

FORM A - AREA

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

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
B-15-30 B-17-1/6	513

Town Fall River, Mass.

Name of area (if any) King Philip Mills

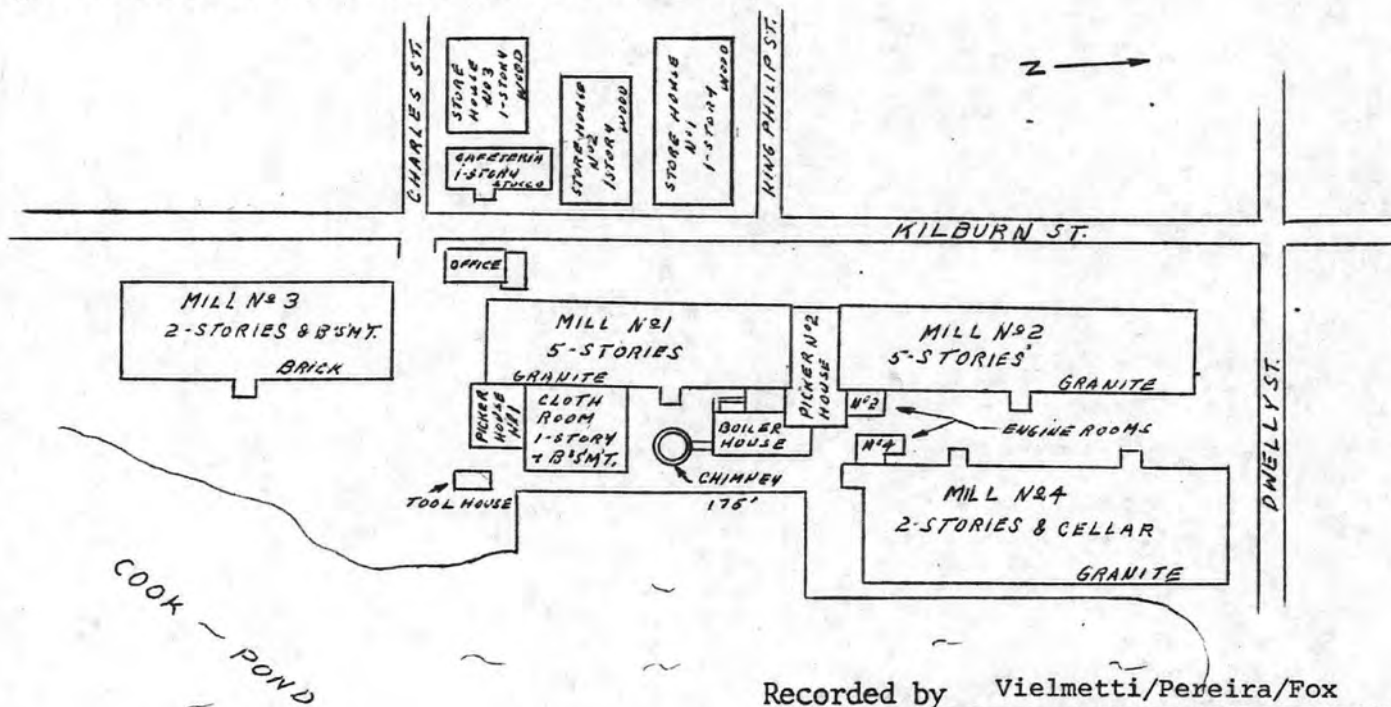
Kilburn Street

General date or period 1871-1892

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

Photo number MP-10-18/24/26/30  
4 37

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 Vielmetti/Pereira/Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 6/15/81

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

The King Philip is a monumental, largely intact complex of three granite and one brick mill and nearly a dozen auxiliary structures generally dating between 1871 and 1892. Picturesque in its site on the banks of Cook Pond or Laurel Lake, the complex is also impressive because of the size and linear placement of the granite Mills #1 and 2. These are joined together by a picker house to form an unbroken frontage of 740 feet, the largest span of any complex in the city. The King Philip is located on a large tract, originally 37 acres, extending from the lake to South Main Road and comprising parts of the old Dodge Farm and Slade Mills land. Mill #1 of 1872, constructed of granite quarried on the site, is four stories in front and five at the rear and is a wide mill of the "English" type, measuring 320' X 92'. The simple, towerless structure is typical of the post-Civil War period in its use of rough granite blocks except at corners and as lintels, its slightly pitched roof, double bracketed cornice, 20/20 sash, and decorative iron fire escapes. It was built under the supervision of the treasurer, E. C. Kilburn, from plans drawn

(CONTINUED)

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

The King Philip Mills, incorporated in 1871, was among the largest single textile corporations in Fall River and was known for the quality of its fine cotton cloth. It was incorporated in 1871 and was one of 15 new textile companies formed during an unprecedented two years of growth following the Civil War. As evidence of the auspicious business climate, early histories record that the capital of \$500,000 was raised by subscription within a fortnight with an extra \$160,000 offered. The company was named for the powerful Indian chief of the local Wampanoag tribes. Two of the principal organizers, Fall River industrialists C. E. Lindsey and Elijah C. Kilburn, were elected president and treasurer respectively. Crawford Lindsey had begun work as a clerk in the American Print Works office and subsequently was among the originators or board members of the Merchants Manufacturing Co., Fall River Bleachery, and Conanicut Mills as well as the Fall River Savings Bank. He also served as mayor of the city in 1878-9. Mill #1, with 37,440 spindles and 776 looms, was constructed in 1871-2 and began production in 1873 at the beginning of a period of economic depression and falling market prices. The goods were well-received nonetheless and gained an honorable reputation. The company manufactured fine wide sheetings, fine cambric muslins and jaconets under the "King Philip" trademark as well as "Laurel Lake Sheetings" and various other kinds of brown sheetings and umbrella goods. In 1877 the company was producing 5,500,000 yards of cloth annually and employed 425. By the early 1880's the King Philip had so prospered that the stockholders voted to increase capital to \$1,000,000 and erect a new mill of 52,928 spindles and 1,006 looms. A third mill was added in 1888 and a fourth in 1892. At its peak during the World War I era, the company (CONTINUED)

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Phillips' History of Fall River, Fascicle II, p. 128  
History of Bristol County (1883), p. 319-320, 394-397  
Fall River and Its Industries, p. 136-138  
1920 Corporate Millyard Plans  
Bennett's Cooperative Handbook of the Textile Industry, p. 424  
"Mill Architecture in Fall River," p. 191, 196

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

B-15-30  
B-17-1/6

Property Name: King Philip Mills

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation)

by Wm. F. Sherman and F. P. Sheldon (a major Providence mill designer). Sherman was a professional engineer and graduate of M.I.T. who was also an inspector for the Boston Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Co. Use of engineers, rather than architects, to draw plans was gaining preference because architects often considered the new fire regulations to be a hindrance to artistic expression. Sherman also drew the plans for the Granite Mills #2 of 1881. The masonry work was done by A. T. Pierce of Dighton and carpentry by L. T. Miller of Fall River. The spinning and weaving machinery was part English- and part American-made, with looms and shafting provided by Kilburn, Lincoln & Co., the well-known machine business headed by the mill's treasurer, E. C. Kilburn. The 550-horsepower Corliss Engine, manufactured by Wm. A. Harris of Providence, was furnished with lake water via a canal. The company also built a total of 80 tenements during the 1870's. Mill #2, erected in 1881-2, was also granite with the same number of stories and similar details. It measures 386' X 92'. The 2-story detached office is one of the few granite offices remaining in the city and features 6/6 sash, walls of finished cut granite set in random courses, and a double bracketed cornice. The 2-story, 100' X 288' Mill #3 of 1888 was built to handle expanded production needs, particularly finishing and specialty work. It was constructed of brick with a slightly pitched roof, arched windows, and rear wall buttressing. The 2-story granite Mill #4 of 1892 measures 127' X 405' and was erected as a weave shed. This was the last major building of the complex and allowed for the removal of looms from the earlier mills. Auxiliary buildings which survive include the following granite structures: picker house #1 (1872), cloth room (1872), tool house (c.1878), picker house #2 (1881), office (1881), engine house #4 (1892), engine house #2 (1892) and storage house #3 (1898). Auxiliary buildings of brick include the boiler house (1881) and 150' mill chimney (1881). Also on the property are 1881 and 1886 wooden storehouses, a 1<sup>st</sup> stucco cafeteria and 1930 electrical switching building. All structures are generally intact except for the weave shed, where the cornice has been removed and windows blocked in, and an unsightly 2-story ramp and loading shed in the center of the front facade between the first two mills, which breaks the impressive frontage.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation)

had 133,900 spindles and 3,000 looms. In 1929 the plant was taken over by the Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, which operated it until 1966. It is presently used for light industry.

The King Philip Mills complex is a largely intact textile mill complex of monumental proportions - one of the largest single corporations to be organized in Fall River; it meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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 6 of 10

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Kennedy Park

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

52. Kerr Thread Mill

~~Substantive Review~~

~~Determined Eligible~~

Keeper

2/16/83 [Signature]

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

53. King Philip Mills

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

~~Keeper~~

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

54. Laurel Lake Mills

~~Substantive Review~~

~~Determined Eligible~~

Keeper

2/16/83 [Signature]

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

55. Lindsey, William, House

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

~~Keeper~~

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

56. Massasoit Fire House #5

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

~~Keeper~~

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

57. Mechanics Mill

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

~~Keeper~~

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

58. Narragansett Mills

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

~~Keeper~~

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

59. North Burial Ground

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

~~Keeper~~

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

60. North Christian Congregational  
Church

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

~~Keeper~~

2/16/83 [Signature]

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

King Philip Mills (Fall River MRA)  
Bristol County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 1/5/83-15  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 2/16/83  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Entered in the  
National Register  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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      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       original site  
 good             ruins             altered         moved      date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair               unexcavated

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

MP-10-18

King Philip Mills

Mill #3

sw view



Fall River MRA, Ma

MP-10-24

King Philip Mills  
Office  
View



Fall River MA, Ma

MP-10-26

King Philip Mills

Mill #1 sw



Fall River NRA, Ma

MP-10-30

King Philip Mills

Mill # 2

n/vew



Fall River MRA, Ms

MP-10-37

King Philip Mills  
e/view of complex

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279