

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

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

Form numbers in this area 436-446	Area no. Q NR-6
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2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

1. Town Taunton

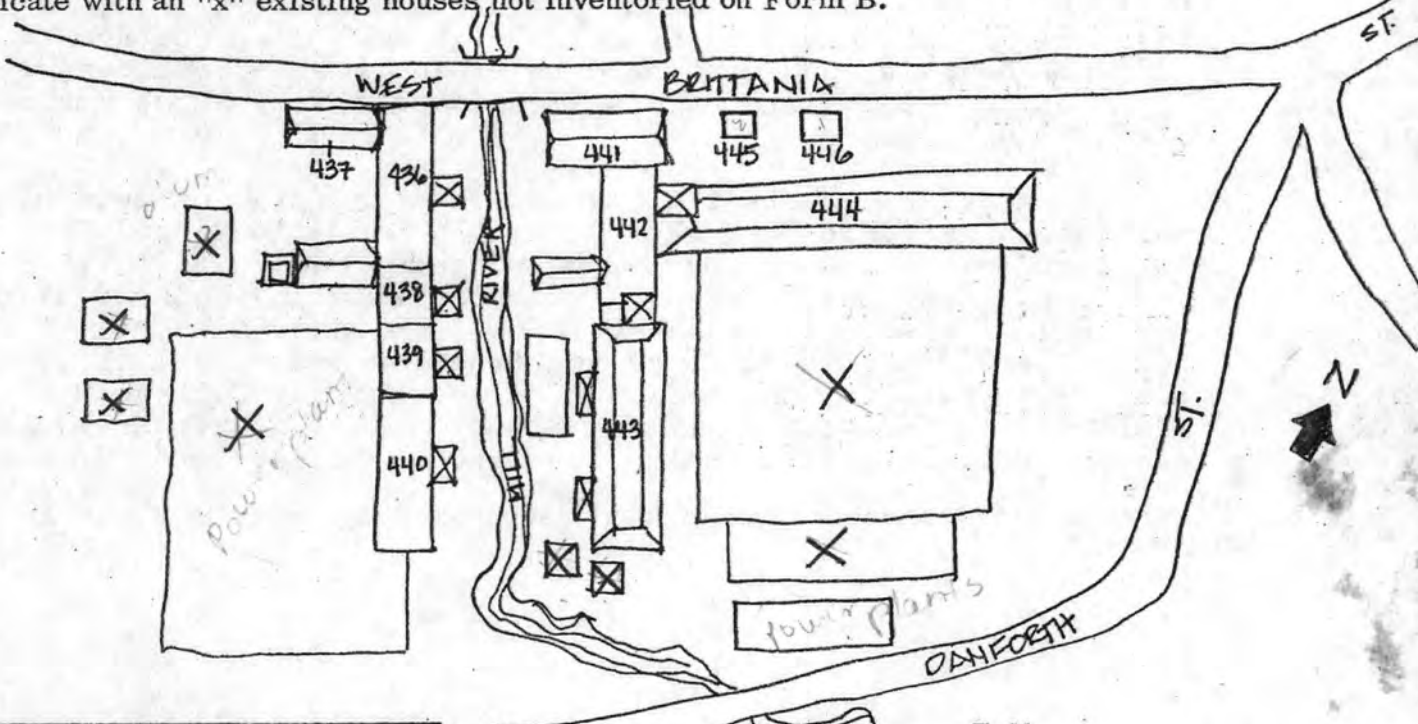
Name of area (if any) Reed ^{and} Barton
Complex

3. General date or period c. 1830 - 1890

W. Brittainia and Danforth Sts.

4. Is area uniform (explain):
Early through late 19th
in style? Yes - Century Mill Construction
in condition? Yes - Excellent
in type of ownership? Yes - Private
in use? Yes - Industrial

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by T.W.

Organization T.C.H.S.

Date 8/79

(over)

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The Reed and Barton Manufacturing Co. is one of the two largest extant industries in Taunton that have determined the growth, economy and settlement patterns of the city since the early 19th century. Its impressive complex of over 30 buildings, occupying a 14-acre site, is located on the Mill River in "Brittaniaville," one of Taunton's first industrial villages. The firm, in continuous operation on its present site since 1830, has been a major producer of silver and "Brittaniaware," exhibited and distributed over a worldwide market, and now owns many subsidiary silver producers.✓

Beginning as apprentices in the "Taunton Brittaniaware Manufacturing Co.," Henry Reed, a metallurgist, and Charles Barton learned the production of Brittaniaware, a fine grade of pewter, from their bosses and mentors, Babbitt and Crossman, early Taunton silver manufacturers. Moving to their present Mill River location in 1830, Reed and Barton's first business ventures were backed by Gustavus Leonard, a wealthy Taunton industrialist. Within a decade, the concern was competing on the foreign market with a highly refined and durable line of pewterware. By the end of the Civil War, the Company began a period of almost exponential expansion. Incorporating in 1888, the firm's assets were valued at over \$600,000 and the mill complex had grown to contain 16 major buildings. Adding sterling silver to its already prestigious line in 1889, Reed and Barton opened sales offices in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, and continued to expand in the 20th century by absorbing many silver production competitors, which became its subsidiaries.

In addition to its tightly confined grouping of meticulously maintained factories and showrooms, the Reed and Barton Co. built and owned a large number of workers' houses for its immigrant labor force, many of which still stand today. Examples of single family, side hall cottages, duplexes and double houses that range in dates of construction from mid-19th to early 20th century, can be found on neighboring Cottage St., Danforth St. and West Britannia Street. As the city developed a good trolley system in the late 19th century, Reed and Barton-

(cont.)

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Taunton

Form No:

NK-6

Property Name: Reed & Barton Complex

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

7. Historical Date: (Continued)

owned housing extended even further from the complex--along Broadway and Bay Streets--meshing with the large industrial community surrounding the Whittenton Mills.

Physical Appearance:

The Reed and Barton Complex contains 8 major 19th century brick factories, aligned in east and west rows, spanning the Mill River, and a grouping of smaller brick and frame support structures, including foundry, tin shop, machine rooms and carpenters' shops. The principal buildings, dating from c. 1830-1890, share brick construction and illustrate a variety of industrial construction modes popular during this period.

The 600' west row consists of 4 connected three and four-story factories, and is headed on the North by the oldest surviving structure in the complex (Form #436), the "Old Mill". This 3½-story, 100' x 40' building originally housed the Taunton Britannia Manufacturing Company, and was in operation on the site when the Reed and Barton Company moved to this location in 1834. The structure was later enlarged by the addition of a 3½-story brick ell to the west in 1879 (Form #437). Connected to the south end of the "Old Mill" are two identical 3½-story factories with skylights and engaged stair towers, capped by pyramidal roofs (Form #'s 438 and 439). These structures were built between the years 1830 and 1871. The southernmost structure in the west row is a 4½-story brick factory (Form #440) featuring a stair tower and elaborate corbeled cornice, that was built in 1881.

On the east side of the Mill River, another 600' row of interconnecting brick factories is arranged. These include a 2½-story Italianate style building that originally housed company offices and dates from c. 1865 (Form #441). Intersecting it at right angles is a 3-story mill (Form #442) and a very large Mansard-roofed factory with prominent stair tower (Form #443). Currently, Reed and Barton's executive offices and showrooms are housed in a Mansard structure that dates from between 1871 and 1881 and is entered from Danforth Street (Form #444).

Two of five original workers houses, of brick construction and Cape-type design (Form #'s 445 and 446), are the only surviving examples of company housing that was built as part of the mill complex itself. These structures date from c. 1855.

More recent additions to the Reed and Barton Complex, which do not contribute to its architectural significance, include large, 1-story flatware, holloware and blade buildings located on both sides of the River.

The Reed & Barton Complex possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and historical association with the development of Taunton as a major manufacturing center during the 19th century. Reed & Barton has an international reputation in the silver manufacturing business and continues its operation today in its 19th century mill setting. The district remains in tact despite some 20th century additions which do not contribute to its architectural significance. These non-contributing

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Taunton</i>	Form No: <i>6</i>
Property Name: <i>Reed & Barton</i>	

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

Historical significance (cont.)

structures are marked with an "X" on the front sketch map. The Reed & Barton Complex meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Boundaries were selected to encompass the historic extent of the Mill property which remains intact including two surviving examples of mill housing; boundary lines conform to current lot lines.

Owner: Reed and Barton Co.
144 W. Britannia Street
Taunton, MA

Acreage: 14 (approx.); large assessor's maps (2)

UTM: A 19/325570/4642690
B 19/325920/4642700
C 19/325665/4642380

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 21 1984
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Taunton Multiple Resource Area
State Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Cover 7/5/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 50 1. Roseland Substantive Review Keeper Reject
Attest _____
- 2. Old Colony Iron Works-Nemasket Mills Complex Entered in the National Register Keeper Melores Byers 7/5/84
Attest _____
- 3. Reed and Barton Complex Entered in the National Register Keeper Melores Byers 7/5/84
Attest _____
- 4. St. Mary's Complex Entered in the National Register Keeper Melores Byers 7/5/84
Attest _____
- 5. Whittenton Mills Complex Entered in the National Register Keeper Melores Byers 7/5/84
Attest _____
- 6. Hopewell Mills District Entered in the National Register Keeper Melores Byers 7/5/84
Attest _____
- 7. Taunton Green Historic District Substantive Review Keeper Thomas M. Dwyer 3/1/85
Attest _____
- 8. Atwood, Charles R., House Entered in the National Register Keeper Melores Byers 7/5/84
Attest _____
- 9. Barnum School Entered in the National Register Keeper Melores Byers 7/5/84
Attest _____
- 10. Bartlett, J. C., House Substantive Review Keeper Thomas M. Dwyer
Attest 7/5/84

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Reed and Barton Complex (Taunton MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 21 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 6/21/84 - 7/15/84
Action: ACCEPT 7-5-84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Read and Record Copy (Trenton N.J.)
 Mercer County
 HISTORIC SOCIETY

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



#436, 437 Tarter MRA, Ma

Reed + Barta Complex

MAY 1980



by Berkey

W

MAY 1980



by Berkey



WORKERS' COTTAGES - REED # BARKTON COMPLEX

#445,446

Taunton MRA, Ma

APR 1980

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

APR 1980

Prestige Prints

by Berkey



MAIN OFFICE - REED & BARTON COMPLEX

#444

Tanita MRA, MA

APR 1980



by Berkey



APR 1980



OLD OFFICE BUILDING - REED & BARTON COMPLEX

441

Taunton MA, Ma

APR 1980



Prestige Prints

by Berkey



REED & BARTON COMPLEX
LOOKING SOUTH

Taunton MRA, MA

MAY 1980



by Berkey

MAY 1980



by Berkey

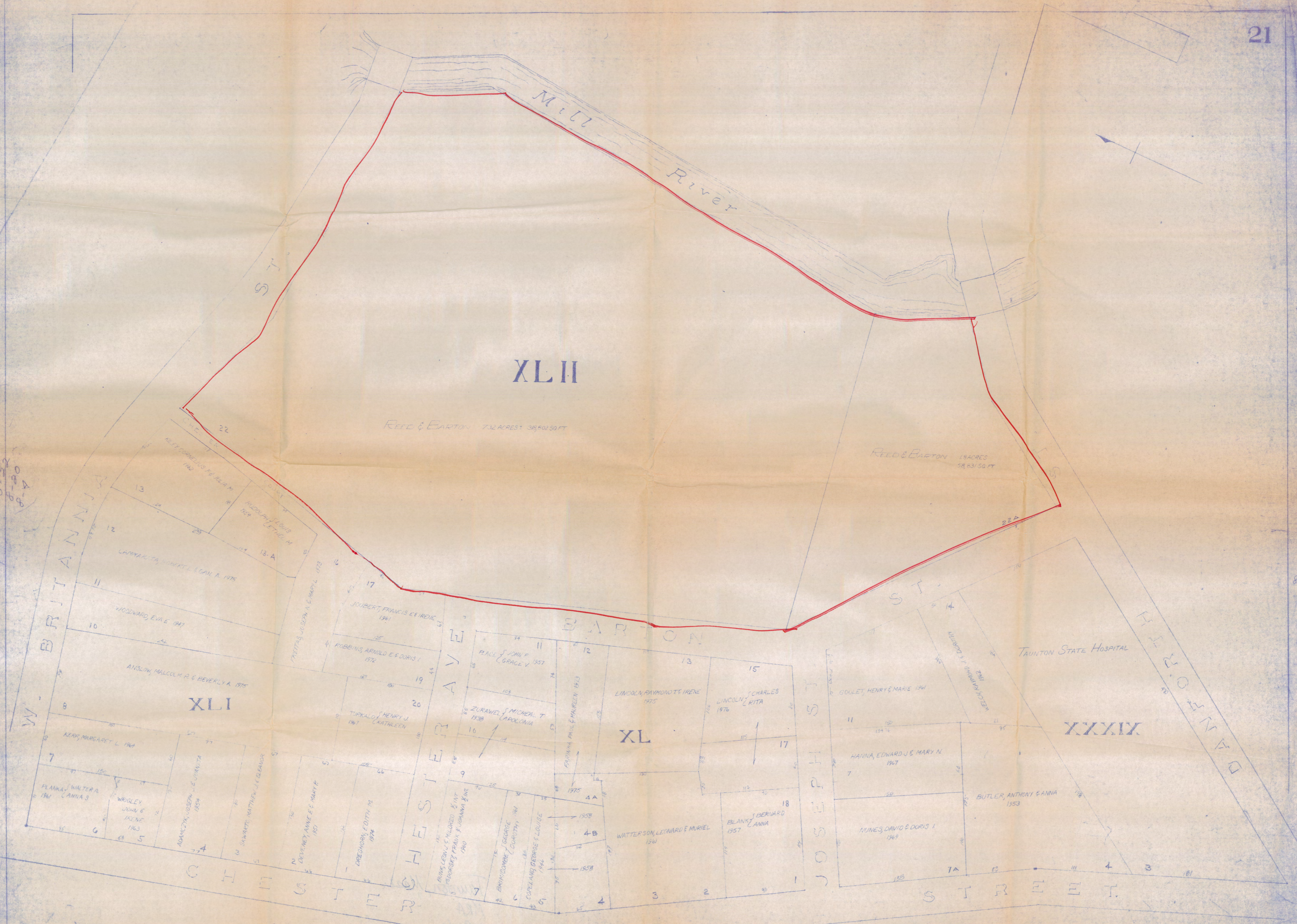
XLII

REED & BARTON 732 ACRES 38,502 SQ. FT.

REED & BARTON 19 ACRES 58,631 SQ. FT.

8-22
8-21
8-4

8-4
8-16



Taunton, Mass.
MRA
NR-6
Reed and Barton

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000297