

FORM A - AREA

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

| Form numbers in this area | Area letter |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| S-10-8/34 S-10-9/30 S-11-1 | 515 |

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

Photo number MP-6-33/34

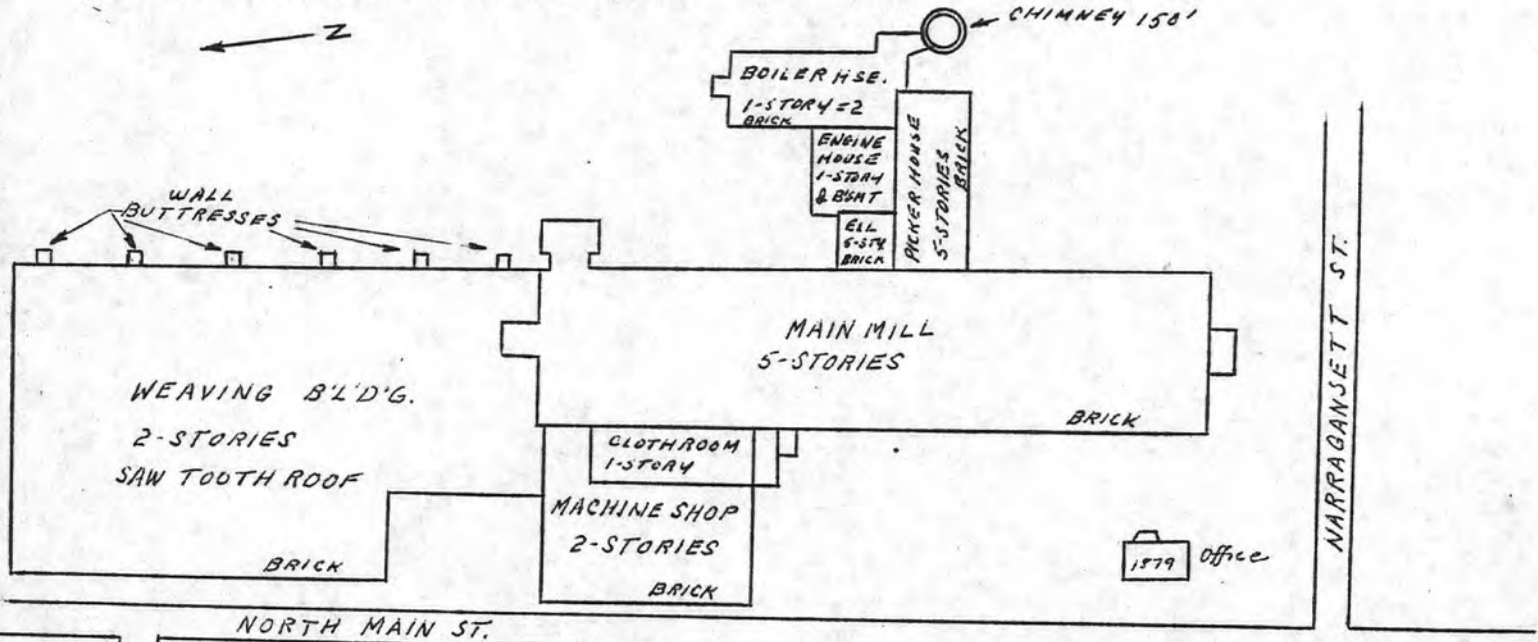
Town Fall River, Mass.

Name of area (if any) Narragansett Mills

1567 North Main Street

General date or period 1872-1895

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 6/30/81

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Narragansett Mill of 1872 was the third to be constructed in the northern section of the city, an area which became available for industrial development with the advent of steam power. The site, originally 21 acres purchased from Job T. Wilson and others, is of interest because it was not adjacent to any body of water and was supplied by a large brick well. The mill buildings are surrounded by an early iron fence with granite curb and posts and stand along a main thoroughfare within a densely settled neighborhood. The Narragansett Mill complex is architecturally distinctive because of its unity of style and materials, fine workmanship and remarkably intact quality. The buildings are constructed almost entirely of brick, which was more economical than granite to transport to sites in this northern section. The faintly Romanesque influence is typical of brick mills in this third, or expansion period in the city's mill architecture. The main mill of 1872 is 5 stories high with a slightly pitched roof and measures 300' X 75' (The Barlow Insurance Plan of 1877 lists the length as 200 feet at that time).

(Continued)

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

The Narragansett Mill was organized in 1871 during a period of extraordinarily rapid expansion of the city's textile manufacturing industry. It was capitalized at \$400,000, an amount relatively small for this boom era. Among the principal organizers were A. Dorrance Easton, first president; James Waring, first treasurer; and Daniel McCowan. The company specialized in making print cloth and corset jeans but did not dye their cloth on the premises. The cloth was sold directly from an office within the complex and through the New York broker of Coffin, Altemus & Co. The original mill had a capacity of 27,920 spindles and 700 looms. At its peak at the turn of the century, the company reached a capacity of about 44,600 spindles and 1,250 looms. It continued in business until 1929, when the property was sold. It is presently used as a mill outlet store.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Fall River and Its Industries, p. 136
Phillips' History of Fall River, p. 128
History of Bristol County, MA, p. 319
1920 Corporate Millyard Plans
Barlow Insurance Plans, No. 4806, 1877.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

S-10-8/34

S-10-9/30

S-11-1

Property Name: Narragansett Mills

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation)

Detailing includes wooden brackets, granite quoins and sills, and 12/12 windows with brick relieving arches set in repeating recessed bays. The 1872 picker house and an 1872 5-story rear ell have also survived, along with an 1879 machine shop, 1879 office, 1888 wood cloth room, 1889 engine house and boiler house, and 1895 2-story weave shed (240'X 160') with a sawtooth roof and rear wall buttresses. Of these the 2-story machine shop at the front center of the complex and the detached 2-story office are the most notable. Both retain their decorative wooden brackets, brick quoins and slightly projecting brick hood lintels. The office has been painted.

The Narragansett Mill, a handsome intact brick mill was organized during the city's greatest expansion period; 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 1/5/67

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

Narragansett Mills (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-16
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 2/3/83-2/19/83
Action: ACCEPT 2/16/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register 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 _____
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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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



STOP
NO PARKING
ANY TIME

MP-6-33a
Narragansett Mills
Weave Building
northeast view



MP-6-34a
Narragansett Mills
rear view of Weave
Building
looking northeast

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279