

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

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

Form numbers in this area

Area no.

AZ NF-9

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

1. Town Taunton

Name of area (if any) Old Colony Iron
Works/Nemasket Mills Complex

3. General date or period 1824 - c. 1920

Old Colony Ave

4. Is area uniform (explain):

in style? Fairly - Late 19th Century
Industrial Construction
in condition? Yes - Fair to Poor
in type of ownership? Yes - Mixed 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 11/79

(over)

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

The Old Colony Iron Works and Nemasket Mills Complex represents East Taunton's oldest and longest-lived industrial network which was responsible for its conversion from an 18th century agricultural settlement to an active manufacturing village in the early 19th century. The complex, located just south of the Raynham Town Line which falls on the Taunton River, is composed today of three major elements: an early brick shovel mill (bldg. #1 on map), late 19th century brick factory (bldg. #2) and brick office, detailed in the Georgian Revival Style, dating from this century (bldg. #3). The complex is bordered on the South by the Taunton-Middleboro Railroad, which originally served the mills, and by Battle Row, a cul-de-sac on which was originally located a sequence of workers houses, most of which have been demolished.

The industrial origins of this area can be traced back to 1813 when East Taunton farmer, Stephen King, built a dam on the Taunton River to power his corn mill and other agrarian mills. By 1824, entrepreneurs Crocker & Richmond and Horatio Leonard had purchased King's rights and changed the alignment of the dam to its present location, where they built an iron forge, producing charcoal iron from pig iron and scrap. Taking on new partners in the late 1820's, the company experimented with the manufacture of bituminous coal and, in 1829, built a nail and shovel factory and rolling mill, spanning both sides of the River. In 1844, the Old Colony Iron Company was incorporated under the directorate of Samuel Crocker, producing shovels, nails, nail plates, and iron used in their manufacture.

In 1881, a fire destroyed the rolling mill and nail factory, but spared the shovel shop (bldg. #1), forcing the company out of business. The site attracted a cotton manufacturing Company, however, the Nemasket Mills, who built a new, 400', 3-story brick mill on the site of the old rolling mill in 1892 (bldg. #2). The old shovel mill was enlarged to 4 stories from its original two, and became tenanted by an Oil Cloth Works. A Georgian Revival office building was appended to the Nemasket Mill in c. 1910. Textile manufacturing was carried on actively here until the 1930's, when tenant industries took over the complex.

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

Elery, History of Taunton, 1893 p. 666-67
Hurd, History of Bristol Co., 1883, p.835
Dunbar, 1836
Beers, 1871
Walker, 1881
Sanborn, 1888
Bristol Co. Atlas of Surveys, 1895
Sanborn, 1937

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Taunton

Form No:

NR-9

Property Name: Old Colony Iron Works

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

7. Historical Data (Continued)

The Old Colony Iron Works/Nemasket Mills 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. The Old Colony Iron Works/Nemasket Mills represents one of the oldest Mill complexes in Taunton and has had continued industrial users from the construction of the original mill in 1829. The Old Colony Iron Complex meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Boundaries were selected to encompass the historic extent of the Mill property which remains intact; boundary lines conform to current lot lines.

OWNERS:	96 Old Colony Ave.	103 Old Colony Ave.
	M & B Realty Trust	National Work Clothes Co.
	96 Old Colony Avenue	103 Old Colony Avenue
	E. Taunton, MA	E. Taunton, MA

Acreage: Approximately 20; large assessors maps (2)

UTMS: A 19/331350/4638960
B 19/331650/4638880
C 19/331390/4638820

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

For NPS use only

received

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, MASSACHUSETTSComm 7/5/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Colony Iron Works-Nemasket Mills Complex
(Taunton MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 21 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 6/21/84 - 7/5/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-5-84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the _____
National Register ☒ _____
☐ _____

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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ 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

Acree of nominated property _____

Quadrange 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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



BUDG #1

Old Colony Iron Works - Nesmaskett Mills Complex
Taunton MRA, Ma

MAY 1980

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

MAY 1980

Prestige Prints

by Berkey



BUDG # 2

Old Colony Iron Works - Nesmaskeet Mills Complex
Taunton MRA, Ma

MAY 1980



by Berkey

MAY 1980



by Berkey



BUDGS# 3, 1

Old Colony Iron Works - Nesmaskett Mills Complex
Taunton MRA, No

MAY 1980

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

MAY 1980

Prestige Prints

AREA
AZ 30



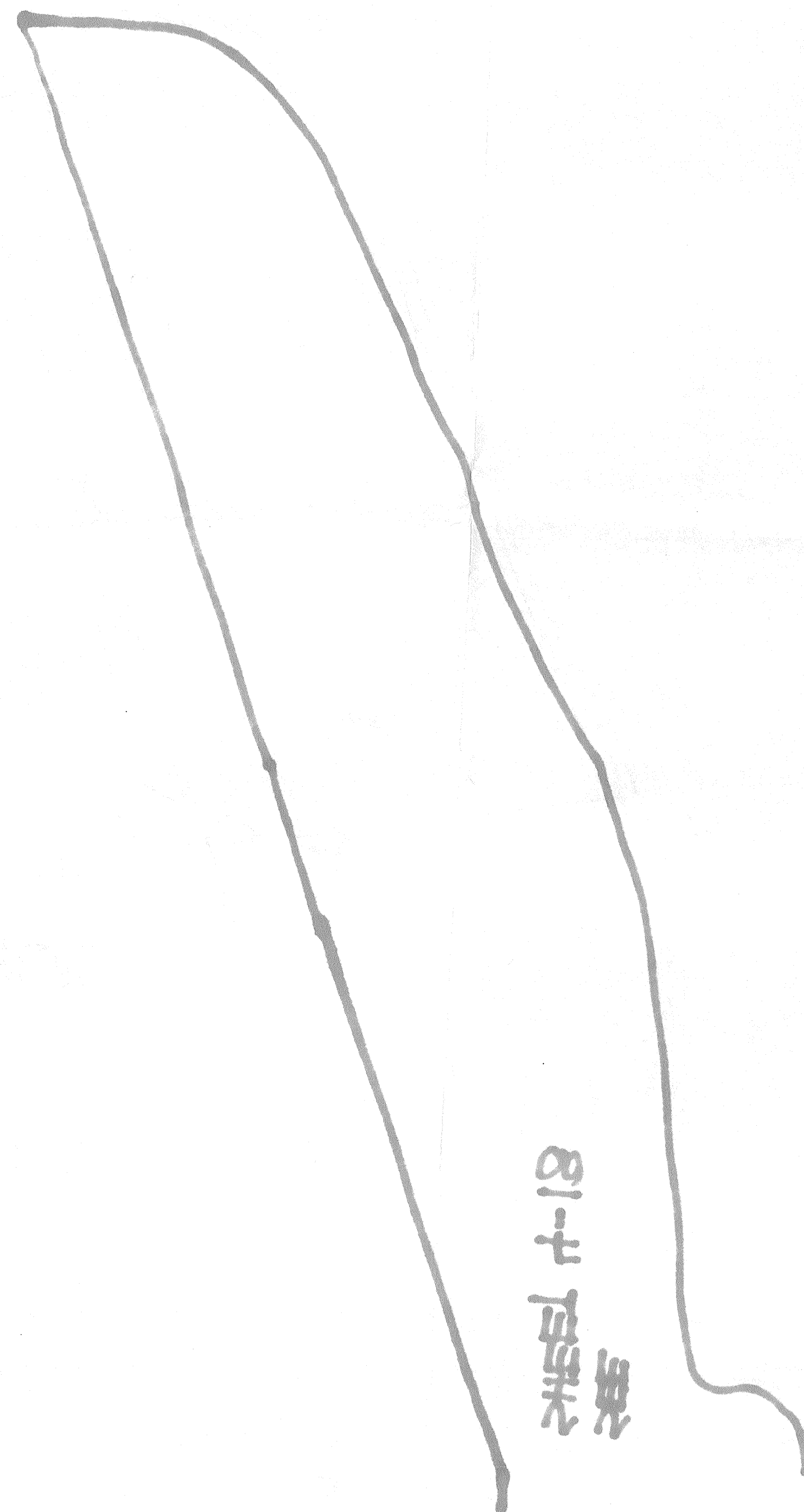
AREA 1-1

AREA 1-1

AREA 45-NR-9

Taunton, Mass
MRA
NR-9
Old Colony Iron Works

017454



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000297