

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 17 1975
DATE ENTERED OCT 10 1975

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 *Powdermill Company Cotton Mill*
AND/OR COMMON *Counting House*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *M 4 at Salmon Falls River*
CITY, TOWN *South Berwick* VICINITY OF *First*
STATE *Maine* CODE *23* COUNTY *York* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT *031*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *Old Berwick Historical Society*
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN *South Berwick* VICINITY OF STATE *Maine*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *York County Registry of Deeds*
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN *Alfred* STATE *Maine*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE *HAER 8/13/75*
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Counting House is a large, 2½ story rectangular brick structure on a granite foundation, characteristic of much 19th century industrial architecture in New England. It is Greek Revival in style, featuring a gabled roof, ending in two identical pediments as well as an elaborate exterior cornice and architrave executed in brick. The south front towards the river is five bays in length divided by six Doric pilasters. The north front along the road is identical to that of the south with the exception of a door which is located in the first story of the central bay. The west gabled end has two symmetrically placed windows on each floor. The corners are marked with the same simple Doric pilasters as the side elevations. The pediment is steeply pitched and features a recessed triangular panel in which a small rectangular window, divided vertically into three parts, has been set. The opposite elevation is identical except that a door is present on the northeast corner of the first story and is located close to the corner pilaster. The only existing chimney rises outside of the roof peak close to the west gable.

The windows of the first two stories are long, rectangular and of identical length. They are sash hung with large panes in a six over six fashion. They have simple molded sills, and all openings are spanned by plain granite lintels.

The first floor contains three rooms, one long narrow one on the south side and two smaller to the north, one of which is entered by the central door. The eastern end is partitioned off as a stairhall which opens (to the exterior) through the door on that end. The second floor contains a stairhall and one large room, occupying the space above the three small ones below. This large room is now the meeting place of the Old Berwick Historical Society.

The interior woodwork is Greek Revival in detail. The large room on the second floor has been handsomely restored and features a large central ceiling ornament of elaborate plasterwork, which may date from a later period than the building's actual construction.

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

1832

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Counting House stands as the last surviving structure of the Portsmouth Company Cotton Mills at Quamphegan Falls Landing, South Berwick. It is evidence of the once vital industries which animated so many small New England towns in the 19th century and which have now vanished, bankrupt or moved to the South. The building is also a handsome example of Greek Revival industrial architecture.

The Portsmouth Mill was established in 1832 and was for many years under the guidance of Portsmouth-born entrepreneur, Samuel Hale, whose son Francis married into the Lord family of local prominence. The date generally assigned to the construction of the Counting House is 1832, the same as the founding of the complex. However, such internal details as an elaborate plaster ceiling rosette, if original, would tend to point to a somewhat later date, probably about 1850.

Industry came early to the Berwick area with the construction of a substantial saw mill operation at Great Works on the Piscataqua River in 1660. When in operation, the Portsmouth Company's works was one of several mills in the Berwick area producing a variety of goods, including cotton textiles, woolens, shoes, and other leather products. But like so many New England textile mills, especially the small ones, the Portsmouth Company moved its Berwick operation South at the turn of the century.

The Counting House is now the headquarters of the Old Berwick Historical Society, which has done much work to restore the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mitchell and Campbell, The South Berwick Register, Mitchell Publishing Co.
Kents Hill, Maine

Ricker, Jennie R., Pages from the Past

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK with
124-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 19 | 352890 | 4787410 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur Gerrier, Student Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

January 1975

STREET & NUMBER

31 Western Avenue

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

James H. Mundy

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 15, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

R. R. Winters

DATE

10/10/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Huebner

DATE

10/10/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

actg.