

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

409

APR 11 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Glenark Mills
other names/site number Glenark Landing

2. Location

street & number 64 East Street n/a not for publication
city, town Woonsocket n/a vicinity
state Rhode Island code R.I. county Providence code 007 zip code 02895

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Woonsocket, Rhode Island: Partial Inventory, Historic and Architectural Resources (1984) Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Robert C. Williamson 31 March 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

John L. Savage 3/15/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
VACANT/NOT IN USE
WORK IN PROGRESS
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN
MID-19TH CENTURY
OTHER: Early 20th-century industrial

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
STONE
roof ASPHALT
other granite and concrete trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Glenark Mill (c. 1865, 1885-1910 et seq.) is a prominent feature of the west bank of the Blackstone River just above the falls of the Blackstone River in central Woonsocket. This nomination pertains to the east main building which rises from the river edge; it is four stories high with a low-pitched roof. The lower two stories at the southern end are of stuccoed rubblestone, enclosing the oldest portion of the complex. A five-level tower is set at center of the west elevation in the alley. Fenestration patterns are regular and repetitive: older sections of brick construction feature segmental window openings with granite sills; the most recent sections have flat-top window openings with concrete sills. Architectural detailing is simple and utilitarian.

The west Dyeing and Finishing Building follows the angles of East Street and Glenark Street, creating an obtuse-triangular building footprint. The west building has a low pitch roof, and is four stories high at the center and one and two stories high at its ends. It incorporates a nineteenth-century, granite-trimmed-brick section and a twentieth-century, concrete-trimmed-brick section. A nineteenth-century brick chimney and the twentieth-century boiler house are located at the southern end.

A fire in 1987 caused considerable damage to the upper floors of the western building, its windows and steel structural framing; as a result, much of the building is structurally unsound and is scheduled for demolition. Damage to the eastern building was limited to the roof, windows and upper floor. See sketch map and photographs.

The oldest section of the complex was constructed c. 1865 by George C. Ballou as an ancillary building to his large concentration of cotton textile mills located on the east bank of the Blackstone at Market Square and on the west bank to the south (all demolished in the mid-twentieth century). The Glenark site was probably a wooded riverbank terrace prior to the mill construction. Early maps and late nineteenth-century photographs indicate that the mill was originally four stories high with the

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lower floor recessed into a terrace on the riverside elevation. The lower two stories were built of rubblestone; the upper two stories (no longer extant) were wood framed, covered with clapboards and capped with a gable roof. A four-level wooden stair tower was set at the center of the east elevation and stood until the turn of the twentieth century. Another stair tower was located on the west elevation.

No physical or historical documentation is known to exist for a water power system associated with this building; it was apparently steam-powered. Early maps suggest the mill was used for cotton storage and/or making warps. Charred timbers on the north end of the building indicate that a fire may have destroyed the upper two floors; they were rebuilt in brick.

In 1876, the year George C. Ballou died, Lyman A. Cook and Joseph Banigan purchased the mill. Cook and Banigan were involved in a number of industrial enterprises in Woonsocket, but the specific use to which they put the Ballou mill during the first years of their ownership is now known; however, by 1881 when Cook sold his half of the property to Banigan, at least two additional buildings had been constructed on the site. Their location and history is not fully known. In 1887, Banigan sold the Ballou mill to the Glenark Knitting Company. Incorporated in 1882, the Glenark Company was already occupying the mill and had enlarged it in 1885.

The Glenark Knitting Company products are variously described in contemporary sources as knitted goods and rubber linings. The present appearance of the complex dates from expansions between 1882 and 1910, and continuing under the Uxbridge Worsted Company, from 1914 to 1948; the Bachmann-Uxbridge Worsted Company from 1948 to 1956; and subsequent owners.

In the mid- and late twentieth century, the complex has been occupied at different times by several textile and dyeing concerns and a woodworking business. It has been vacant since 1982. Plans to rehabilitate the mill for condominiums were abandoned following a fire in April, 1987. New owners are now planning to rehabilitate the mill as low and moderate income housing.

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Main Building:

The Ballou Mill section (c. 1865) of the Glenark Mill complex abuts the west bank of the Blackstone River at the south end of the property. It is two stories tall and 104x40' with mortared rubblestone exterior walls, 18-24" thick and covered with stucco.

The rectangular window openings have granite lintels and are splayed on the interior with timber sills and lintels. The wood sash is double-hung with six-over-six panes. The interior has single large spaces in which the massive slow-burning timber framing is exposed. The south, west, and north elevations of the building have been incorporated into subsequent construction, but remain largely intact. Under Glenark Knitting Company ownership (1885-1910) the south end of the first floor contained the engine and boiler rooms; a 74' brick chimney (removed between 1911 and 1924) and one-story, rubblestone-and-wood-frame coal pocket (later used for storage) were built against the exterior of the south wall. The mill was used by the Glenark Knitting Company and, later, the Uxbridge Worsted Company for spinning, weaving, and winding.

The largest part of this building is the brick section, 213x47' in size, which extends north from the Ballou Mill. It rises four stories from a rubblestone foundation and granite sill to a low-pitched gable roof, now fire-damaged. The brick section was built in two stages, both of similar materials and design. The first stage (1885) included the central section of the main building, including an eight-bay section flush with the east elevation of the Ballou Mill; the northern, four-bay section projecting one-bay towards the river; and a four-story, gable-roofed, stair and elevator tower. Additions made in 1891 included the northernmost, nine-bay and five-bay projecting sections. These retain original freight doors on the second and third story. The 1891 extension replaced the earlier wood-frame stable and a shed.

The interior of all sections displays massive-timber, slow-burning construction and an open plan. Support posts are both timber and steel; a jog in alignment reflects different construction episodes. The floors of the mill are wood, supported on masonry piers over a crawl space three to four feet

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deep. A deeper (8'-10') space underlying the floor in the north-central brick addition contains perforated iron pipe and appear to be related to drainage of processing water and/or flood control. Windows are twelve-over-twelve, double-hung wood sash set in segmental arched openings with hammered granite sills. A high percentage of original windows, all in poor condition, remain. Under Glenark Knitting Company and Uxbridge Worsted Company ownership, this mill was used for spinning, weaving, and winding.

Between 1911 and 1924, the Uxbridge Worsted Company expanded the building to convert it to production of woolen worsted. These changes included: the addition of a plain, flat-roofed, brick, fifth story to the elevator and stair tower, along with an elevated wood-frame passageway connecting to the Dyehouse and Finishing Building; a brick, three- and four-story, one-bay, flat-roofed, L-shaped addition wrapping around the west and south elevations of the Ballou Mill; and a brick four-story water closet addition at the southeast corner of the Ballou Mill. Removal of the original, wood-frame upper two stories of the Ballou Mill and the brick chimney seem to have occurred at this time. These later additions repeat architectural elements of the earlier brick building, but the window sash itself is rectangular fifteen-over-fifteen, double-hung sash set in segmental openings with concrete lintels.

After 1924, a small, wood-frame opening loading shed at the south end of the main building and an interior staircase connecting the first and second floors of the central section were built. A small, one-story, brick-and-concrete shed addition to the east elevation over the river is also a later addition and has substantially deteriorated. These elements possess limited historical and architectural value to the Glenark Mill complex. No major construction changes have taken place to the main building since the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Dyehouse and Finishing Building (not included in this nomination):

The Dyehouse and Finishing Building is an obtuse-triangular brick building, approximately 250' long and 52' at its widest point. It was constructed primarily between 1889 and 1896, with major additions and changes in the 1930s.

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The original building of 1889 consisted of a central section, two stories on the alley and one story on Glenark and East Streets, with one-story wings at each end. The original roof form was both flat and gable. Fenestration of the original sections is similar to the contemporaneous northern half of the Main Building, with segmental arched openings and granite sills, although the sash is of a later date. The first floor east elevation (on the alley) has wider bays with larger windows and large, round-arched door openings. At least two sets of original arched, wooden, double doors with small lights remain.

The interior of the central section is divided into four main spaces on the first floor; two large, arched openings lead into the northern wing. Dyeing took place on the first floor, and finishing on the upper floors. The southern wing contained the boilerhouse, engine room, and coal pocket, and included the 117' tall, square brick chimney with ornate corbelled cap.

The present appearance of this building incorporates both the original construction and changes made in the 1930s under ownership of the Uxbridge Worsted Company. Documentary and physical evidence also suggest that an interim alteration may have occurred: a third story, matching the original construction in materials and form, was added to the central, two-story section. In the 1930s, the central section was enlarged with a new, flat-roof fourth story and a five-bay, four-story addition north of the chimney where the one-story boiler house had been located. The original south wing was completely removed, and a new two-story, flat-roof boiler house of approximately the same size constructed south of the chimney. A new, wood-frame, bucket conveyor, coal handling system was installed south of the boiler house. A small two-story dye storeroom and laboratory was added to the north end of the building; an iron spiral stair connects the two floors; freight doors are set in its north elevation. These additions were executed in red brick similar in appearance to the original portions of the complex but have distinctive early twentieth-century architectural elements, such as cast-concrete window sills, flat header-brick lintels, and steel industrial multi-light windows. All the elements described here remain in place, but some have been badly fire-damaged.

Perhaps the most significant change in this period was the removal of the interior massive timber framing and its replacement with steel framing. At the same time, or possibly

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later to compensate for resulting structural weakness, a reinforced concrete buttressing system was added to the exterior of the elevation.

Extensive research has not yet yielded documentation of a specific construction date for these later changes. No change in tax valuation occurs between 1926 and 1948; no company records are known to exist; the local daily paper is not indexed, and so is of limited use; known historic photographs are exclusively images of the east elevation of the Main Building; and no mention of mill expansion during this period has been found in trade journals or newspapers.

Integrity:

Prior to the 1987 fire, the integrity of the two principle buildings within the Glenark complex, encompassing original construction and modifications up to c. 1950, was good.

Fire damage to the Main Building was confined to the interior of the elevator and stair tower, the roof, the end thirds of the fourth-floor exterior wall, and windows. Some water damage has also occurred, both during the fire and with subsequent exposure to the elements. The integrity of this building, the primary and oldest structure, remains satisfactory.

Damage to the Dyehouse and Finishing Building was more severe than to the Main Building. Fire damage is particularly evident in the windows, roof, and upper floors of the central section where the fire started. The intense heat also warped and twisted the steel structural framing installed in the 1930s; the exterior masonry walls of this central section are no longer structurally sound. The extent of this damage is documented in a structural engineer's report; the upper three floors are beyond repair and must be removed. The top 15 to 20 feet of the chimney and the west retaining wall of the boilerhouse are also badly deteriorated.

The Glenark Mill is historically significant primarily for its association with the Glenark Knitting Company. It is architecturally significant for the elements constructed during Glenark's tenure, 1887-1910, and for the earlier Ballou Mill of 1865. The later twentieth-century association with Uxbridge Worsted Company and the changes made under that company are of

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lesser importance and involved compromises to the late nineteenth-century construction, especially to the Dyehouse and Finishing Building.

Because the Main Building contained the primary mill functions, has historically been the most visible and important of the two major structures in the complex, and exemplifies mill architecture from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries, it merits individual nomination to the National Register.

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Glenark Mill
64 East Street
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Photographer: Virginia A. Fitch

Date: November 1988

Negatives filed: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence,
Rhode Island

View:

1. Glenark Mill, Main Building east elevation. Looking west along the Blackstone River.
2. Glenark Mill, Main Building east elevation. Looking southwest from Sayles Street Bridge.
3. Glenark Mill, Main Building and Dyehouse and Finishing Building north elevations. Looking south from Sayles Street.
4. Glenark Mill, alley between Main Building and Dyehouse and Finishing Building with elevator/stair tower. Looking south from alley.
5. Glenark Mill, Dyehouse and Finishing Building north and east elevations detail. Looking southwest from Sayles Street.
6. Glenark Mill, Dyehouse and Finishing Building, west elevation. Looking southeast from Sayles Street.
7. Glenark Mill, Dyehouse and Finishing Building, west elevation with chimney and boilerhouse. Looking southeast from Sayles Street down Glenark Street.
8. Glenark Mill, Main Building and Dyehouse and Finishing Building, south elevations. Looking north from adjacent property.

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Woonsocket, the Social Manufacturing Company (mill demolished 1932), formed by a group of six in 1810. George C. Ballou (1797-1876) was responsible for construction of the Globe Mills, established in 1827 (demolished 1946) on the west river bank below the falls, and the George C. Ballou Mill, established in the same period (demolished 1961) on the east river bank at Woonsocket Falls. Ballou was a prominent member of the Woonsocket community, serving as a member of the State Senate in 1868 and as a director of the Woonsocket National Bank for forty-six years.

By the 1860s, the Ballou Mill at Woonsocket Falls was powered by both water and steam and employed 180 hands producing fine bleached cotton sheetings and shirtings. The 212 looms were located primarily in a stone mill, since demolished.

About 1865, Ballou built an ancillary mill on the west river bank, which later became the core of the Glenark Mill. It appears to have been an isolated structure and seems to have functioned as an outlying facility for storage or making warps. Despite its original ancillary location and function, it is historically important today because it is one of the few buildings remaining from the extensive Ballou industrial plant. Its incorporation into a subsequent mill concern, as the Glenark Mill, illustrates the continued production of textiles in Woonsocket.

The primary period of historic significance for this building derives from its association with Joseph Banigan (beginning in 1876) and continues through the ownership and tenure of the Glenark Knitting Company (from 1882 to 1910). When Banigan and his partner Lyman A. Cook acquired the mill in 1876 they were already established as important Woonsocket industrialists, though not in textiles.

Cook, along with his brother, Simeon S. Cook, was involved in the Woonsocket Machine & Press Company (1825), the Bailey Washing and Wringing Machine Company (1865), and the Woonsocket Furnace Company.

Joseph Banigan (1839-1898) was born in Ireland and came to Woonsocket from Boston where he had worked at the Goodyear India Rubber Bottle Stopper Company. He made his fortune in the rubber industry, was said to be the largest individual importer

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of Brazilian rubber in the country, and served as the first president of the consolidated rubber industries under the U.S. Rubber Company from 1893 to 1896. His business interests included serving as president or a director for numerous firms reaching as far west as Ohio.

In 1864 Banigan and the Cook brothers formed the Woonsocket Rubber Company; their mill was located just across the river from Glenark, below the falls. In the early 1880s, the company expanded into newly constructed plants at the Alice Mill in Woonsocket and at Millville, Massachusetts. The Woonsocket Rubber Company was one of the earliest and largest rubber manufacturing companies in Rhode Island and produced rubber boots and shoes until the late twentieth century.

The Glenark Knitting Company was founded in 1882 with a capital of \$100,000; in 1887 Glenark purchased the old Ballou Mill from Banigan for \$45,000. The involvement of Joseph Banigan in both the Glenark Company and the Woonsocket Rubber Company, and Glenark's production of rubber lining fabrics provides strong evidence that the Glenark Knitting Company was in part created to manufacture knit cotton linings for Woonsocket Rubber Company products. Unfortunately, no records of either firm are known to exist. Banigan, however, did employ such strategies of industrial interrelationship elsewhere; he was an owner of the Lawrence Felting Company in Millville, which supplied felt linings for boots manufactured at Woonsocket Rubber's Millville plant. The relationship of the Glenark Knitting Company and the Woonsocket Rubber Company reflects a pattern of financial and industrial ties between Rhode Island and Massachusetts businessmen, the evolving horizontal and vertical structure of the rubber industry, and the fine textile goods production of the northeast.

Banigan was never an officer of the Glenark Company, but he sat on the Board of Directors throughout its history. From 1882 to c. 1900 the Glenark officers were Charles R. Fillebrown, Newton, Massachusetts, president; Henry A. Follett, Woonsocket, treasurer; and Frank A. Morrill, Woonsocket, superintendent. Follett also served as bookkeeper to the Woonsocket Rubber Company during the same period. Around 1900, Henry L. Hotchkiss, residence unknown, became president; Edward A. Stevens, Braintree, Massachusetts, treasurer; Arthur J. Follett,

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Woonsocket, secretary; and Frank A. Morrill remained as superintendent and general manager.

Glenark manufactured jersey cloth, knitted goods, and rubber liners. Successful production of knitted articles was made possible by a series of knitting machine inventions in the second half of the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, New England manufacturers, traditionally geared to production of woven textiles were not always eager to abandon the capital invested in existing weaving technology to convert to finer knit production. Glenark Knitting was one of a handful of knitting mills operating in Woonsocket in the nineteenth century, and, according to one contemporary report, was at one time the largest knitting factory in the world.

The company was both innovative and successful during its first two decades of business. In the two years after 1888, twenty-five knitting machines were added, bringing the number to 175 in 1890. In 1891, Charles F. Chase of Glenark and Silas E. Kelsey of Salem, Massachusetts, perfected a single operation black dye which resulted in faster processing and softer goods; the Naumkeag Dye Company, Salem, was formed to manufacture their dye. The same year, a 46 x 120' addition was made to the main mill building to allow for reorganization and improved efficiency of existing equipment. In 1895, the company constructed a second facility, the Colchis Mill, on River Street in Woonsocket.

The demise of the Glenark Knitting Company in the first decade of the twentieth century was most likely a result of general trends in the textile industry as southern manufacturers, particularly cotton manufacturers, increasingly captured the market. Following a vote of the stockholders to "for the time being wind up the business of the corporation," the plant and all machinery were sold at auction to William J. Dunn of Fall River, Massachusetts. Dunn, who had previously purchased a mill property across the river, acquired the Glenark Mill for \$1 and the taxes due. The Colchis Mill on River Street had already been sold in 1907.

Dunn retained the property for only four years, selling it in 1914 to Charles Arthur Root (1874-1932) of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, and Louis Bachmann (1872-1947) of New York City. Root and Bachmann were the principles of the Uxbridge Worsted Company, a large corporation headquartered at the Waucantuck and

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Rivulet Mills, Uxbridge (listed in the National Register, 1982), and with mills at Lowell and Millbury, Massachusetts; Danbury, Connecticut; and Pascoag and Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Financial success came in part through the company's attention to changing styles, regional and national markets, and investment of profits in new machinery. In addition, during World War I, it was one of several local manufacturers supplying cloth to the armed forces. In 1918 alone, Uxbridge produced 1,445,175 yards of Army cloth on seventy-two worsted looms at Glenark. Between 1921 and 1946, the number of worsted spindles at Glenark increased from 4,000 to 7,800. In 1948, the L. Bachmann Company and Uxbridge Worsted Company merged, forming the Bachmann-Uxbridge Worsted Corporation, and purchased the property. This later period of the Glenark Mill's history is of secondary significance. The mill functioned as a satellite to the main company plant at Uxbridge, and was converted for the production of woolen worsted goods. Decision-making and corporate power were based at Uxbridge, rather than locally, although the work force were no doubt Woonsocket residents.

Architecture

The construction materials and technique of the rubblestone Ballou Mill are characteristic of prevalent industrial design of the nineteenth century. Buildings of a similar idiom are located nearby, including portions of the Woonsocket Company/Bernon Mill, 100-115 Front Street (1827 et seq.; listed in the National Register, 1973); portions of the Hanora Woolen Mill, 1 Main Street (1836 et seq.; listed 1984); portions of the Sheldon Sash Shop/Woonsocket Rubber Company Mill, 60-82 South Main Street (1857 et seq.; nomination in process); and the Island Machine Shop, Island Place (c. 1865; potentially N.R. eligible).

The subsequent brick components, which comprise the majority of the mill are, like the earlier Ballou Mill, typical examples of ordinary mill construction of their time. Architectural interest is largely derived from functional requirements, such as the repetition of window openings punctuating each elevation to provide light; the segmental arched windows reference the fashionable Italianate style. Numerous similar buildings can be found in industrial cities throughout New England. The architectural value of the Glenark Mill lies in its simplicity, its representative qualities, and, for the City of Woonsocket, its visual impact.

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TEXTS/ARTICLES

- 1876 George C. Ballou, in Dorr Obituaries, Vol. 6:260-261. Rhode Island Historical Society Collections.
- 1988 Fortin, Marcel C., Editor, Woonsocket, Rhode Island: A Centennial History, 1888-1988. The Woonsocket Centennial Committee, Woonsocket, Rhode Island.
- 1982 Uxbridge Multiple Resource Area National Register Nomination. On file, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1891 Providence Board of Trade Journal, "Industrial Notes". Vol. 2, No. 5:180, May 1891, and Vol. 2, No. 8:226, October 1891.
- 1910 "Glenark Knitting Mills Plant Sold", Providence Board of Trade Journal, Vol. 22, No. 7:315, July 1910.
- 1896 Providence Journal of Commerce, Vol. 4, No. 4:26, April 1896 (photograph).
- 1976 Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-W-1. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence.
- 1984 Historic Resources of Woonsocket, Rhode Island: Partial Inventory, Historic and Architectural Resources, National Register of Historic Places Nomination. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence

OTHER

Undated photograph (probably c. 1900), Providence Public Library Collections
Rhode Island Historical Society Graphics Collections
Woonsocket City Directories
Woonsocket City Archives (land evidence and tax records)

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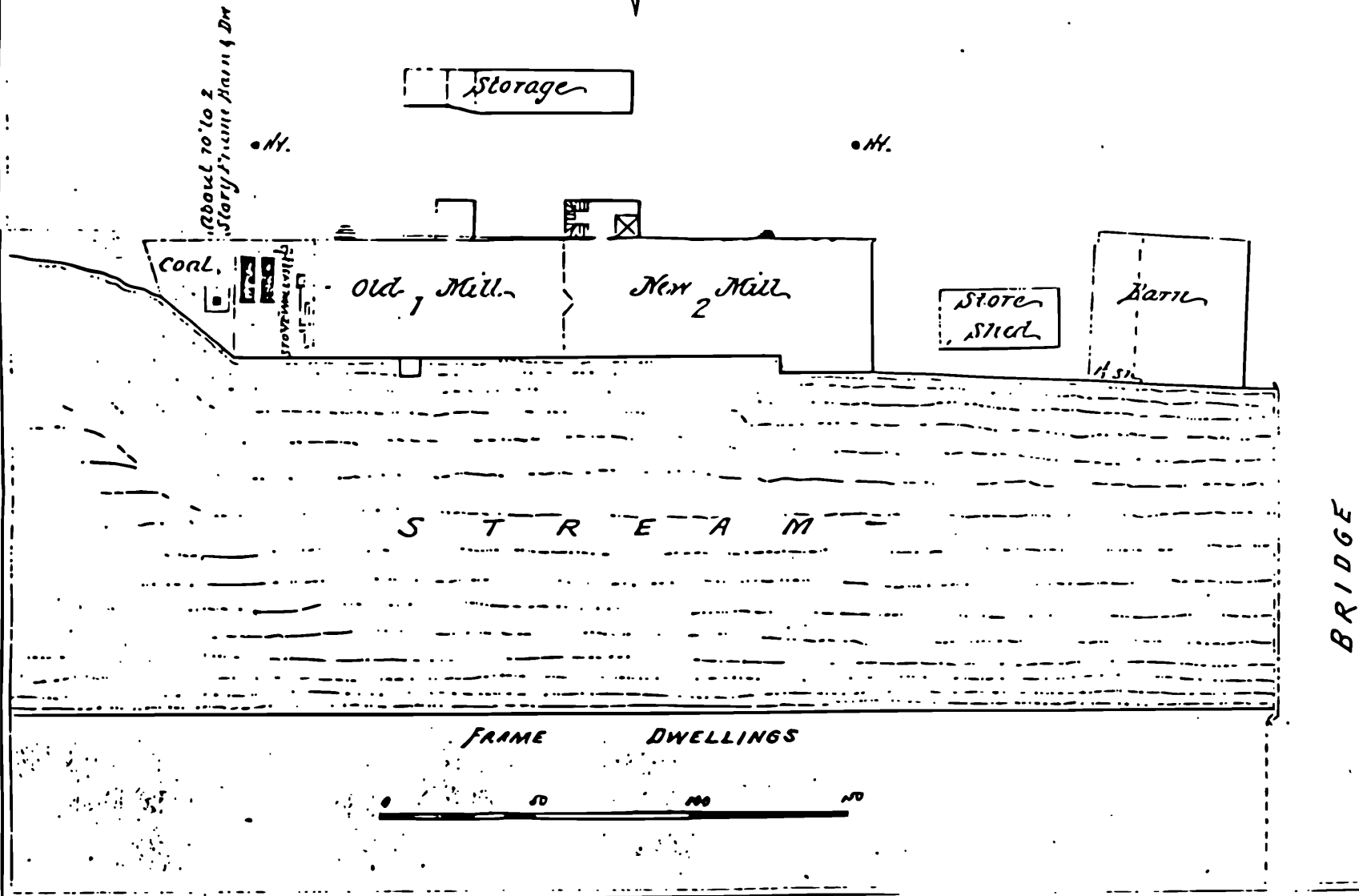
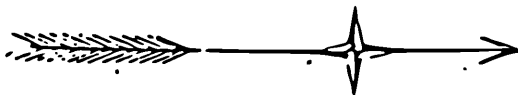
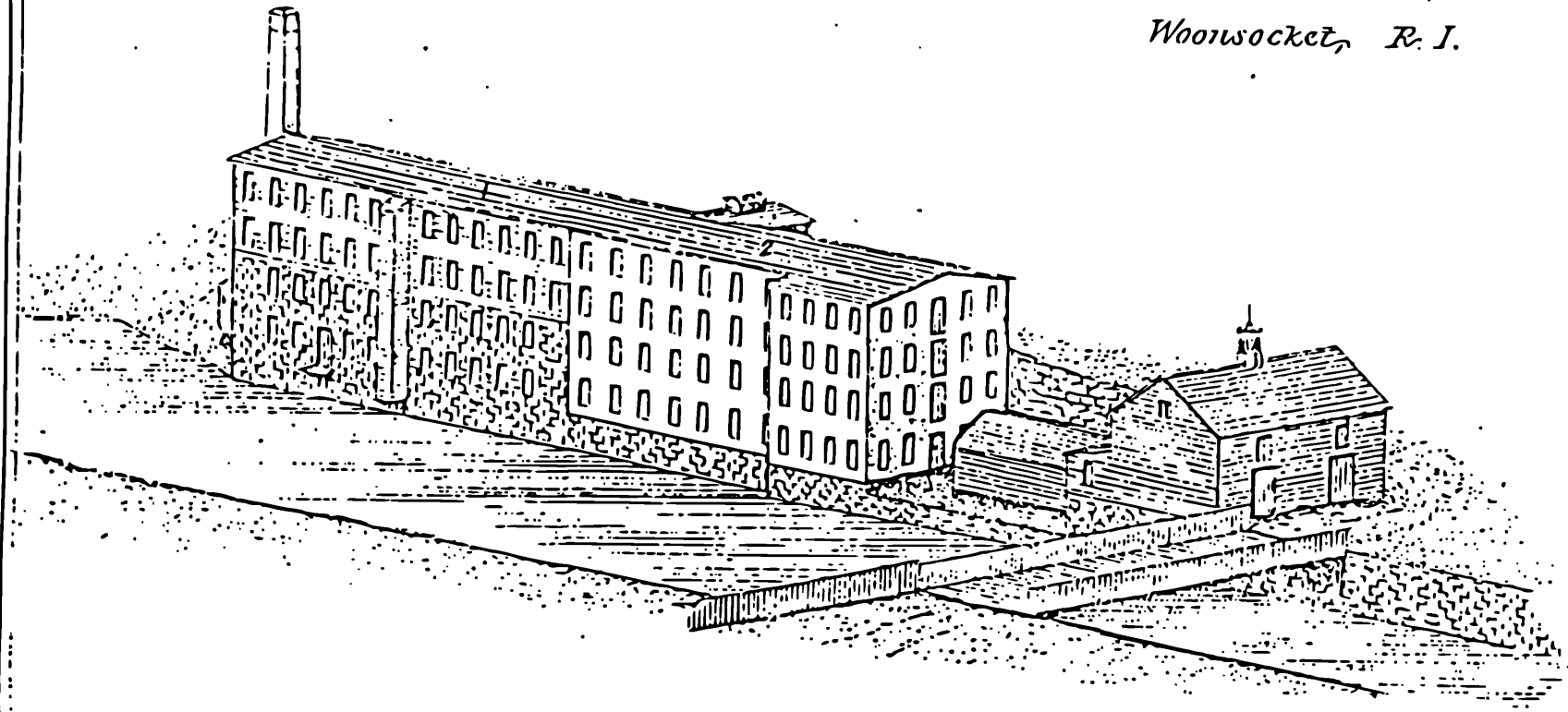
MAPS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1869 | Map of Woonsocket. Herbert F. Keith. |
| 1870 | Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, D.G. Beers & Co., Philadelphia. |
| 1875 | Insurance Map. D.A. Sanborn. |
| 1876 | Bird's Eye View of Woonsocket. Bailey & Hazen, New York. |
| 1876 | "Plan of Mill Estate Owned by Ballou Manufacturing Company situated in Woonsocket, R.I." |
| 1888 | Glenark Knitting Co., Bellows Insurance Surveys, New York. |
| 1890 | Glenark Knitting Co., Bellows Insurance Surveys, New York. |
| 1911 | Sanborn Insurance Maps of Woonsocket, Rhode Island (revised to 1924). |
| 1955 | Sanborn Insurance Maps of Woonsocket, Rhode Island (revised to c. 1965). |

9427

GLENARK KNITTING CO.,

Woonsocket, R. I.



GLENARK MILLS
64 East Street
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

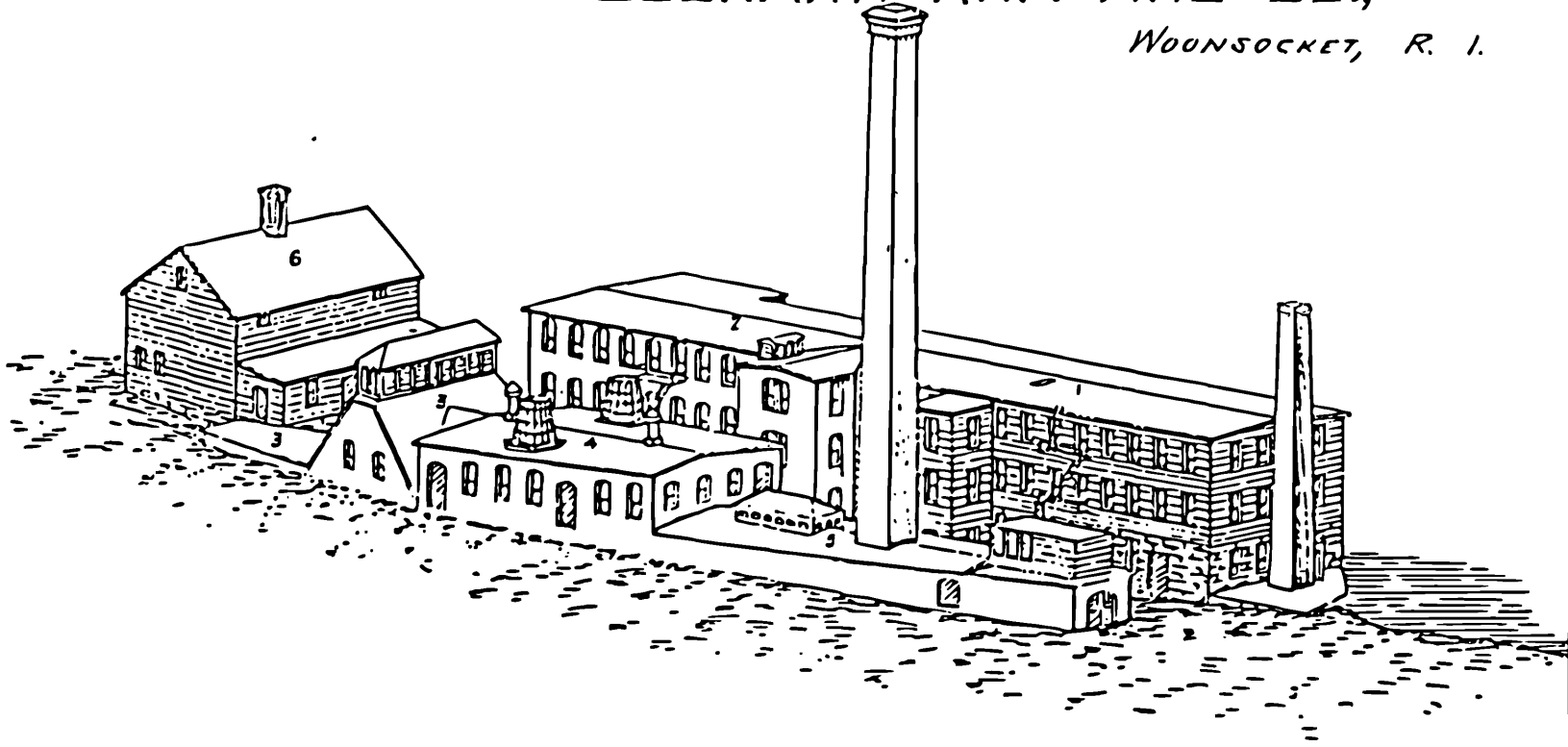
1888

(Source: Barlow Insurance Surveys, New York)

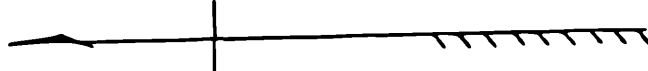
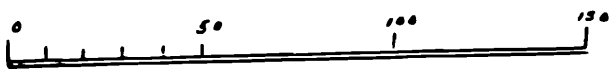
10,047

GLENARK KNITTING CO.,

WOONSOCKET, R. I.

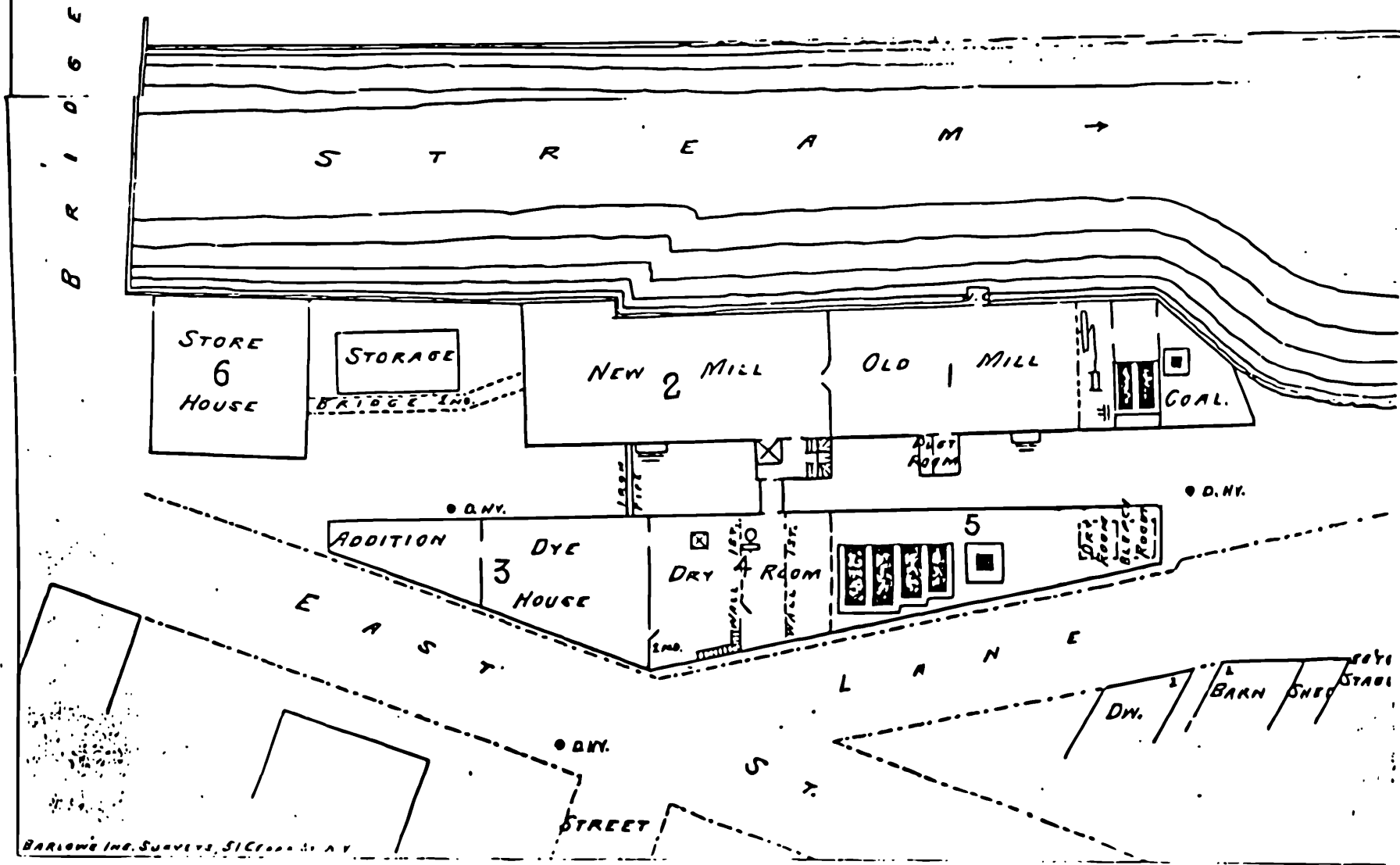


SCALE OF FEET



FRAME

BUILDINGS



GLENARK MILLS
64 East Street
Woonsocket, Rhode Island

1890

(Source: Barlow Insurance Surveys, New York)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

c. 1865-1910

Significant Dates

1865

1885

1891

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Banigan, Joseph

Architect/Builder

Norton, William

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Glenark Mill, 64 East Street, Woonsocket, is an essentially intact and dominant feature of the City's industrial riverfront. The mill has historical significance as a participant in the cotton and rubber industry during the second half of the nineteenth century, an era of unprecedented industrial expansion for Woonsocket and the Blackstone Valley. It retains the major elements of its important construction sequence between c. 1865 and 1910, as well as some later changes; recent fire damage has compromised secondary elements. Joseph Banigan, a pivotal individual in the growth of the regional rubber industry, was associated with the mill beginning in 1876 and, as an owner of the Glenark Knitting Company, from 1887 to 1910. Secondary significance is derived from the mill's association with the woolen worsteds industry in the first half of the twentieth century under ownership of the Uxbridge Worsted Company. The rubblestone and brick, concrete-and-granite-trimmed building is well-preserved and a good representative example of mill construction of the period.

The development of industry, in particular textiles, is the chief theme which defines the physical character and economic, social, and political history of Woonsocket. From the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth century, settlement in Woonsocket was essentially agrarian. The shift to industrial economy began between 1810 and 1830 when six manufacturing villages were established. The largest village took advantage of the superior water power and main highway at Woonsocket Falls; it eventually became the central core of urban Woonsocket.

Here along the Blackstone River, numerous cotton and wool manufacturing mills were built. Among the important early entrepreneurs were the members of the Ballou family, whose concerns included the first textile company established in

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1/4 acre

UTM References

A

1	9	2	9	1	3	6	0	4	6	5	2	4	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated Glenark Mill property consists of the Main Building which is the eastern structure occupying City of Woonsocket Plat 9, lot 150. The lot is roughly bounded by Sayles Street (north), the Blackstone River (east), Glenark Street (southwest), and East Street (northwest).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the individually significant and intact main mill building; the building to the left no longer retains structural or architectural integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia A. Fitch

organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc date December 1988

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