

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0699888

FOR NPS USE ONLY			
RECEIVED	MAR 6	1979	
DATE ENTERED	MAY	8	1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Barker Mill

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
143 Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE

001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: None

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Auburn Housing Authority

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 32

CITY, TOWN
Auburn,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Auburn,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD ^h	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Barker Mill in Auburn, built in 1873, is a large and well-preserved example of post-Civil War industrial architecture. The building is of brick construction, 5 stories tall, with a Mansard Roof.

The facade, which faces east, is 33 bays long and features a central projecting tower. Fenestration in the building is 12/8, except in the tower, where it is 9/6. Each bay is set into a brick panel, giving the large surface planes of the mill's walls a less stark appearance than otherwise might have been. The gabled dormers of the half-story and the bracketed cornice additionally relieve the severity commonly found in industrial buildings. These decorative details are provided on all four sides of the mill.

The facade tower 5 stories tall and square in plan, also contains decorative elements. In the second story is a large, arched window with granite keystone, while the third and fourth-story windows are labelled and also feature granite keystones. The fifth-story of the tower contains a pair of circular windows in each side. Above these, ornamental brick mimics dentils. A handsome mansard roofed sixth tower floor with cresting has unfortunately been lost.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1873 ~~1870-1899~~ ARCHITECT Charles F. Douglas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Barker Mill is one of the most well proportioned of the relatively few mansard roofed mills in Maine. Although, by their very nature, late 19th century textile mills tended to be starkly simple and rather drab in appearance, this particular structure, even with the loss of the top floor of the tower, possesses an unusual stylistic dignity and extensive decorative detail.

The Barker Mill was designed by Charles F. Douglas whose brief but meteoric career (see C. F. Douglas House - nomination pending) included such outstanding works as the impressive Continental Mill in Lewiston, the Somerset County Courthouse in Skowhegan and the Glover House in Rockland.

This mill was, for a long time, Auburn's one major venture in the textile industry. It was the enterprise that gave the New Auburn section its favorable start as a business center.

The undertaking began in 1870, with the acquisition of a large area of land along the Little Androscoggin River for a considerable distance up stream from its confluence with the Big Androscoggin. The purpose of the group of businessmen, who called themselves the Little Androscoggin Water Power Company, was to develop a water power for a textile mill. This purchase of land with right to build a power dam led not only to the dam and a five-story mill, but to the sale of home building lots to the people who flocked into the area.

The dam was completed in 1872; the mill in 1873; and "Barker Mill", so named in honor of C. I. Barker, a prominent textile executive who became its first directing agent, went into operation in 1874. It engaged in the manufacture of cotton shirtings and sheetings, and was active for many years. In 1888, it employed 275 persons and produced four million yards of goods.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Skinner, Libby and Merrill, Auburn 1869-1969, 100 Years a City.
 Lewiston, 1968.
 Merrill, Georgia Drew, ed., History of Androscoggin County.
 Boston, 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.9 per macDougal

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
4	0
1	7
2	0

4	8
8	2
1	2
0	0

B

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City Tax Map 21, lots 3, 5 and 6

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

January, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta,

STATE

Maine

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Earle A. Shelton, Jr.
 DATE 2/27/79

TITLE

S. H. P. O.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5.8.79
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *James M. ...*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/7/79

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Farwell Mill

Item number 7

Page 1

Farwell Mill
Lisbon, Maine
Amended Description #7
May 4, 1987Kirk F. Mohny, Arch. Hist.
Maine Historic Preservation Comm.
55 Capitol Street
Augusta, Maine 04333

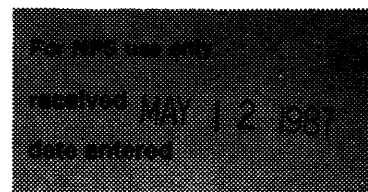
The Farwell Mill is a sprawling former industrial complex prominently sited on the west bank of the Sabattus River in the middle of Lisbon. It is comprised of a three-story L-shaped brick block the long leg of which is largely obscured by mid twentieth century brick and concrete additions. Wings of varying height telescope from the mill's south elevation and a singularly unique detached brick gas house stands off from the north end.

When constructed in 1873 Farwell Mill consisted of the L-shaped brick block only. Contemporary descriptions note that the long component was 312 feet in length and 52 feet in width. Square towers which rose above the shallow gable roof were centrally located on both the front (west) and east elevations. The west stair tower appears to have been somewhat larger than the one on the rear which contained lavatories. Later documentary photographs do in fact show a four-story west tower and a smaller three-story unit on the east, river side. The towers equally divided each elevation into two sections the east side of which was eighteen bays in width. Flat granite lintels and sills framed the twelve-over-twelve double hung sash windows and a simple corbeled cornice carried around the building. The north gable end was symmetrically divided into four bays.

At the south end of this main component is the largely intact and unobscured three-story ell. Its four-bay west gable end contains a four-story tower at the southwest corner that has coupled Italianate style round arched windows in the upper story and a shallow hipped roof. Both its north and south elevations are fourteen bays wide and contain a large share of their original double hung sash windows. The east end of the ell meets the recessed eight bay endwall of the original three-story power plant block.

Throughout its industrial life the mill, whose main section remains relatively sound, has undergone a number of changes and expansions to its original configuration. In 1880 the boilers were relocated from their original location in the main structure to a detached boiler house built near the south elevation. This building was subsequently enlarged sometime prior to 1906 and again after 1922. Documentary plans also show that the original interior smoke stack was removed and replaced by a stack located at the northeast corner of the boiler house. Whether the present square tapered stack dates to this changeover or is a later structure entirely is not certain. The existing, somewhat deteriorated building exhibits an asymmetrical fenestration pattern whose openings, except for three windows on the west wall, have been infilled.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Farwell Mill

Item number 7

Page 2

Before the turn of the century a one-story, eleven-bay brick addition was made to the north end of the mill increasing the overall length to 402 feet. By 1906 this section had been raised to a full three stories which met the height of the original block, matched its fenestration pattern and concluded the historic enlargement at this end of the mill.

Further additions were made to the mill prior to 1906. Included in this building program was the construction of a two-story picker house between the southwest corner of the ell and the original two-story detached cotton house. By this date the cotton house had been converted to picker and cloth rooms with the addition of large double hung sash windows on both the east and west elevations. A new one-story cotton house (shown on Sanborn maps as Cotton House #1) was added to the south end of the original cotton warehouse at this time.

Prior to 1922 another cotton house (Cotton House #2) was added to the east side of the pre 1906 structure. This nearly rectangular shallow gable roofed brick building, unlike its earlier counterpart, survives largely unaltered but in an advanced state of deterioration. Its three short interior floor divisions are supported by large square timbers, and the east and north walls are punctuated by small square windows. In addition to the construction of the cotton houses a square elevator shaft was built onto the principal mill block at the junction of the ell on the west elevation, and a wide one-story structure was constructed between the south ell and the west stair tower.

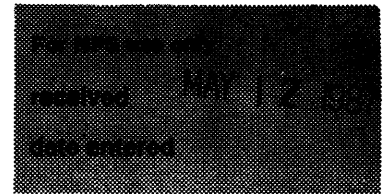
Farwell Mill achieved its present appearance after 1937 when the structure was converted for the manufacture of vinyl tile flooring and subsequently linoleum. In 1948 a brick addition with glass block windows was made to the east, river side resulting in the removal of the lavatory tower. By the early 1950's a second three-story block had been appended to the east elevation as well as immense four-story concrete "shells" on both the east and west facades. These changes virtually concealed the original three-story brick elevations of this section of the mill, and resulted in the removal of the west stair tower. Despite the addition of these structures, which nearly tripled the available floor space, the original exterior elevations suffered largely reversible alterations, principally the removal of windows and the infill of their openings. Two exceptions to this pattern are the large openings which were made at opposing locations on the east and west walls, ten bays north of the ell. These alterations caused the removal of two-story six-bay units from both walls. The circa 1948 additions also included the construction of the long, low concrete block buildings to the south end of Cotton House #2.

The vast interior of the original mill building, principally the south ell, retains many of its wooden load bearing columns. Structural reinforcements were added to the main block to accommodate the increased loads

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Farwell Mill

Item number 7

Page 3

resulting from the linoleum operations. Although many of the original posts were removed at this time, a number of them do survive here. The tower at the southeast corner contains a spiral stair and the original cotton house features wooden roof trusses.

There are three surviving detached buildings on the site. The most significant of these is the original one-story gas works that stands off of the north end of the main mill complex. Facing east, the handsome and unusual gasometer building features a paneled three-bay gable end with corbeled arches and a wide cornice. The original window and center door openings have been altered but the paneled three-bay side elevations are unchanged. A nearly flat roofed turn-of-the-century brick addition connects the main block to the originally detached but similarly detailed retort building and its tapered chimney. Both of these structures were originally equipped with ridge ventilators. The interior of the large block retains its handsome wooden roof trusses similar to those in the original cotton house.

The remaining detached buildings include a one-story frame structure sheathed in clapboards that is located west of the main mill block and a mid twentieth century two-story office block. The latter replaces an earlier frame building which was the original office. The date of construction and original function of the other frame building is not positively known. The character of the bracketed eaves suggests a late nineteenth century date and it appears to have been standing on this location by 1906.