Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
New Hampshire	
COUNTY:	
Belknap	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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The Busiel Granite Hosiery Mill was begun in 1853 by J. W. Busiel, who had established a firm adjacent to the brick mill in 1846. As originally constructed, the mill included only the eastern half of the present structure and a stair tower on the north side later removed. It appears to have first been illustrated in an 1859 Map of Belknap County, N. H./ In 1873 a brick office building was erected and in 1877 a new picker house which is now incorporated in the structure. The next year, 1878, the western half of the main mill was added and a new stair tower added on the south side. With a finishing building added in 1882, the components of the surviving mill were completed by that time.

Insurance survey drawings and maps of 1875 and 1882 show the mill in its two main stages. The earlier (eastern) half was heated by end chimnies which appear above the pitch roof of the small structure. Decorative brickwork at the east end shows a plain gable banding and dentiled cornice. The opposite end is finished off in a stepped eclectic banding. The fenestration differs in the two halves, only in the arched window at the upper attic story of the west end and the two square windows at the same level in the earlier end along the Winnipesaukee River. Granite sills and lintels are used on all the windows of the basement (east end), three stories and attic. The stair tower, partially off-set into the earlier half, contains a double door at the ground level with three rectangular windows of its front facade. An arched window in three sides of the top story of the tower is surrounded by decorative brickwork of a dentil cornice and arch with keystone above each window. Above these windows are two horizontal panels below a heavy brick cornice. The cupola may be a later addition, as the insurance survey drawing taken in 1882 shows a simple square structure above the brickwork. present cupola, with its octagonal form and pointed roof, makes the whole structure far more aesthetically appealing than the briginal.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as Pre-Columbian)	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Céntury	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	zom comory
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The Busiel mill represents the growth of a single hosiery manufacturing company which was, by the turn of the century, the largest of its kind in this industrial region of New Hampshire. Its founder, John W. Busiel was a pioneer in the development of the industry and the father of Charles A. Busiel, who inherited part of the business and was an early Governor of New Hampshire. The mill was one of the first to adopt the newly invented Aiken and Peppers circular knitting machines with latched needles in the mid-1850's, and among the earliest to manufacture Shaker socks and other garments with these machines. Busiel's early adoption of this technological ad-

vancement has been cited as the reason that this business tended to centralize along the Winnipesaukee River, which became the home of the manufacture of woolen hosier, and knitting needles and machines.

The building itself is an interesting example of the development of industrial architecture within the textile industry. In comparison with the Belknap-Sulloway mill, which stands opposite the Busiel mill, the construction reflects the later development of "slow-burn" floor framing. The contrast in both style and structural composition makes this building an excellent mill in which to show the vernacular changes in New England industrial architecture. The increases in space through a series of additions permits some measure of tastes in succeeding generations of mill building. As an example of the small Victorian mill, which grew to a sizeable business in the region, the Busiel mill is among the most attractive to have survived.

It is the location of the Busiel mill, however, which adds even greater significance to its preservation. Sited along the river, opposite the Belknap-Sulloway mill, its tower and cupola are again visible as a visual focus to the center of Laconia. Part of an urban renewal project, the less significant buildings have been removed to present the building within an open area along the Winnipesaukee which cuts through the city.

	Charles W. Vaughan, comp., The Illustrated Laconian, etc. Louis B. Martin, publ., 1899 (printed by Rumford Press) J. N. McClintock, "Laconia" Granite Monthly, III, 3, Dec. 1879, pp. 95-102.										
	Henry Robinson, "Charles Albert Busiel." Granite Monthly, VII, 2, 57-61.										
	Richard Sulloway, "New Hampshire's Part in the Evolution of Modern Knitting Machinery", <u>Historical New Hampshire</u> (N. H. Hist. Soc.), Vol. XII, Dec. 1956.										
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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STATE	New Hampsl	nire
COUNTY	Belknap	
F	OR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTR	Y NUMBER	DATE
1/113	3,0002	1/25/11

(Continuation Sheet)

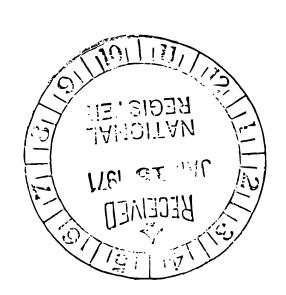
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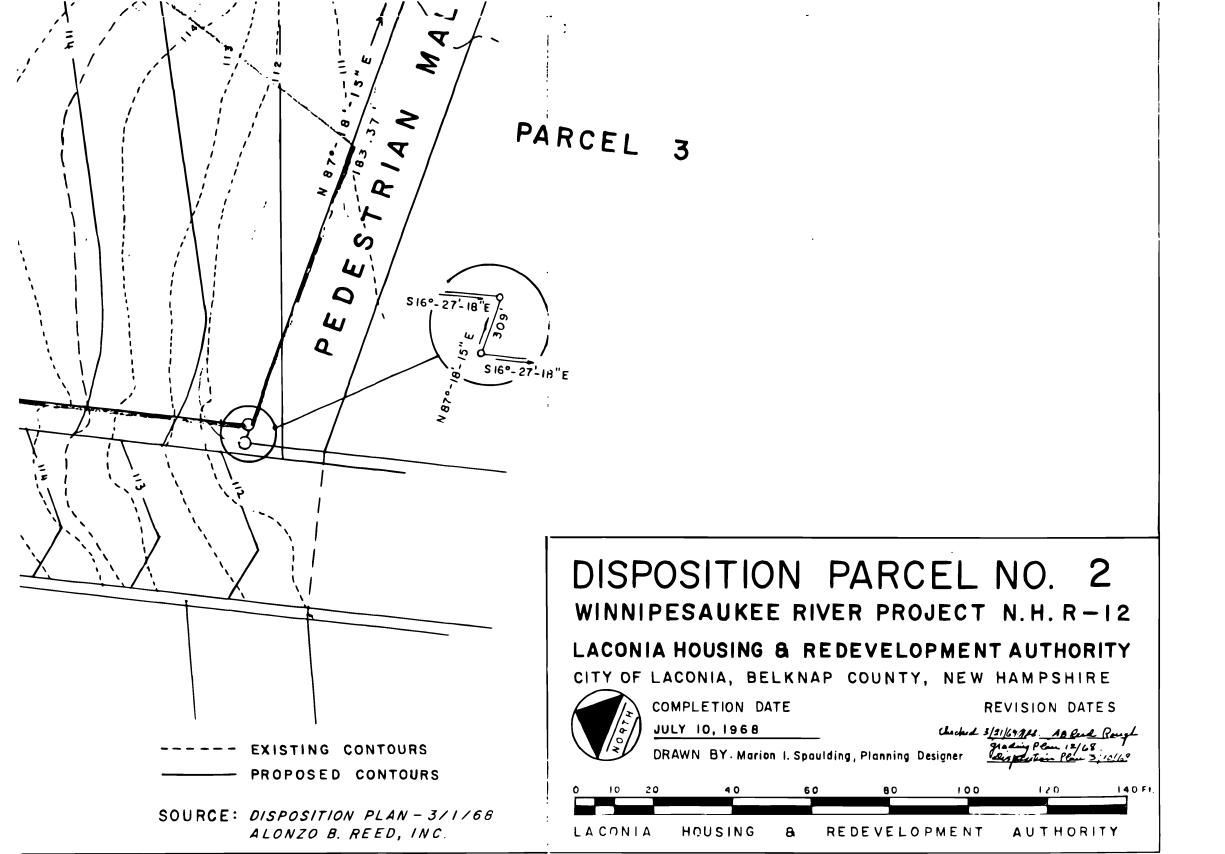
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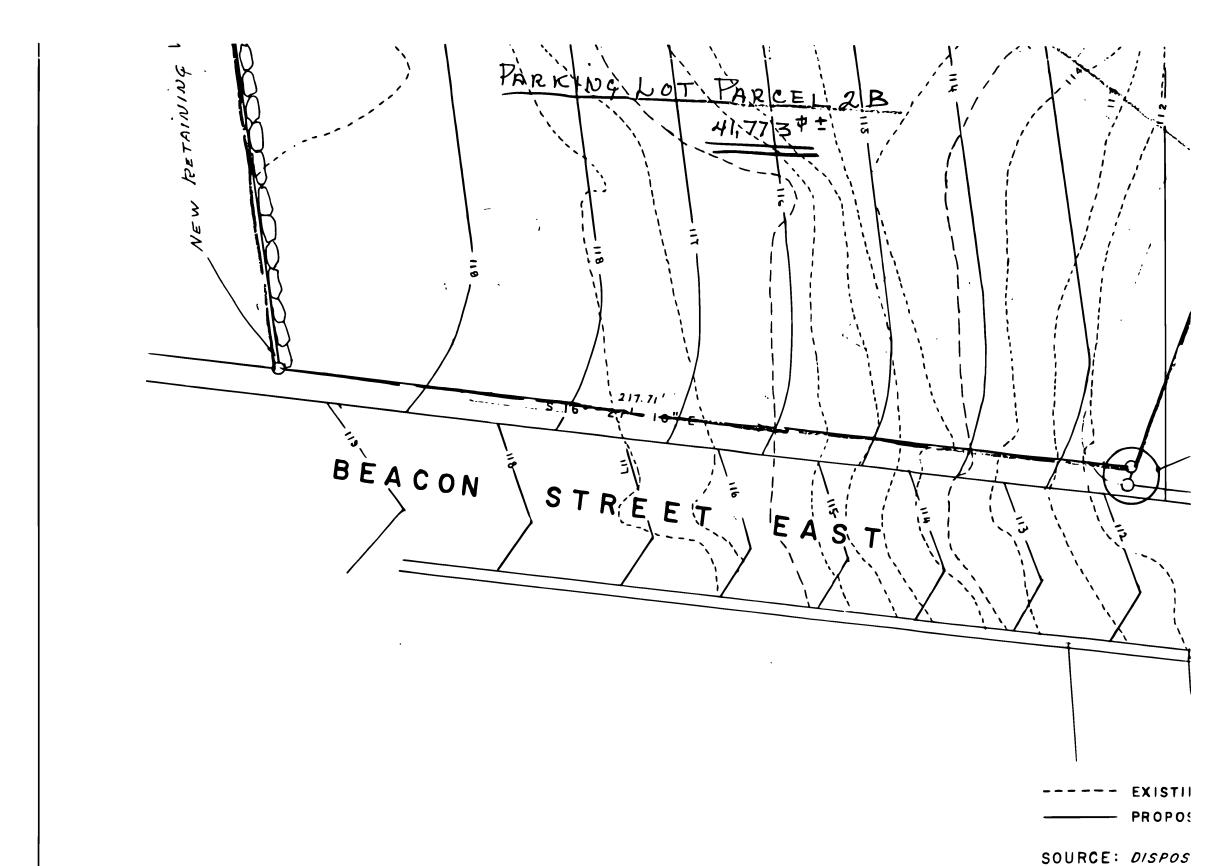
George A. Parsons, "The Knitting Machine Needle Industry in New Hampshire", <u>Historical New Hampshire</u> (N. H. Hist. Soc.) Vol. XII, Dec. 1956.

<u>Life</u>, Vol. 69, No. 10, Sept. 4, 1970, pp. 58-59.

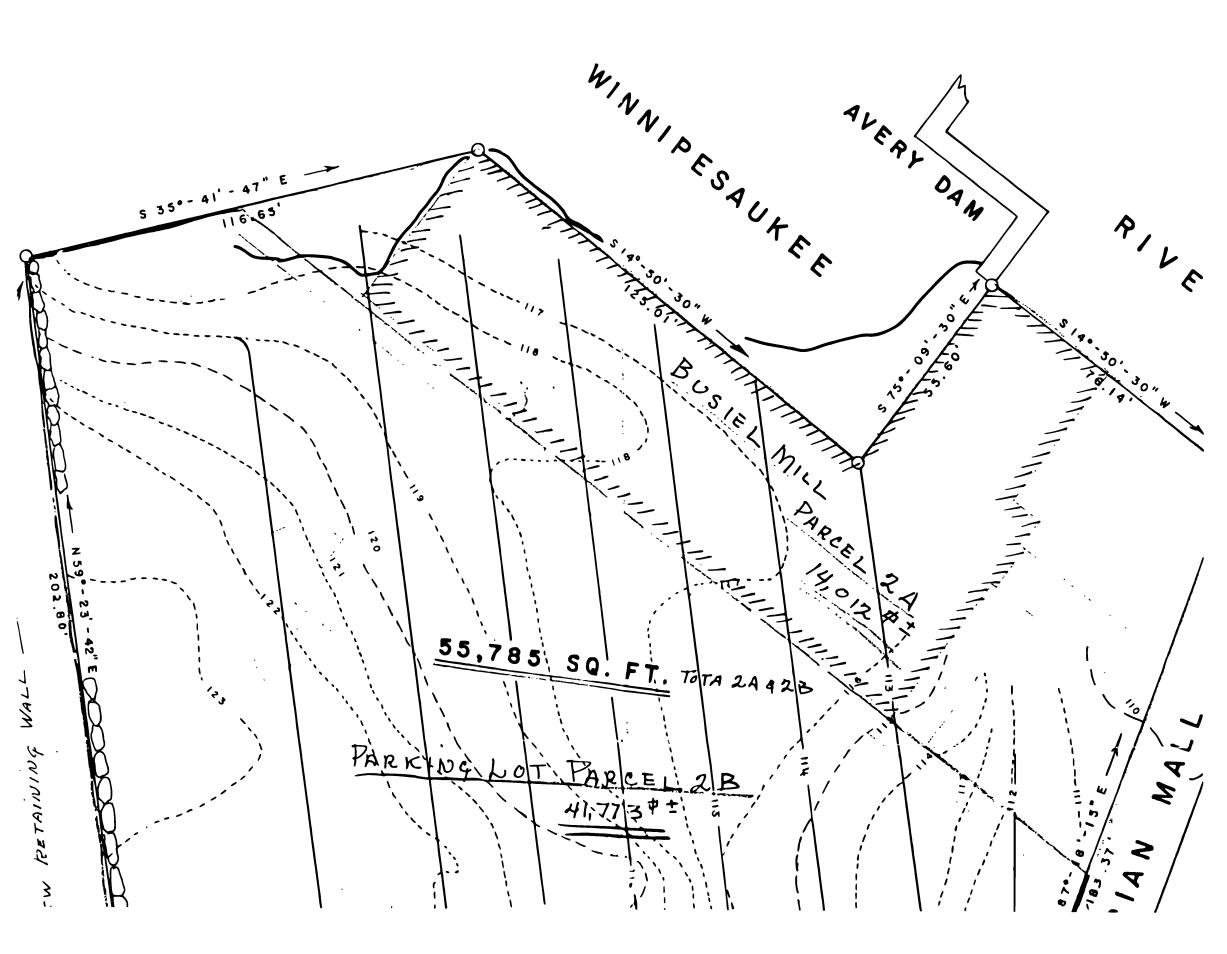
Barlow Insurance Survey, ["Laconia, N. H."] #3774, August 1875; "Granite Hosiery Mill" [J. W. Busiel & Co.] #6989, January 12, 1882.







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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

New Hampshire

-/25/71

Belknap

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
7/./ 33 CCC 2

COUNTY