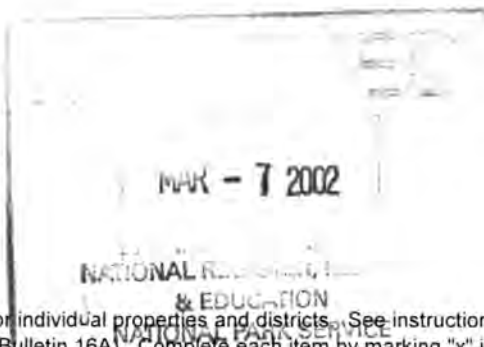


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Groton Leatherboard Company

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 6 West Main Street _____ not for publication

city or town Groton _____ vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 02721

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon DSHPO

March 5, 2002

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Edson H. Beall

Groton Leatherboard Co
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

7 building

_____ sites

_____ 1 structures

_____ objects

7 1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick/Stone/Concrete

walls Brick/Asphalt

Metal/Synthetic/Fiberglass

roof Tar and Gravel

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 7 Page 1*Groton, (Middlesex) Massachusetts***Narrative Description**

The mill complex of the former Groton Leatherboard Company at 6 West Main Street in Groton Massachusetts consists of a 1915 red brick mill and several interconnected red brick additions including buildings erected in 1926, 1928 and 1936 and several free-standing outbuildings. The formation of the complex generally resembles the shape of a lower case "h." It stands at the major intersection of the mill village of West Groton, the convergence of Townsend Road, Pepperell Road and Shirley Road/West Main Street (MA Route 225, an early inter-community highway). The complex is set back behind a front parking area accessed by a driveway from West Main Street and located between the Squannacook River and the abandoned line and spur of the Boston and Maine Railroad. The drive way passes along a downward slope near the 8' bank at the eastern boundary through a passage in the mill to a flat, wide, open mill yard.

All mill buildings are modestly detailed, red-brick, utilitarian edifices representative of early 20th century industrial architecture. Most consist of plank and timber construction. Some concrete-on-steel-beam, plank-on-steel-beam and rod-truss construction also exists. Detail is substantially limited to fenestration with radiating voussoirs above flat or segmental-arched openings and flush, poured-concrete sills; narrow, shallow corbeling along the cornice line of some buildings and double-leafed entries comprised of wooden doors with 6 or 9-pane lights as uppermost panels. Doors often are set beneath multi-light, double-row transoms. Buildings generally have composite, tar and gravel roofs. Interiors of the mill buildings typically consist of painted, 12"-to 18"-thick brick walls, concrete floors in the basement and/or first floor and wooden flooring on the upper level. Finishes in the office space include wall to wall carpeting, gypsum wall board partitions and acoustical tile ceilings.

The oldest sections form the northwest corner of the complex. The small, flat-roofed, 1-story, 1 x 2-bay, rectangular, red brick Motor House (1918, Building No. 3) has double-leafed, wood panel doors with 6-pane lights set in a segmental-arched opening with radiating voussoirs on its north elevation. The 2-bay, east elevation has a segmental-arched, paneled-wood door with 9-pane light and 6/6, double-hung sash, wooden window. The 3-bay west elevation has similarly-detailed two, 6/6, double-hung sash, wooden windows centered by a paneled wood door with 9-pane light. The south elevation remains a blank brick wall.

The motor house stands in front the 20 x 8-bay, 2-story plus raised basement, shallow pitch-roofed, rectangular main mill (Building No. 1), designed in 1915 by Ira W. Jones of Milton, New Hampshire. The roofline of the factory has projecting eaves supported by 22" ancons. The east slope of the roof is interrupted by a frame, 23' x 84' x 4' clerestory with continuous, 6-light, rectangular, wooden windows which has collapsed. Not original to the building, this monitor was added between 1938 and 1955 replacing six, earlier, 5' x 8' individual skylights (removed in 2001 as part of a certified rehabilitation). The original, asymmetrical, 8-bay north elevation was partially modified on the east end by a 1955 addition (demolished in 2001 as part of a certified rehabilitation). The plane of the facade has been returned to its original location. The fourth and eighth bays from the west end contain double-leafed, paneled, wooden doors with 4-pane lights. Other bays have 10/10, double-hung sash, wooden windows. An original, open loading dock raised on posts above 10 of the 12, 10-light, hopper-sash, wooden, basement windows along the north elevation was apparently altered over time before being completely removed before 1955.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 7 Page 2*Groton, (Middlesex) Massachusetts***Narrative Description**

The altered east end of the north elevation of Building 1 included a flat-roofed, rectangular, 3 x 2-bay, approximately 16.5' x 30.3' addition (now demolished) devised by the firm of Jenks & Ballou of Providence, Rhode Island. Projecting 16.5' feet forward of the plane of the facade of Building No. 1, it expanded the north end of the original, rectangular, 6 x 3-bay office above the north end of the one-story, 1915 engine room. The facade of the now-removed office area included double-leafed, 10-light french doors sheltered by a flat hood supported by open brackets beneath a double-row, 12-light, straight transom. The remaining 2 bays have 10/10, rectangular, double-hung sash, wooden windows with flat concrete sills. Removal of the portion of the office space projecting beyond the plane of the facade on the main mill was allowed in approval of Part 2 of the Historic Preservation Certification Application for rehabilitation of the property.

Detailing at the roofline on the 1955 office area matched the shallow, corbeled cornice of the east and south elevations where original office space was also expanded to the rear (south) in 1933 as a flat-roofed, second story over the original, 1-story, shallow-pitch roofed boiler room. As a result, this accreted construction follows the slope of the lot to stand 1-story above grade on the north end, but rises to 2-stories on the south elevation. The original doorway on the 1915 office can be seen on the east elevation as a bricked opening below a segmental arch in the third bay from the north. Five of the remaining six bays on the east elevation have peculiar, 5/10, double-hung sash, wooden windows in segmental-arched openings. The sixth has a 2/4, double-hung sash, wooden window. The three, segmental-arched windows on the north end of the basement level have 10-light hopper sash. The single bay south elevation includes a large opening introduced at ground level. It has been in-filled with plywood to accommodate a single, flush-panel, metal door to the Boiler Room. It sits beneath a single 10/10, double-hung sash, wooden window in a segmental-arch opening. A small, rectangular, metal, industrial-sash window with concrete sill has been added to the west between levels.

The 20-bay, west elevation of the 1915 Main Mill (Building No. 1) is denoted by wooden fenestration of segmental-arched, 15/15, double-hung sash on the first floor, 10/10 windows on the second floor and seven 10-light, hopper-sash windows in the raised basement. All are detailed with radiating voussoirs and flush, poured-concrete sills. As on the north elevation, wide eaves are supported by 22" long consoles. In 1926, the southernmost three bays, originally one-story high with three 10/10 double-hung sash, were raised to two stories with full-sized windows added to the second floor.

The south elevation of Building No.1 was modified several times after the 1-story section was raised to meet the second floor of Building No. 2. Additional changes were made as an original, adjacent but freestanding, single, pitched-roofed dry house (not extant) was first supplemented by a second (not extant) before both were replaced with the addition of attached and adjoining Buildings 5 and 6 in 1936. A parapet was added to the roofline of the south elevation and one window bay was lost from the second floor. A double-leafed door and 2 ½ window bays have been removed on the first floor leaving exposed an asymmetrical elevation of six 10/10 double-hung sash, segmental-arch windows on the second floor, two 15/15, double-hung sash on the first floor and a 15-light industrial sash window in a partially blocked original opening at the easternmost bay where the newer construction joins.

Building No. 2 (1926) is a 2-story, 108' x 64' addition, 9 bays on the north elevation and 6 bays on the south elevation with a first-story drive through passage. This wing connects the original mill with a 2-story, rectangular Dryer and Storage

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 7 Page 3*Groton, (Middlesex) Massachusetts***Narrative Description**

(Building No. 7, 1928) adjacent to the railroad tracks. Designed by engineers Cole and Kimball of Boston, Massachusetts, the flat-roofed connecting mill also has two nearly-collapsed frame, 20' x 54' x 4' clerestories. Not original to the building, they were added between 1938 and 1955 to the shallow-pitched roof denoted on all sides by a shallow, corbeled cornice. The 9-bay, north elevation of Building No. 2 has regularly-spaced, metal, industrial-sash windows set in segmental-arched openings with radiating voussoirs and concrete sills. Fenestration consists of 30-light sash on the first floor and 24-light sash on the second floor. Each window has an 8-pane, pivoting section. Openings in the westernmost three bays of the first floor are shortened and house similar, 15-pane, metal industrial sash. The easternmost two bays at ground level are occupied by an approximately 15'-wide, 12' high, fire-walled, drive-through passage with double-leafed, 8-panel wooden doors on both north and south openings.

A 2-story, 2 x 1-bay, approximately 18' x 11' stair tower at the northwest end of Building No. 2 at its juncture with Building No. 1 was also constructed in 1926. It consists of corbeled topped, recessed bays between piers. The entry is comprised of double-leafed, paneled wooden doors, each with elongated, upper panels of double row, 6-light sash set beneath a double row, 10-light transom of metal industrial sash. Illumination to the upper level of the stair tower is provided only on the east elevation by 15-pane, metal industrial sash each including an 8-pane, pivoting section. A walkway to the entry is defined by a low concrete wall which sheltered it from a coal pile and coal trestle which occupied the area to the north between Buildings 2 and 4. A similar concrete retaining wall surmounted by a metal pipe rail forms an L-shape running west off the southeast corner of Building No. 4. It represents part of the north side of the former coal pocket.

The five-bay east elevation of Building No. 2 meets the rise in grade at its second story to stand only one story high behind an 8' x 69' x 4', concrete loading platform along the rail line. Each bay is denoted by a segmental-arched opening with a triple row of radiating voussoirs. Access to the dock is provided at the center and end bays by double-leafed, paneled wood doors, each similar to entry in the stair tower, has paired, elongated upper panels of double row, 6-light sash. Between the doors are short, window bays with 12-pane, industrial sash including an 8-pane, pivoting section and a concrete sill.

The south elevation of Building No. 2 was altered when Buildings 5 and 6 were built in 1936. The 6-bay section which remains exposed is identical to the opposite bays on the north elevation. Regularly-spaced windows of metal industrial sash with 8-pane, pivoting sections are set in segmental-arched openings with radiating voussoirs and concrete sills. Windows have 30-pane sash on the first floor and 24-pane sash on the second floor. The drive through passage emerges at ground level in the easternmost two bays.

The 1928, rectangular, 2-story, 20 x 4-bay Storage and Dryer Building No. 7, designed by Cole and Kimball of Boston replaced an earlier, long, rectangular, frame dryer building. Similarly detailed to Building No. 2, the east elevation of Building No. 7 along the rail line includes 5, double-leafed, 6-panel, wooden doors as loading docks in the second, sixth, tenth, fourteenth and eighteenth bays from the north end. Doorway and window openings are segmentally-arched with triple rows of radiating voussoirs and concrete sills. Fenestration consists of 12-pane, metal, industrial sash. Windows on

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 7 Page 4*Groton, (Middlesex) Massachusetts***Narrative Description**

the main level have an 8-pane, pivoting section. Except for the northernmost bay that has been in-filled with brick, basement openings are fitted with fixed sash. The single bay in the north elevation of Building No. 7 consists of a loading dock identical detailed to those along the east elevation, but opening onto the platform of Building No. 2..

The 4-bay south elevation of Building No. 7, originally demarcated on each level by four 12-pane, metal, industrial, fixed-sash windows set in segmental-arched openings with radiating voussoirs and concrete sills. It has been altered to include two loading dock sized openings. Both are boarded with plywood.

Another loading dock sheltered by a flat roof is located in the northwest corner of the 22-bay west elevation of Building No. 7. Originally limited to the northernmost three bays, it has been lengthened two bays where original openings have been bricked. The concrete platform is accessed by a sliding, double-leafed, angled-plank, wooden door in the northernmost bay. It is sheltered by a wooden canopy supported by chains tied to the elevation wall and is closed on the south end by a brick wall. The elevator tower, detailed to match the cornice on the east elevation, projects above the roofline of the northwest corner of the building. The west elevation roofline is simpler than that on the east. Lacking a shallow, corbeled cornice, it is denoted only by a simple metal cap. Fenestration consists of 12-pane, industrial sash with an 8-pane, pivoting section set in segmental-arched openings with radiating voussoirs and concrete sills. A planned doorway in the eleventh bay from the south end but never installed, remains evidenced by a segmental arch patterned on the wall. A former double-leafed doorway in the second bay from the south end has been bricked-in and replaced by a single, metal door. Other modifications in openings have been made over time. Windows on both levels in the twelfth bay from the south have been altered to create a loading dock on the top floor (now boarded). Flat brick arches and ghost lines in the brick work in the lowest section of the wall reflect other changes over time.

Attached to the south of Building No 1 are Buildings 5 and 6. Both were built in 1936 as an addition designed by K. F. Kimball. Building No. 5 is a 201' x 63', 2-story, flat-roofed, dryer, machine and finishing building. The roofline has a 3-part, molded board cornice and a low-profile two-course corbeled cornice. The second floor of the 20-bay, east elevation has 24-pane, rectangular, industrial sash windows with a 4/4-pane, pivoting, center section and concrete sill beneath a flat arch with radiating voussoirs. Similarly detailed windows on the first floor have 30-pane, rectangular, fixed, industrial sash windows with a 5/5, pivoting sections. The second and nineteenth bays on the east elevation have entries comprised of double-leafed, paneled wood doors, each with 9-pane rectangular lights, surmounted by a double-row, 14-light straight transom beneath flat arch with radiating voussoirs. Double-leafed, three-panel, wooden doors access a concrete loading dock at the elevator tower in the southeast corner.

On the 5-bay south elevation of Building 5, a post-1955, open, shed-roofed, metal and corrugated fiberglass canopy covers a loading dock leading to a modern, multi-paneled, wooden, overhead door and a paneled wood pedestrian door. Fenestration repeats the pattern and detailing of the east elevation.

On the west elevation, the identically fenestrated and detailed second floor of Building 5 rises above the contiguous, 1-story, 2 x 20-bay, shallow-pitched, shed-roofed, repair shop, Building No. 6, standing on poured-concrete piers above the

(continued)

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tail race. Fenestration on the 20-bay, west elevation consists of 24-pane, rectangular, metal, industrial sash with a 4/4, pivoting center section. The northernmost bay is occupied by a wooden door with glazed, rectangular, upper panel beneath a shed-roofed, metal canopy. It stands above a similar door accessed by an interior stairwell. Both lead to exterior iron platforms, the higher one including stairs, reaching to the island created by the tail race. The south elevation of Building 5 includes an oversized doorway infilled with plywood and a single, 24-pane, rectangular, fixed, industrial sash window with a 4/4, pivoting, center section and concrete sill.

A row of outbuildings on the site included two identical, 1-story, 32' x 32' x 8', free-standing, frame, open-fronted sheds, Buildings No. 9 and 10 (c. 1930; demolished in 2001 as part of a certified rehabilitation), aligned less than fifty feet south of Building 6. A similar, 1-story, 44' x 15' x 8', free-standing, nearly-level shed-roofed, frame shed (Building No. 11, c. 1930, demolished in 2001 as part of a certified rehabilitation) stood approximately 19' south of Building 10.

An 8'-diameter, above-grade penstock runs along the west elevation of Building No. 1 to enter the basement level of the mill in the second bay north of the southwest corner. On the interior, the penstock makes two, 90-degree elbow turns into the turbine in the wheel pit. The tail race runs under Building No. 5 supported by concrete piers on the west. Millwork has been removed, but the General Electric Generator remains in the motor house and will be left on display.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded on the Groton Leatherboard Company property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the nominated area indicate the presence of several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient sites. The property was probably well drained prior to historic industrial development that altered natural soil types. The mill site also occupies a level terrace bordering the Squannacook River along its western boundary. The Squannacook River drains southeasterly approximately 1.5 miles to its confluence with the Nashua River. The latter river then drains northerly to the Merrimack River. Extensive Native American settlement has been documented along most of the Merrimack River and its tributaries. In spite of the favorable locational criteria listed above, however, the potential for locating ancient Native American sites on the Groton Leatherboard Company property is low. Over 200 years of intensive industrial development on the relatively small lot (8.7 acres) would have destroyed any ancient resources located on the property.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the nominated property, however, much of it remains to be documented. The Groton Leatherboard Company mill site has been occupied since at least 1765, possibly as early as 1744. The mill privilege was originally known as Tarbell's Mills and included a saw mill, dye house, wool carding mill and grist mill variously located on both sides of the river. The mills were gone by the mid-19th century. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and excavation may locate the exact sites of these mills and

(continued)

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Groton Leatherboard Company

Section Number 7 Page 6

Groton, (Middlesex) Massachusetts

Narrative Description

determine whether structural evidence related to mill buildings and water-power resources survive. A frame strawboard mill was built at the site of the Tarbell saw and grist mill in ca. 1875. Structural evidence of that mill, destroyed by fire in 1914, and related mill canals may also survive. Leatherboard was manufactured in the strawboard mill soon after 1875. After the 1914 fire, leatherboard manufacture resumed in 1916 at the extant Building No. 1 Main Mill, presumably built on the site of the strawboard mill. Structural evidence of water-power related resources may be an important potential resource type on the nominated property. The existing mill complex abuts an extant dam on the Squannacook River and a tail-race extends from the present main mill building. Structural evidence of earlier dams may exist on the nominated property, possibly near or incorporated into the existing dam. The existing tailrace may also be related to 19th century mill buildings no longer extant. Archaeological evidence of mill canals and wheel pits related to earlier mills might also survive buried on the nominated property.

(end)

Groton Leatherboard Co
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Community Planning & Development
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

- 1916-1952
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1916, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1936, 1947
- _____
- _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

- n/a

Cultural Affiliation

- N/a
- _____
- _____

Architect/Builder

- Ira W. Jones, Milton, NH; Cole & Kimball, Boston
- H.F. Kimball, Boston; Jenks & Ballou, Providence, RI

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 8 Page 1*Groton (Middlesex), Massachusetts***Narrative Statement of Significance** *(continued)*

The Groton Leatherboard Company is significant as a manufacturing complex which developed between 1915 and 1955 on an historic mill site continuously occupied for more than two hundred years. It represents the evolution and expansion of a successful New England paper company. It is also significant as one of three mill complexes on the Squannacook River (including the former R. H. Thompson saw and planing mill and the Hollingsworth & Vose Company paper mill, both extant) which supported development of the mill village of West Groton (a.k.a. Squannacook Village), the locus of nearly the entire industrial sector of the primarily agrarian economy of the Town of Groton. In addition, the Groton Leatherboard Company is significant as demonstrative of the layout, building types and relationships of an early 20th century leatherboard mill. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

The Town of Groton, located in the Nashua River Valley about 35 miles north northwest of Boston, remains a small, rural community. Settled and incorporated in 1655 on the early frontier of European settlement, Groton's growth was severely retarded by the Indian wars during the early 18th century. The town was burned and abandoned during King Philip's War. Continuing hostilities and raids during the next several decades moderated progress until ca. 1730. Rapid growth occurred thereafter. Groton Center developed as a linear village along Great Road, one of the principal colonial thoroughfares between eastern Massachusetts and parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. West Groton, located on another highway, developed by 1750 as a secondary village based on the Squannacook River mill site.

Agricultural expansion generated prosperity during the later 18th century and Groton became an important regional center during the early 19th century. The Nashua River Valley became a railroad corridor. The Worcester & Nashua Railroad (1848) intersected with the Peterborough & Shirley Railroad (1848) at Groton Junction (separated as the Town of Ayer in 1871). The limited number of local power sites, however, largely restricted industrial potential to saw and grist mills with the exception of paper mills on the Squannacook River at West Groton and on the Nashua River near the border with the Town of Pepperell. The largest of the mills were at West Groton serviced by the Peterborough & Shirley Railroad. A. H. Thompson and Sons (saw mill, wooden box and reel factory) located in West Groton in the early 1890s. It, the Groton Leatherboard Company and Hollingsworth and Vose Company all expanded during the late 19th and early 20th century, promoting associated residential and institutional development. A number of side-hall plan, Italianate, Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne-style houses were built. A Methodist Society and Catholic parish were founded. One of two, local, graded schools and a firehouse were built at West Groton.

Groton Center remained primarily residential until the establishment of boarding schools added high style institutional buildings in the early 20th century. Commercial and suburban development in Groton remained limited until the mid-20th century.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 8 Page 2*Groton (Middlesex), Massachusetts***Narrative Statement of Significance** *(continued)*

The Groton Leatherboard Company factory stands on an historic mill site occupied at least since 1765 and possibly prior to 1744. Original proprietors of the vicinity were Jonathan Morse, Thomas Tarbell Sr. and Samuel Woods. The privilege, once known as "Tarbell's Mills," has been utilized by assorted enterprises including a saw mill, dye house, wool carding mill, and grist mill variously located on both sides of the river. Impressive, brick, Tarbell Family homes remain standing immediately north and west of the mill site.

John Tarbell operated a saw and grist mill (demolished). A frame, strawboard mill was built in its place ca. 1875. Soon thereafter, production switched to leatherboard. In 1890, thirty-five employees generated about four tons of output daily. The Groton Leatherboard Company, organized for the manufacture and sale of leatherboard and leatherboard products, was incorporated in 1899 with capital of \$30,000 by local natives and residents: William A. Lawrence, Michael Sheedy, Jr., Charles Bixby, George H. Bixby and Joseph T. Shepley.

William Asa Lawrence (1855-1925) son of Groton natives Asa S. And Agnes B. (Pollard) Lawrence was president. Michael Sheedy Jr. (1856-1946), treasurer, was the son of Irish immigrants Michael Sheedy and Jane (Reidy) Sheedy.

Joseph T. Shepley (1846-1926), the son of Groton natives, Luther and Amelia (Blood) Shepley, had become superintendent of the E. H. Sampson leatherboard mill at age twenty-two. After eighteen years, he moved to work in paper mills in Vermont where in association with his son he eventually founded the Missiequoi Pulp Company. Returning to West Groton, he also built several houses became interested in town government and served on the Board of Selectmen.

The Bixbys were brothers whose family lived in one of the Tarbell homes in West Groton. George Henry Bixby (1854-1926), the son of Varnum Bixby, a native of Westford, Massachusetts and Bridget (Lee) Bixby, an immigrant from Ireland, lived in West Groton his entire life. The lifelong friend of Joseph T. Shepley, he worked for him at the E. H. Sampson leatherboard mill for twelve years before becoming station agent for twenty years, postmaster for thirty years and co-owner of the general store for forty years. Also active in local government, he served on the school committee, board of selectmen and was an original member and treasurer of the board of water commissioner in West Groton as well as being elected to the state legislature.

Charles Bixby (b. 1851), the elder brother of George Bixby, served as paymaster of the Groton Leatherboard Company. Educated in local schools and at Lawrence Academy in Groton before attending business college in Poughkeepsie, New York, he worked several years in grocery firms in Waltham and Boston, Massachusetts. After a failed attempt to begin a lumber business in Wisconsin, he worked at a local general store before employment in

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 8 Page 3*Groton (Middlesex), Massachusetts***Narrative Statement of Significance** *(continued)*

Ohio as a traveling salesman of shoes and boots. Upon returning to Groton, he was hired at the general store operated by Joseph T. Shepley. Charles Bixby and his brother George assumed control of the store. Together they enlarged the premises and expanded the business. They acquired a third partner and were incorporated as Bixby - Webber Co. with Charles Bixby as president. He was involved in local affairs as a member of both the school committee and board of selectmen.

Leatherboard, a composition material made from a combination of processed leather and vegetable fibers, was extensively used for many purposes. Small scraps of sole leather are beaten and shredded until the fibers separate. Suspended in water with other fibers such as hemp, flax or similar material and combined with paper and a binder, each selected for its suitability to the ultimate use and/or cost of the product, the fibers are fashioned into sheets of desired thickness by machinery. The sheets are dried, calendered and given a hard finish suited to the proposed use.

The term leatherboard is restricted to product at least 75 percent (and typically 85 to 90 percent) leather in content. Product less than 75 percent leather is classified fiberboard. Uniformity of composition, weight and color, resilience, durability, resistance to water, oil and grease and workability made leatherboard especially useful in the shoe industry, particularly in the fabrication of built-up heels. Sheets of leatherboard were cut into lifts which were glued in layers with waterproof adhesive then compressed to form heels. Leatherboard was also used in the production of drums, chair seats and toys. The Groton Leatherboard Company fabricated counter-boards, shank-boards, chair boards, friction boards and heel boards.

The frame mill building was destroyed by fire in 1914. Manufacture of leatherboard resumed in 1916 in a 2½-story, red brick mill (Building No. 1, Main Mill) designed by Ira W. Jones (1854-1946) of Milton, N.H. Although his work remains largely undocumented, Ira Jones developed a substantial practice as a hydraulic engineer and mill designer. After attending local schools in South Milton and Milton, New Hampshire, he studied drafting at the Starr King Drawing School in Boston, Massachusetts. He worked in Boston as a pattern and model maker for three years then spent four years learning the trade of millwright. Following a year as a machinist and draftsman in Worcester, Ira Jones worked the succeeding thirteen years as a salesman before opening his engineering office between 1900 and 1905. As listed in the New Hampshire State Directory and Gazetteer for 1912, he advertised himself as an engineer and designer of water power plants handling surveys, plans and estimates for dams, pulp and paper mills and electric power plants with a specialty in reinforced concrete construction. By 1914, his firm which employed between 10 and 15 trained designers and draftsmen held contracts all over New England and the South in the United States as well as in Canada. He built several dams on the Salmon Falls River and a large power dam at Lebanon, NH. Other known industrial commissions are the Spaulding Fiber Company plants at South Milton and North Rochester and the Milton Leatherboard Co.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 8 Page 4*Groton (Middlesex), Massachusetts***Narrative Statement of Significance** *(continued)*

Production of stereotype dry mats was initiated at the Groton Leatherboard Company in 1924. The plant was enormously enlarged over the next two decades. Around 1930, 100 workers were employed in the manufacture of matrix paper, leatherboard and fiberboard. A 2-story, 108' x 64' wing (Building No. 2) was added to the main mill in 1926. A 2-story, 201' x 50', brick, dryer and storage building (Building No. 7) was constructed in 1928. Both were designed by the industrial engineering firm of Cole and Kimball, Boston, Massachusetts (Fred B. Cole [1868-1940] and Harry F. Kimball [1871-1950]). In 1936, a 1-story, 201' x 27' repair shop (Building No. 5) and a 2-story, dryer, machine and finishing building (Building No. 6) were devised by H. F. Kimball of Boston, Massachusetts, the successor concern to Cole and Kimball. Other known commissions of Cole and Kimball are Mill No. 1 and Boiler Room at the Hayward Woolen Mill (1880; NRDIS 6/17/91) and the Schuster Woolen Mill (1904; NRDIS 6/17/91) in Douglas, Massachusetts. H. F. Kimball also designed an addition for Conant Houghton and Company in Littleton, Massachusetts. As an industrial engineer, Harry F. Kimball was also associated with Charles P. Main, Inc. and the Whipple Co. of Natick. A 2-story, 37' x 22', brick, engine room (Building No. 4) was erected c. 1930 with a brick, office addition attached in 1933 and expanded by a 16.5' x 30'3.5" projection (demolished in 2000) in 1955. Five, frame sheds (Building Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12) were built respectively in 1928, 1930, 1930, 1936 and 1947. These were demolished in 2001.

In the 1930s, the paper mill on the Nashua River burned, leaving West Groton the only intact mill village in town. At the Groton Leatherboard Company, 100 workers were employed in the manufacture of matrix paper, leatherboard, and fiberboard.

In 1955, existing office space was remodeled and enlarged with a small, 16.5' x 30' expansion (not extant) at the northeast corner of the Main Mill designed by the Providence, Rhode Island engineering firm of Jenks & Ballou. Partly due to Henry W. Ballou's dying wish that his death pass unpublicized, his personal papers be destroyed and his office closed, little documentation exists of the concern's achievements. Richard P. Jenks (1870-1956), mechanical engineer, opened an office in Providence before 1901. Around 1912, Henry Welcome Ballou (1874-1963) was listed as an associate concentrating in hydraulics, steel work and reinforced concrete in the office of Richard P. Jenks, consulting engineer. The advertised specialty was mill engineering, including plans, specifications and superintendence for manufacturing facilities for steam, electric and gas power plants as well as reports and tests of power plants and industrial properties. Henry Welcome Ballou, civil engineer, became sole owner of the business which held contracts that variously included a sewer survey for Middletown, a water survey for North Kingstown, an elementary school in Coventry, a junior high school in Lincoln, a high school in Barrington, the central office of the New England Telephone & Telegraph Co. in East Providence, a laboratory and pumping facilities at Quonset Point Naval Air Station, and a large wharf at Davisville, Rhode Island.

In 1947, the Groton Leatherboard Company purchased the Certified Dry Mat Corporation of New York which for 23 years had served as its distributor to newspapers and stores in domestic and foreign markets. Locally-owned and managed throughout its history, the Groton Leatherboard Company closed in 1975.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Groton Leatherboard Company**Section Number 8 Page 5*Groton (Middlesex), Massachusetts***Narrative Statement of Significance** *(continued)*

The plant was sold in 1978 to Helmar Nielsen, operator of the Nielsen Molding Company that produced picture frames in a small portion of the mill. The remainder of the plant sat underutilized, but variously sublet to small enterprises over the next decade. Entirely vacant for at least ten years, the property has become a community concern. In 1996, land court decree transferred the holding to the Town of Groton that has actively promoted its adaptive reuse. Application has been made for the certified rehabilitation of the plant into an assisted living complex.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to document over 200 years of industrial history known to exist on the Groton Leatherboard Company property. Information available at present documents the existence of these resources in the general area but often lacks specific locations and the internal configuration of facilities related to individual industries. Structural evidence of mill buildings may contribute important information relating to the mill location, architectural design and evolution over time, possibly as mill functions changed and buildings were reused. Technological information may also survive related to saw, grist, dye and wool carding mill operations. Archaeological evidence of water-power related structures may also contribute evidence on the evolution of water power during the 18th through 20th centuries and adaptive patterns of reuse as mill canal functions changed from the generation of water power to other industrial uses, possibly in the leatherboard manufacturing process. The analysis of the contents from refuse areas associated with individual mill operations may also contribute important information relating to production and the industrial process at each mill. Any evidence that documents the evolution of the leatherboard manufacturing process conducted at the 19th century frame mill and present complex may be especially important.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Groton Leatherboard Company

Section Number 9 Page 1

(West Groton) Groton, Massachusetts

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(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Groton Leatherboard Company

Section Number 9 Page 2

(West Groton) Groton, Massachusetts

Bibliography (continued)

Maps

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(end)

Groton Leatherboard Co.
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.7 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 19	284440	4719780	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

— See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Siergiej, Commonweal Collaborative, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February 2002

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name River Court Limited Partnership c/o Capstone Properties

street & number 101 Cambridge Street telephone 781-273-4070 xt 227

city or town Burlington state MA zip code 01803

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Groton Leatherboard Company

Section Number 10 Page 1

Groton (Middlesex), Massachusetts

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the mill complex of the Groton Leatherboard Company at 6 West Main Street, Groton are as shown as the bold line on the accompanying map entitled Property Maps, Groton, Massachusetts, January 1, 1999 and are those of Map 101 Lot 9 (a.k.a. M 129).

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel of 8.9 acres historically associated with the property of the Groton Leatherboard Company.

(end)

GROTON LEATHERBOARD COMPANY
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

Building Number	Building or Structure	Material	Size	Date	Architect	Status
Building No. 1	Main Mill	Brick	2 ½-story, 20 x 8 bay, 70' x 165'	1915	I. W. Jones, Milton, NH	C ¹
Building No. 2	Wing	Brick	2-story, 8 bay, 108' x 64'	1926	Cole and Kimball, Boston, MA	C
Building No. 3	Motor and Pump House	Brick	1-story, 1 x 3 bay, 26' x 21'	1918		C
Building No. 4	Boiler House	Brick	2-story, 37' x 22'	1915		C
	Office Addition	Brick	2-story, 24' x 32'	1933		C
	*Addition	Brick	2 x 3 bay 16.5' x 30'3.5"	1955	Jenks & Ballou, Providence, RI	C
Building No. 5	Repair Shop	Brick	1-story, 201' x 27'	1936	K. F. Kimball, Boston, MA	C
Building No. 6	Dryer, Machine and Finishing Building	Brick	2-story, 201' x 62'	1936	K. F. Kimball, Boston, MA	C
Building No. 7	Dryer & Storage Building	Brick	2-story, 201' x 50'	1928	Cole and Kimball, Boston, MA	C
*Building No. 8	Shed	Frame	1-story, 98' x 39'	1928		C
*Building No. 9	Shed	Frame	1-story, 32' x 32'	1930		C
*Building No. 10	Shed	Frame	1-story, 32' x 32'	1930		C
*Building No. 11	Shed	Frame	1-story, 44' x 15'	1936		C
*Building No. 12	Shed	Frame	1-story, 96' x 15'	1947		C
	*Hose House	Brick	1-story, 6.25' x 3.125'	Pre-1938		C
	*Hydrant House No.1	Brick	1-story, 6.25' x 6.25'	Pre-1938		C
	*Hydrant House No.2	Brick	1-story, 6.25' x 6.25'	Pre-1938		C
	*Shed	Metal	1-story	Post 1955		NC ²
	*Well House	Frame	1-story	Post 1955		NC
	Trestle	Metal		Post 1955		NC
	*Aerator No. 1	Concrete		Post 1955		NC
	*Aerator No. 2	Concrete		Post 1955		NC

* Demolition allowed in 2001 during certified rehabilitation

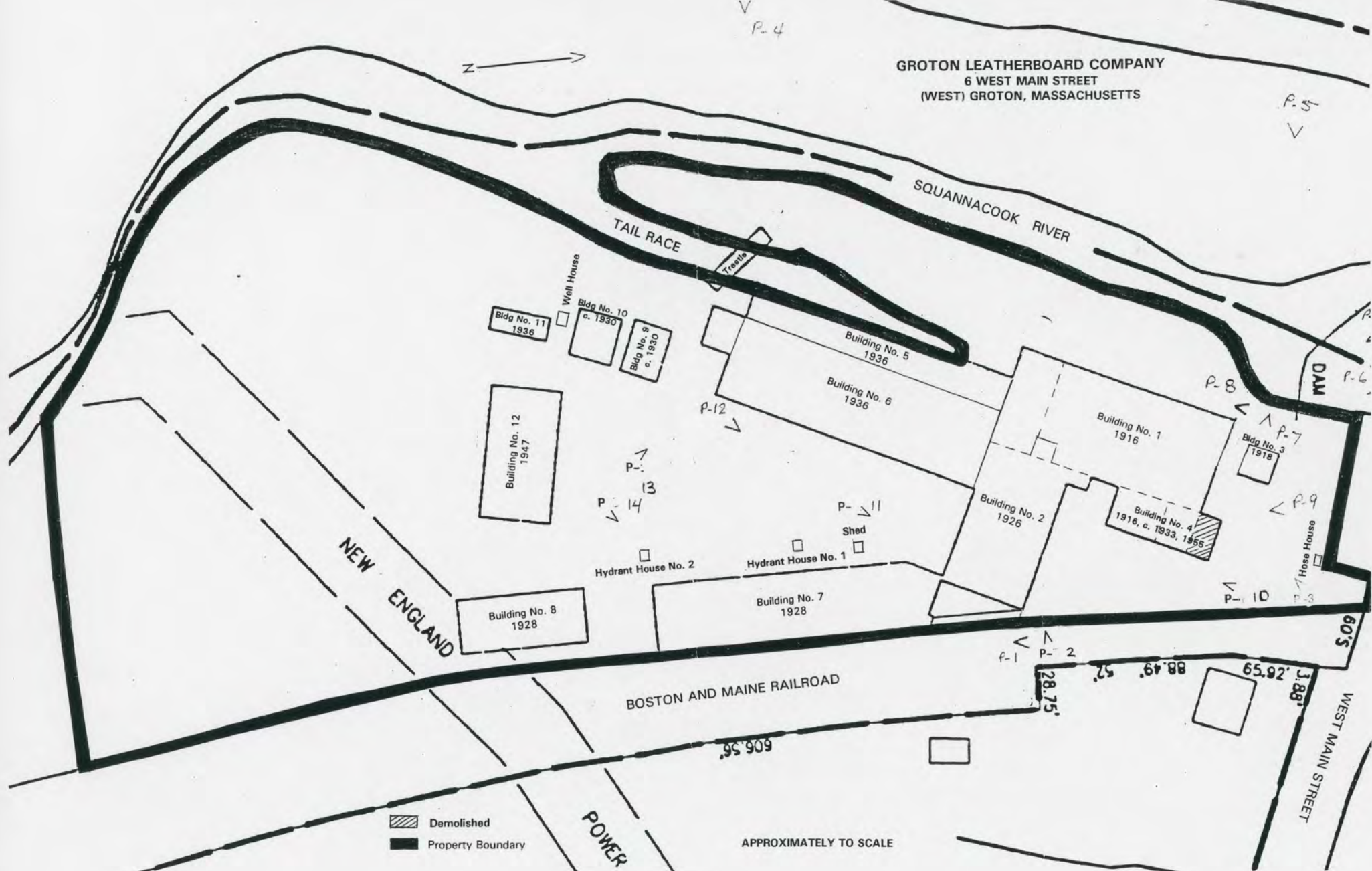
¹C Contributing



²NC Non-Contributing

GROTON LEATHERBOARD COMPANY
6 WEST MAIN STREET
(WEST) GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

V
P-4

P-5
V



 Demolished
 Property Boundary

APPROXIMATELY TO SCALE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Groton Leatherboard Company
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 3/07/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/01/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/17/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/21/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000378

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/18/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Groton Leatherboard Company	Middlesex, Massachusetts	02000378

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photograph 15

USGS Map



GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO.

GROTON, MA

2/02

building ? railroad right of way looking S

PHOTO # 1



GROTON LEATHERBOARD W.

GROTON, MA

2/02

bldg, 2, looking W

Photo #2



GRUON LEATHERBOARD CO.

GRUON, MA

2/02

bldg 3, bldg 1 > looking SE

PHOTO 3



GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO.

GROTON, MA

testu, rear of bldg #6 looking E

2/02

<No. 12 >019
N N N+1 17 (027)

PHOTO # 4



GROTON LEATHERBOND CO.
GROTON, MA

2/02

mill complex looking E

QSS-26 <No. 11 >017
441-01** N N N+1 BB <027>

PHOTO #5



GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO.

GROTON, MA

mill complex from bridge looking S

055-26

<No. 10 >B15

2/02

1**

N N N+1 15 (B27)

PHOTO 6



GROTON LEATHER DOARD W.

GROTON, MA

2/02

dam, mill race

DSS-26 <No. 9 >B13
looking NW N N N 27 (B27)

PHOTO # 2



GROTON LEATHERSOUND CO.

GROTON, MA

2/02

bldg. #1

millrace



Q59-26 441 01188 11 N N+1 89 (B27)

PHOTO 8



GROTON LEATHERBOARD W.

GROTON, MA

2/02

bdg. #1 looking SW

055-26

<No. 7 >009

441 01**

N N N+1 01 <027>

PHOTO 9



GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO.

GROTON, MA

2/02

blgs 7, RR tracks looking S from entrance

PHOTO 10



GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO.

GROTON, MA

2/02

blidge 2, 4 looking S

Q55-26 <No. 4 >B04
442 01** N N N+1 01 <027>

PHOTO #11



GROTON LEATHERBOND CO.

GROTON, MA

2/02.

bdgc 2,7 lookub, NE

059-26

<No. 3 >083

442 01**

11 11 11+2 UN <027>

Photo 12



GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO.

GROTON, MA.

2/02

pldg. to looking NE

Q55-26 < No. 2 > B02
441 01** 1) N N+2-02 (027)

Photo 73



GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO.
GROTON, MA

2/02

view looking N toward bldg. 2 from interior parking
lot.

055-26 <No. 1 >001
9-42 01** N N N+3-09 (027)

Photo 14



Photo No. 16

**Groton Leatherboard Company
6 West Main Street
(West Groton) Groton, Massachusetts**

Middlesex County

Building No. 3: Showing removed office projection

Photographer:	D. L. Siergiej
Date of Photograph:	December 2000
Negative Location:	Massachusetts Historical Commission



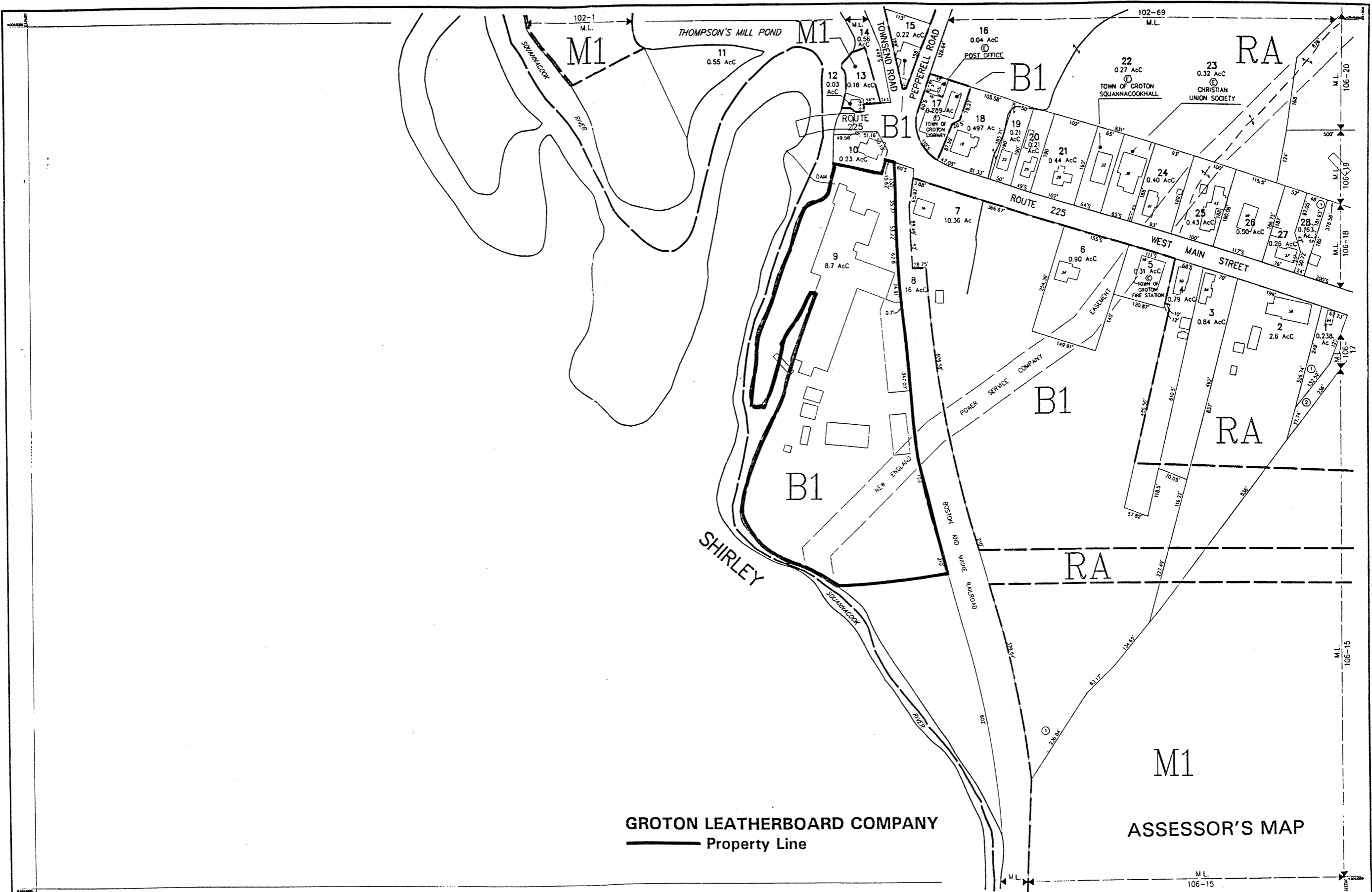
Photo No. 17

Groton Leatherboard Company
6 West Main Street
(West Groton) Groton, Massachusetts

Middlesex County

Building No. 3: Showing removed office projection

Photographer:	D. L. Siergiej
Date of Photograph:	December 2000
Negative Location:	Massachusetts Historical Commission



GROTON LEATHERBOARD COMPANY
 ————— Property Line

ASSESSOR'S MAP

THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.
 THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD 83.
 PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 1998
 COMPLETION DATE: OCTOBER 29, 1999

PRODUCED IN 1999 BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOC. INC.
 PROFESSIONAL GIS CONSULTANTS
 MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
 11 PLEASANT STREET, P.O. BOX 267 LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03561
 (603)444-6768 - (800)322-4540 - FAX (603)444-1368 - WWW.CAI-INC.COM

LEGEND

AREA SURVEYED	AC	EXEMPT PROPERTY	
AREA CALCULATED	ACC	SUBDIVISION LOT NO.	
RECORD DIMENSION	100'	BUILDING	
SCALED DIMENSION	100'S	RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS	
MATCH LINE		COMMON OWNERSHIP	
WATER		WETLANDS	

SCALE 1" = 100'

APPROVED TO: **JAN 01 1999**

PROPERTY MAPS
GROTON
 MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM

102	105
207	106
208	210

MAP NO.
101



Ayer GROTON LEATHERBOARD CO
MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1988

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980-1981. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1988
Supersedes Shirley 1965 and Ayer 1964 1:25,000-scale maps

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private subdivisions within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	UTM	MAGNETIC	1	2	3
1	3.28084	151°	151°	1	2	3
2	6.56168	151°	151°	4	5	6
3	9.84252	151°	151°	7	8	9
4	13.12336	151°	151°			
5	16.40420	151°	151°			
6	19.68504	151°	151°			
7	22.96588	151°	151°			
8	26.24672	151°	151°			
9	29.52756	151°	151°			
10	32.80840	151°	151°			

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.28084
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (G.M. 1984) 0.000000
MAGNETIC declination (M.D. 1984) 0.000000
Diagram is approximate

1	Ashburnham
2	Townsend
3	Lowell
4	Fitchburg
5	Billerica
6	Sterling
7	Hudson
8	Maynard



Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Unimproved road; trail	
Route marker: Interstate; U. S. State	
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	
Bridge: drawbridge	
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	
House; barn; church; school; large structure	
Boundary	
National, with monument	
State	
County; parish	
Civil township; precinct; district	
Incorporated city, village, town	
National or State reservation; small park	
Land grant with monument; found section corner	
U. S. public lands survey; range, township; section	
Range, township; section line: location approximate	
Fence or field line	
Power transmission line, located tower	
Dam; dam with lock	
Cemetery; grave	
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	
Windmill; water well; spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; shaft or ore	
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand	
Sounding; depth curve	
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	
Swamp; marsh	
Submerged marsh; land subject to inundation	
Woodland: scattered trees	
Scrub; mangrove	
Orchard; vineyard	

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 5, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Groton Leatherboard Co. complex, 6 W. Main Street, Groton (Middlesex), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

We request expedited review of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Dianne Siergiej, Commonwealth Collaborative, consultant
Barbara Whitehall Groton Historical Commission
Peter S. Cunningham, Groton Board of Selectmen
Michelle Collette, Planning Board
Rivercourt Limited Partnership, Capstone Properties