

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 29 1971	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Berkeley Mill Village

AND/OR HISTORIC: Containing Martin Street to the north-west, Mendon Road to the north-east, and bounded otherwise by railroad and cemetery.

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

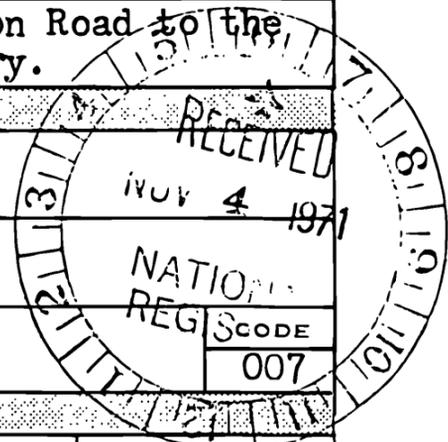
CITY OR TOWN:
Berkeley

STATE
Rhode Island, 02865

CODE
44

COUNTY:
Providence

REGISTRATION CODE
007



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Lincoln Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 Old River Road

CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE
Lincoln Rhode Island, 02865 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER
FEB 29 1971

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

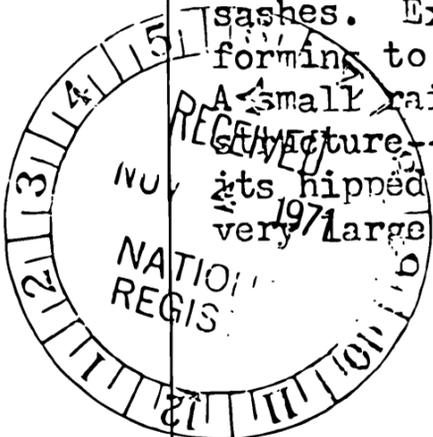
The mill village of Berkeley, Rhode Island, was established by the Berkeley Company, textile manufacturers, in the Blackstone River Valley in 1872. Except for one unit of workers' housing, all of the original structures--including the mill, the schoolhouse, the superintendent's residence, and a concentration of workers' housing--are preserved today with little alteration.

Berkeley was established on a wide belt of land between the Blackstone River to the west and Mendon Road, a main artery connecting the string of mill towns in the valley, to the east; it was planned along traditional lines. As with earlier mills which had utilized water power, the more modern, steam-powered Berkeley Mill was situated near a river, at the edge of marshy land: this location continued to provide access to the Providence and Worcester Railroad line which had been built along the river's edge in 1847. On the steep slope above the mill and to its east, isolated from Mendon Road by a deep ravine, a group of double and multiple housing units was erected for the workers and their families, while a schoolhouse was built midway between this housing group and the mill. Other structures, including two large double houses for higher-ranking personnel and the large single residence of the mill's superintendent, were spread along Mendon Road. By the turn of the century, two- and three-family tenements, commercial structures, and a church--all apparently privately built--more fully filled in the stretch of Mendon Road. Today, modern commercial structures have been closely built along this road, and several twentieth-century factories surround the mill, but the original block of workers' housing still stands isolated from surrounding development.

The architecture throughout this planned settlement is primarily functional, visually unified by its simplicity of design and its brick construction. Architectural elaboration was reserved for the mill building itself. Beside the railroad tracks and facing west, the very long, rectangular, four-story brick structure is capped by a bracketed roof of very slight pitch. It is of a simplified Romanesque style. Architectural embellishment is limited to a tall central tower, reminiscent of a campanile, projected in front of the mill's main block. Pierced with a loft opening on each floor, the tower is crowned by a belfry with triple, round-arched openings on each face. Rather elaborate wrought-iron fire-escapes on the front of the mill flank this tower. The tall, long, plain mill structure has uniform windows which are segmental-headed beneath simple brick drip-mouldings; they have twenty-over-twenty, double-hung sashes. Except for extensive additions adjoining its south end, and conforming to the building's original style, the mill has been little altered. A small railroad passenger station nearby--a one-story, rectangular brick structure--is also relatively elaborate. The wide, overhanging eaves of its hipped roof, which provide sheltered waiting areas, are supported on very large and decorative wooden brackets, sawn and pierced.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The uniform and simple design, the regular plan of the workers' housing area produce a strong architectural statement. Organized, placed and spaced along three short streets, the houses have been little altered on the exterior and fully retain their original character. The once-tree-lined central avenue, Woodward Street, one block in length, is lined by large, two-and-a-half-story, double brick houses: there were originally six such houses on each side; one in the east range has since been destroyed. Regularly spaced, these six-bay-wide rectangular units of symmetrical design are set close to the sidewalk, with the long side of their bracketed gable roofs parallel to the street. Segmental-headed windows and doorways pierce the walls. While almost purely functional in design, these housing units are somehow reminiscent of Romanesque building and are visually linked with the mill building.

Although the housing units along Woodward Street were all designed as multiple-family dwellings, the parallel streets to the east and west-- Lawrence and Victory Streets, respectively--are lined with smaller units, each for two families only. Spaced at the same regular intervals as those on Woodward Street, their exterior design is almost identical except that they are only one-and-a-half stories high. In each two small half-windows, set just below the roof on the front elevation, light the attic story. These paired dwellings in fact provide more living-space per family than the Woodward Street houses. In contrast to the rather deteriorated houses on the latter street, these houses remain in relatively good condition.

The other structures of the mill village--the schoolhouse down the hill from the workers' housing; the two large double houses (probably built for shop foremen) and the superintendent's house on Mendon Road-- are straightforward, two-story, brick structures with gable or cross-gable roofs, lighted by segmental-arched or rectangular windows with simple stone lintels and sills. Again, the design of these buildings embraced by the village and its needs is neat and functional, visually linked to the principal, other structures of the mill complex.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1872

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dating from 1872, Berkeley Mill Village is an extremely well-preserved example of the planned mill village complex, providing structures for industrial, residential, educational activities of all its mill workers and their families. Alterations to individual buildings have been limited, and except for the loss of one house unit on Woodward Street all of the original structures in the complex stand today.

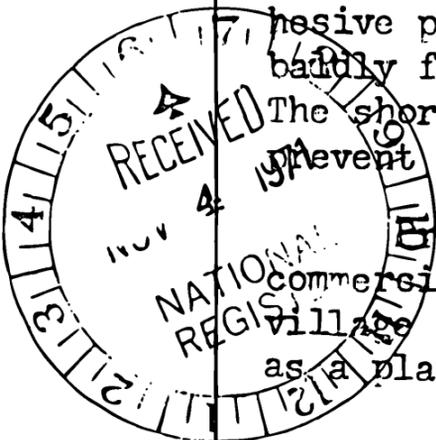
The village represents the final phase of a long tradition of paternalistic, company-built towns established in New England in the early part of the nineteenth century. To make use of available water power for their mills, early mill-owners were often forced to locate in unpopulated, rural areas. Providing satisfactory housing and necessary public buildings was essential for attracting workers from a distance, or even from abroad. Because they were a permanent capital investment, these structures were well-built and well-maintained. The brick structures at Berkeley show well the severely functional approach taken in this type of construction.

Whereas pre-Civil-War mills towns were common throughout New England, the vitality of these small, isolated villages lasted longer in Rhode Island than in other states. Thus, full-surviving post-Civil-War mills and their accompanying planned towns (as also seen at Ashton, Rhode Island) are almost unique to this state.

Along with the handsome mill building and its picturesque campanile, the section of town devoted to workers' housing is particularly significant for its strong, simply ordered architectural effect. Set in a rural area where there was no shortage of land, the houses were grouped for convenience, but spaced to avoid the spread of fire. This provided a spaciousness of light and air, but formed a visually cohesive plan of simple structures, uniform in size and design. Almost badly functional in design, these are yet handsome, dignified houses. The short blocks, tall trees, and views of the surrounding countryside prevent the regular plan from becoming monotonous.

Preserved today with little alteration, still isolated from nearby commercialism and partially surrounded by an open, natural setting, this village still fully retains its original character and its high quality as a planned community.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

None

UTM REF
 19/299420/4644220
 19/299420/4644220
 19/299420/4644220
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	55'	50.49"N	71°	25'	23.38"W
NE	41°	55'	37.52"N	71°	25'	8.35"W
SE	41°	55'	26.04"N	71°	25'	26.39"W
SW	41°	55'	36.93"N	71°	25'	41.59"W

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: C. 100--125 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: May 7, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: RI

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Frederick C. Williams

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: October 20, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Date: FEB 23 1972

ATTEST: William Stender
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

