

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	219½

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg
Organization Mass. Historical Commission
Date July 1985

Town North Adams MRA

Address 87 Marshall Street

Historic Name Arnold Print Works

Use: Present light industry

Original mill

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1872; 1881-1903

Source Insurance maps, company records

Style Italianate Industrial

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings See appendix A and B for

map and list of buildings

Major alterations (with dates) See

text

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage 24

Setting This mill complex is located at

the junction of the north and south

branches of the Hoosac River. Across the
river to the north and south are workers'

housing.

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Arnold Print Works complex as it stands today contains most of the original complex (begun in 1872) as it evolved during the last quarter of the 19th century, with few external alterations. By 1900, almost 90% of the extant building had been erected, and few of these have been lost over time. The present complex, now part of the Sprague Electric Company, is composed of 26 buildings, only two of which are of recent construction (see Key, Appendix A, and Map, Appendix B). In addition, the complex includes several covered bridges and walkways that date to the first decades of the print work's existence.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.) (continued)

The Arnold Print Works were built on the peninsula between the north and south branches of the Hoosac River near the center of North Adams. The company was North Adams' largest industry during the city's economic heyday from the Civil War until the early 20th century. Today it serves as the main manufacturing plant for Sprague Electric Company.

The fortunes of the print works and of the city as a whole were increasingly coincident as the firm's career proceeded. No other mill reflects more accurately, in the timing and progress of its expansion, the major periods of growth and optimism in the city's economy between the Civil War and the First World War.

The firm was first known as Harvey Arnold & Co., organized in 1861 by Harvey and his brothers, Oliver and John F. Arnold. They were the sons of a local farmer of modest means. Owing to the demand for cotton uniforms during the Civil War, the new plant could grow quickly. Early on the morning of December 27, 1871, however, its 8 buildings burned to the ground. During that year, depressed cotton prices and high demand for print cotton cloth resulted in record levels of profits, speculation, and building of new mills throughout New England. The existing complex was begun immediately after the fire with construction of the present main mill, Building #4.

(continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

- Beers, F. W., History of Berkshire County, Mass. New York, 1885.
Sanborn Insurance Company, Insurance Maps of North Adams. New York, 1888, 1908, 1914, 1929.
Beers, F. W., County Atlas of Berkshire County, Mass. New York, 1876.
Miller, D. L., Atlas of the Towns of Adams, North Adams. New York, 1894.
Rowe, H. G., North Adams and Vicinity. North Adams, 1898.

North Adams Quadrangle

UTM References:

- (A) 18/654430/4729250
- (B) 18/654450/4729040
- (C) 18/654330/4729040
- (D) 18/654110/4729140
- (E) 18/654080/4729260

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Adams	Form No: 219½
Property Name: Arnold Print Works	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued (1)

The company's ownership changed following the fire, with Harvey's son, F. H. Arnold, joining the firm and his brothers selling out their interests--John Arnold sold his portion to A. C. Houghton, who became the first mayor of North Adams in 1878. The new partnership prospered: Dunn Credit Bureau agents called them "shrewd, calculating, persevering businessmen," and their print works "the most successful in the country," with profits of \$100,000 during 1874. The two brick buildings and 15 acres of land that made up the print works were then worth \$225,000, with machinery valued at \$75,000. In addition to the print works, Arnold also owned all or part of seven cotton mills in North and South Adams.

Economic panic struck the nation in 1873. Depression reached North Adams shortly after the opening of the Hoosac Tunnel to freight traffic on April 5, 1875. By early 1876, as a reaction to the panic, Arnold's profits were zero, stock and material on hand were worth \$400,000, and liabilities totaled \$360,000. Wages dropped ten per cent in March. By June, debt was over a million dollars. Manufacturer David Brayton of Fall River supplied funds to pay Arnold's creditors and reopen the mills. Recovery was slow, but the increase in volume of traffic brought by the tunnel reduced the cost and inconvenience of shipping raw materials into North Adams.

By 1879, Arnold was borrowing heavily to boost its productive capacity, and adding yet another mill, the Eclipse Mill in North Adams, to its holdings. The print works on Marshall Street began to grow during the early 1880s, with eight buildings for packing, dyeing, and other functions added by 1890. Business was profitable again, with sales of \$2.5 million. Improvements during the first half of 1884 cost \$25,000, but profits during the next half were four times that figure. In 1888, sales were \$4 million and profits \$143,000, more than any other company in North Adams.

By decade's close, the New England cotton industry as a whole was beginning to suffer from the competition of mills in the Southern Piedmont region, which enjoyed vastly lower labor costs in a business that paid out about half its costs in wages, and which used more efficient techniques and automatic looms. The Arnold Print Works, however, managed to keep pace. The company bought new machinery; it followed fashion trends closely through its New York and Paris offices and diversified its products. Again, expansion of the print works continued, with at least seven more specialized structures for singeing, shearing, dyeing, and drying added by the close of the century.

Cotton had eclipsed boots and shoes as the largest industry in North Adams by the mid 1890s, and the Arnold Print Works were selling their goods at record levels of half a million dollars annually, but losses in the face of southern competition became inevitable. In 1908, the company failed again, with total assets of \$15.7 million, liabilities at \$7 million. The need for cloth during World War I postponed a final decline, but massive shutdowns throughout New England--including the Arnold works--began occurring in the mid and late 1920s. In 1929, Sprague Electric Company moved to North Adams from Quincy, Massachusetts, and began buying Arnold mills. The print works moved much of its operation to Adams and concentrated on a few particular products in its Marshall Street plant. Arnold sold the company to Beacon Realty and Trust Company in 1942 for \$1.9 million dollars, almost a million dollars below its worth in 1908. The plant was shortly thereafter acquired by Sprague Electric Company.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

North Adams

Form No:

219½

Property Name: Arnold Print Works

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued (1)

Most of the complex's structures are examples of typical late 19th century industrial construction, of brick, with load-bearing walls, segmental arches, and corbelled brickwork. Additions to the original mill buildings as well as newer structures within the complex are compatible in scale, materials, and detailing. The complex includes utilitarian structures built for a full range of functions associated with late 19th century printed cloth production techniques. Dyeing, drying, bleaching, and finishing all occupied separate units in the complex, as did facilities for grinding and mixing colors and packing, storing, and shipping finished cloth.

The complex is essentially in two parts: the densely constructed northern section, built along the narrow peninsula bounded by the North and South Branches of the Hoosac River, consists of a long row of buildings with a series of additions extending south and eastward and creating a courtyard near the Marshall Street entrance; and scattered freestanding structures, mostly small in size, are located south of the Hoosac River's South Branch. Three covered-bridge walkways and three vehicular bridges connect the two sides of the complex.

The first, main building in the complex, now known as Building #4, was built along the southern shore of the North Branch in 1872. As originally built, it is similar to other contemporary mill buildings, and is four stories in height with a low-pitched roof and corbelled brick cornices. The corbelling is still visible at the building's eastern gable end, which rises a single story above adjoining building #2. The original 1872 facade of the building's south side overlooks the courtyard, while the northern facade displays large windows set in recessed bays, alternating with vertical members between each bay. These members rise from ground to roofline and create a pilastered effect.

In 1881, the company began to extend its facilities east and west along the river.

These additions were built with load-bearing walls and small window openings, with 12/12 double-hung sash topped with segmental arches. Building #3 (1891), adjoining the east end of the main mill building, is three stories in height and features a corbelled brick cornice at its western end, where it rises above the two-story section of building #2 (1891). Similar corbelling was used in the last phase of expansion, at the turn of the century. Building #1, at the east end of the complex fronting Marshall Street, was erected in 1889 as a storehouse and remodeled in 1900 for use as a packing building. Its load-bearing walls rise three stories to a high peaked roof and contain segmental-arched windows. Cornices are again graced by corbelled brickwork.

During the last twenty years of the 19th century, the plant also extended westward from Building #4 to the end of the peninsula at the confluence of the Hoosac River's
(continued)

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
North Adams	219½
Property Name: Arnold Print Works	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued (2)

north and south branches. The facade of the three-story dye house, Building #5 (1882), is very similar to that of its contemporary, Building #2 (east of the main building), except for its first story of stone. The three-story steam box (Building #5A), is over one hundred feet in length and built of brick. A dye house extension was constructed in 1889-1901 and filled in the remaining open space along the riverbank. Its facade is almost indistinguishable from that of the original dye house (Building #5, 1882) adjoining it, except for its flat, rather than peaked, roof.

The print work's main courtyard, flanking Marshall Street, lies to the east of the complex. It includes buildings similar to Building #4, with load-bearing walls and decorated cornices. The printing building was a two-story structure when it was built in 1872; within a few years, it had grown to four stories and received a small, two-story addition--a color shop--stretching eastward toward the Marshall Street gate. Together, these two structures form an L-shaped wing off the main building. Single-story offices were extended from the main building into the courtyard in 1891. The south side of the courtyard is bounded by a long storehouse (Building #12), built in 1885 and 1889, raised two stories, and remodeled in 1900. The storehouse roof is steeply pitched, with windows more widely spaced than elsewhere in the complex.

Also part of the courtyard is the late 19th century clocktower. A mid 20th century personnel building is also located along the Marshall Street courtyard.

Outbuildings on the south side of the South Branch were built in the early 1880s and enlarged at the turn of the century. All are essentially utilitarian structures, with spare lines and little ornamentation. They include a bleach, dye, and printing building, a machine shop, and two storehouses. Several fuel-storage tanks in the southern part of the complex were built in the mid 20th century, as was a new boiler house.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Adams	Form No: 219½
Property Name: Arnold Print Works	

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

Verbal Boundary Description

The bounds of the Arnold Print Works, approximately 24 acres, incorporate the remaining structures in this industrial complex. See attached sketch map and key, Appendix A.

Specifically, the bounds are as follows: beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of Marshall Street and the North Branch of the Hoosac River, proceeding westward along the North Branch's southern shore approximately 1100 feet to the confluence of the north and south branches, then turning south, proceeding 26 feet to the north bank of the South Branch of the Hoosac River; thence proceeding 185 feet to a covered bridge spanning the South Branch, turning to cross the bridge, and travelling approximately 215 feet to the main line of the Boston & Maine Railroad, Fitchburg Division; thence turning to follow a six-foot-tall iron fence southeasterly along the railroad tracks and thence northeasterly along a railroad siding approximately 350 feet; thence turning south at Building #16 to proceed 80 feet along its west wall, thence travelling underneath the Route 2 overpass to its southern side, turning east, and travelling approximately 400 feet under Route 2, crossing the South Branch of the Hoosac River, to Marshall Street, thence turning at a right angle and following the curblin north to the Hoosac River's North Branch.

Criteria for Evaluation

The Arnold Print Works retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with North Adams' late 19th century industrial heyday, being the city's dominant manufactory during this period. Comprised of a largely intact complex of late 19th century industrial buildings, Arnold Print Works thus fulfils Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

North Adams MRA

Form No:

219½

Property Name: Arnold Print Works

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

APPENDIX A

Key, Arnold Print Works (extant structures only)
Original functions

<u>Building Number</u>	<u>Building Name/Function</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Packing Building	1899
2	Packing and Engineering	1881
3	Offices	1891
4	Main Building, Steaming and Finishing	1872
5	Dye House and Dry House	1882
5A	Steambox	ca. 1882
6A&B	Dye House Extensions	1899
7	Dye/Bleach House	1881
8	Padding Building	1881
9	Boiler House	1872
10	Printing Building	1872
11	Color Shop	1881
12	Storehouse	1881/1900
13	Singeing and Shearing House	1902
15	Storehouse #1	1899
16	Grey Cloth Storage Building	1899
17	Machine Shop	1881
18	Blacksmith	1899
19	Rag Dry house	1899
21	Indigo Dye House	1882
23	-----	1919
25	Blacksmith	1899
31	Perioxide Room	ca. 1890
32	New Boiler House	1948/NC
34	Personnel Building	1951/NC
35	Clock Tower	1872

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

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name North Adams MRA
State Berkshire Co., MASSACHUSETTS

Cover _____ accept upst

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | No. | Property | Notes | Keeper | Attest |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Monument Square Historic District (B.I.) | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 2. | Church Street-Caddy Hill Historic District (B.I.) | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 3. | Blackinton Historic District | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 4. | Freeman's Grove Historic District | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 5. | Normal School Historic District | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 6. | Armstrong House | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 7. | Arnold Print Works | Substantive Review | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 8. | Boardman (The) | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 9. | Browne, Charles, House | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 10. | Crowley House | Entered in the National Register | <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |

85603379

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Arnold Print Works (North Adams MRA)
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

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

Working No. SEP 12 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/10/85 — 10/27/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-25-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

THE CASE UNDER CRITERION C IS POORLY
SUPPORTED. NO CONTEXT IS GIVEN FOR
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE ON THE FORM.
THE COVER FORM SHOWS IT TO BE ONE OF

Recom./Criteria ACCEPT CRITERION A
Reviewer MAC DOUGAL
Discipline ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
Date 10-25-85
see continuation sheet

SEVERAL OF THE PERIOD.

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
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle 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



Arnold Print Works
(Sprague Electric)
Marshall St. *na 7*
North Adams, Mass.
Photo by R. Reed, 1981.
Negative at NAHC



Arnold Print Works
(Sprague Electric)
Marshall St.
North Adams, Mass.
North side.
Photo by HCRC, 1978
Negative at NAHC



Arnold Print Works
87 Marshall Street
North Adams MRA, North Adams, Mass.
Photographer: Richard Hamblin
Date of Photograph: August 1985
Location of Negative: North Adams
Office of Community Development
Photo #7 of 7

RIVER

ST.

GASOLINE
FILLING
STATION

AUTO SALES
RM.

CAR WASH

COOLING
TOWER

ENGR. & RESEARCH BLDG.

NORTH BRANCH OF HOOSAC RIVER

Flow

EBER
AVE.

STORE

FUNERAL
HOME

PARISH
HALL

CHURCH

MARSHALL ST.

OVERPASS

