

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area Area letter

I-25-2/4

505

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number Mills 1-15
MP-5-2

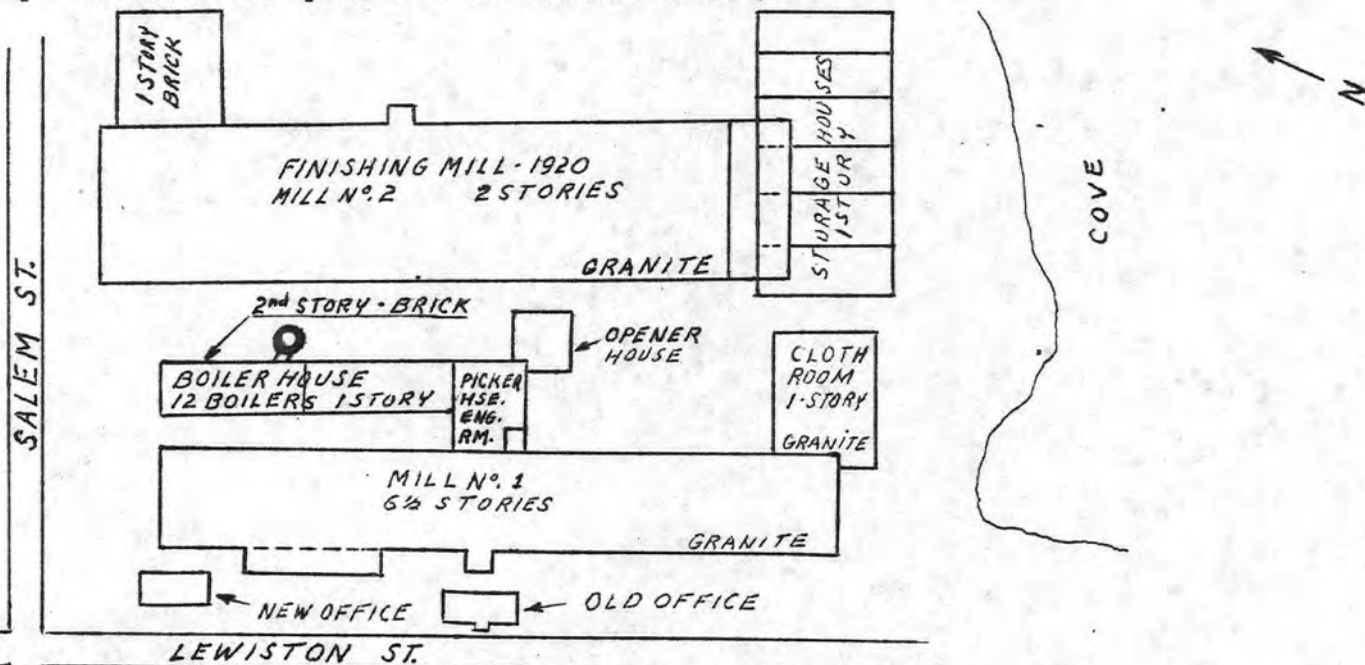
Town Fall River, Mass.

Name of area (if any) Chace Mills

Lewiston Street and Salem Street

General date or period 1872-1920

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Pereira/Vielmetti/Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 4/3/81

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The monumental granite Chace Mill of 1872 has been called the most imposing and attractive in the city and stands out because of its relatively isolated site and finely detailed Italianate stair tower. The mill is located on the south side of the Quequechan River away from the center of the city and is prominently visible from many vantage points. It rises 5½ stories above the basement level and measures 377' X 74'. An indication of the care used in construction is the fact that the entire front facade--rather than just the tower as was typical in Fall River mills--was constructed of finished cut granite blocks, which are set in random courses. The side walls and auxiliary buildings are of rough granite with parged joints. The mill retains its original gable roof and wide overhanging cornice with heavy single brackets. The 12/12 sash remains only along the top 3 stories. The central focus of the complex is the 7-level mill tower, which is perhaps the finest in the city. The loading openings at the lower 6 levels have paneled doors and wooden balustrades, the latter an unusual feature probably intended to give the tower a less industrial feeling. Above the sixth level is the granite date (Continued)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The Chace Mills was one of 15 textile companies organized during the years 1871-2, a period of remarkable expansion in the city's manufacturing capacity. Capitalized at \$500,000, the mill was named after one of the organizers and first president, Augustus Chace, and had as its original treasurer, Joseph A. Baker. The first mill was erected in 1872 and had a capacity of 43,480 spindles and 1,056 looms producing 12 million yards of print cloth annually. A bleaching, dyeing and finishing mill was added in 1895. In 1902 the company had 80,400 ring spindles, having discarded the old-style mule spindles by 1888. At that time they were manufacturing print cloth, twills, and wide goods such as window blinds. A 1902 English publication which mentioned the Chace noted that the mill still had much outdated machinery and that the weaving rooms appeared ill-vented and the workers unhealthy. Although the Chace was singled out in this account, there is no evidence that these conditions were not typical of the Fall River mills during this later period. The company reached a peak capacity about 1920 of 86,192 ring spindles and 1,900 looms. The plant was taken over by Arkwright in 1929 and is presently part of United Merchants and Manufacturers, Inc. It is still in use for curtain manufacturing and textile printing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

The American Cotton Industry, by T. M. Young (1902)
Phillips' History of Fall River, Fascicle II, p. 128
Fall River and Its Industries, p. 141-2
1920 Corporate Millyard Plans
Barlow Insurance Plans No. 4884, 1877
History of Bristol County (1883), p. 321
History of the Fall River Fire Department, p. 124

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

I-25-2/4

Property Name: Chace Mills

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation)

stone "1872" and a granite belt course. The open belfry has a central arched opening flanked by smaller arches. The tower presently terminates with a row of wooden dentils, a double-bracketed cornice and a hipped roof but may originally have had some type of parapet as well. No architect for the Chace has been determined. The other granite buildings in the complex are located to the rear and are not easily visible. These include a 2-story finishing mill of 1895, the engine rooms, picker house and boiler house of 1872, a cloth room of about 1889, and the second engine room of 1895. In front of the main mill, the 1875 office and a new office, both one-story, are aluminum-sided and detract somewhat from the mill's over-all appearance, as does the alteration of the sash on the lower stories.

The Chace Mill remains the most imposing and attractive granite mill in the city, visually distinctive because of its isolated site and its finely detailed Italianate stair tower; it meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places individually.

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 1/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Chace Mills

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 *Born in Day*

Attest

22. Chace, A. B., Rowhouses

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

23. Chace's, Oliver, Thread Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

24. Charlton Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

25. Chase-Hyde Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

26. Children's Home

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

27. Church of the Ascension

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

28. Collins, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

29. Connell, William M., School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

30. Cornell Mills

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Delonast Byers*

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Chace Mills (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 2/3/85 - 2/19/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria A+C/reject
Reviewer Shirley Dwyer
Discipline A-1+0
Date 2-16-83
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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ original site
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ altered
		☐ moved date _____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Fall River MRA, Ma

Chace Mills

Mills 1-15

Chace Mill

looking east across
I-195



Fall River MRA, Ma
Chace Mills

MP-5-2
West View Chace Mill #1

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279