Worumbo Indians won three state championships during the four years they played. Stand-out first baseman, Eddie Waitkus, known as "The Natural" as a rookie, went on to an 11-year career in Major League Baseball until crazed fan Ruth Ann Steinhagen shot and killed him in Chicago. His story was immortalized in 1954 novel, "The Natural," written by Bernard Malamud and 1984 movie by the same name starring Robert Redford and Glenn Close. The ball park stood until the 1950s when new owner J.P. Stevens converted it into a parking lot.

Oliver Moses III sold the mill in 1956 to J.P. Stevens and full-scale production lasted only nine more years. During this time, the textile industry was changing rapidly. Although productivity increased with newer and more efficient technologies, prices decreased. Worumbo's location on the falls was no longer a competitive advantage with the development of new, inexpensive power sources. Competition from textile conglomerates in the South and clothing manufacturers in Europe and Asia simultaneously increased the costs of raw materials and reduced the market share. J.P. Stevens announced that the mill would close on Sept. 23, 1964, two months after another major employer in Lisbon, Farnsworth Mill, made its closing announcement. At this time, the Worumbo Mill was the largest employer in the town of Lisbon and the announcement was met with motivated resistance.

The town made an extraordinary effort to save the mill, raising \$110,000 in pledges for mortgage bonds, and on Jan. 14, 1965 the mill became the property of the Lisbon Weaving Company. Sadly, the company was short lived and the mill went into foreclosure two years later. In 1967, Herbert A. Miller, owner of Max Miller Industries, bought both Farnsworth Mill and Worumbo Mill. Camden yarns, a subsidiary company, produced various yarns, upholstery and drapery fabrics in Worumbo until the mill burned in 1987.

Over the years, the mill has survived a record number of economic and natural catastrophes. The natural ebbing and swollen of the Androscoggin River has caused massive flooding many times, the worst occurring in 1936 during winter when ice tore up the foundation and ripped apart the interior. The Androscoggin River experienced record flood levels that destroyed the iron bridge between Durham and Lisbon Falls.



On April 6, 1901, a fire blazed through the structure. An article in the "Lisbon Enterprise" after the flames had been extinguished expressed an attitude of gratefulness that the mill had been spared, despite extensive damage to the town itself: "There is nothing so bad but could be worse, and even as we have daily gazed upon the ruins of our once pretty and prosperous village, we feel that in our case it might have been much worse." In fact, the business and downtown area of the "village" was destroyed, but Worumbo Mill remained standing and was able to continue production. Employing about 600 Mainers at that time, it was a massive relief that the fire did not destroy one of the town's major sources of industry and economy.



Lisbon Falls after the 1901 fire. Maine Memory Network.

The most famous catastrophe, however, occurred on July 23, 1987 when once again a fire ignited. At that time, the original portion of Worumbo Mill was over a hundred years old and production had slowed. Just under 75 people were then employed at the mill and all escaped unharmed. The main concern now was to prevent the fire from spreading to local businesses, residences and downtown Lisbon.

The fire completely destroyed the main structure, but the 1920s expansion was spared. All told, 283 firefighters responded to the blaze. Although the fire was contained in five hours,

using 15,000 gallons of water per minute to do so (a total of 17.8 million gallons was used the first day) crews stayed for another 13 to extinguish the flames. The Yarmouth fire chief told the Sun Journal at the 25th anniversary memorial event that the fire department returned for 10 days straight to ensure that the fire did not re-ignite.

Looking at it today, despite its current state of disintegration, it is easy to imagine the simple, impressive beauty of Worumbo Mill in its youth. I find the structure deeply poetic, a reminder of where we've been as well as an insistent nudge toward the future. The land at the base of Ten Mile Falls is fertile and powerful. Once the mill is gone, the memories will remain and the land where it once stood will give birth to a new enterprise that will hopefully employ and nurture future generations of Mainers.



A special thanks to [Maine Memory Network](#) for use of their extensive historical library. For additional information on Worumbo Mill and other points of interest in Maine, please visit their website.

For more information about historical photos, please follow the links below:

1. [Worumbo Mill 1882](#)
2. [Weave Room 1950](#)
3. [Worumbo Baseball Stock Certificate](#)
4. [Lisbon Falls on April 6, 1901](#)
5. [Worumbo Flood 1936](#)
6. [Dye machine submerged, Worumbo Flood 1936](#)

Bibliography

Plummer, Francis, Sr. *Lisbon: The History of a Small Maine Town*. Lewis ton, Maine: Twin City Printery, 1970.

Watkins, A., Greeley, B., & Theriault, K. (1987). *The Birth, being and burning of Worumbo Mill*. Norway, Me.: Printed by the Oxford Group.

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sunjournal.com. (n.d.). Retrieved July 11, 2016, from <http://www.sunjournal.com/news/business/0001/11/30/news-worumbo-mills-demolition-evokes-sadness-resignation/1891267>

About Brooke Nasser

Brooke Nasser has been working as a freelance filmmaker and photojournalist in Honolulu, Los Angeles, and Maine for over 12 years, and has written, produced and directed numerous fiction and documentary films. Her photo-prose work has been featured in *Asymmetric Magazine* (January 2016) and *Nakid Magazine's Artist to Watch* series (June 2015). Her fine art photography is featured in galleries in Honolulu and Los Angeles. She is a contributing writer to several national print publications, most notably *Ladygunn Magazine* and *Rogue Magazine*.

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PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333



11 August 2017

Edson Beall
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Beall:

Enclosed please find four (4) National Register nominations for properties in the State of Maine. Of the four, one (1) is a new nomination and three (3) are additional documentation: two removals and one request for approval to move.

Dark Harbor Shop, Waldo County
Hallowell Historic District - Additional Documentation Dummer House Relocation, Kennebec County
Worumbo Mill - Additional Documentation - Removal, Androscoggin County
Reed, Col. Isaac G. House - Additional Documentation - Removal, Lincoln County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 8.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain
Architectural Historian

Enc.