# United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received SEP 2 6 1979 date entered CC 2 6

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	le Lainie (ias)	Bussen L		
historic	GREAT FALLS MANUFAC	TURING CO., TENEME	NT; RUFUS JANVRIN E	BULLDING
and/or common	LEHOULLIER BUILDING	; REYS SANDWICH SH	OP	
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	161 - 169 Main Stre	et		not for publication
city, town	Somersworth	vicinity of	congressional district	Fîrst
state	New Hampshire code	33 county	Strafford	code 017
3. Clas	sification			
Category  districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status occupied _X_ unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted _X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agricultureX_ commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		
name	Somersworth Housing	Authority		
street & number	42 Bartlett Avenue			
city, town	Somersworth	vicinity of	state	New Hampshire 03878
5. Loca	ation of Lega	l Description	on	
courthouse, regi		fford County Regis fford County Court		
street & number				
city, town	Dover		state	New Hampshire 03820
6. Rep	resentation i	in Existing	Surveys	
title No	one	has this pro	perty been determined e	legible? yes no
date			federal sta	te county local
depository for su	urvey records			
city, town			state	

	a a b ca ca a			
Condition excellent good _X fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered _X altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date	·

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description

Original Appearance: The Great Falls Manufacturing Tenement Building is a symmetrical, two-story, brick building that exhibits detailing characteristic of the Greek Revival period. Exterior detailing includes: splayed lintels, echinus moulding, projecting eaves and a classical pediment on the north end (not duplicated on the south end, which was originally concealed by an adjacent building.) Dimensions are approximately 85' x 45', nine bays long and three bays wide. The foundation is concealed by brick on the Main Street facade. Main Street entryways to the tenements were on the first floor, approximately 12' above street level. A single wooden porch provided access to the three tenements, but its actual appearance is not known. Rear access was obtained from street level. Each tenement was serviced by two large chimneys. The chimneys serving the middle tenement are located on the south partition; thus the spacing of the chimneys along the roof is not symmetrical. Although it is possible that the building may have originally been used for dormitory housing, records suggest that it was specifically designed and used as a three-family tenement. Commercial uses were probably introduced in the basement level sometime during the 1880's.

Present Condition and Appearance: The original exterior appearance and interior floor plan of the property survived basically in tact until the mid 1950's, when the tenements were converted into six apartments. Several alterations were made during the remodeling:

- 1. Access to the building was moved to the rear. A two-story wooden porch and stairway was erected to provide entry to upper floor apartments, where window openings have been enlarged and converted to doorways.
- 2. The front porch was removed and the original front doorways were bricked up (visible in photographs) eliminating access from Main Street.
- 3. A small wooden addition was constructed facing Main Street, to function as a foyer for a commercial establishment.
- 4. The brick exterior was covered with gray paint and the brick chimneys were sealed in casings made of cement-like material.
- 5. The existing 2-over-2 window sash are relatively new replacements. Original sash appeared to be 6-over-6.

The alterations described above have brought about a major visual transformation of the property. Fortunately, they represent relatively minor structural modifications which can, with the possible exception of paint removal, be undone. Although the building is abandoned and vandalized, it remains structurally sound, in fair to good condition.

## 8. Significance

Specific dates	c. 1843-1850		s B. Parks & Job Ha	rris, S. Berwick, ME
1400—1499 1500—1599 1600—1699 1700—1799 1800—1899	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric agriculture X architecture art X commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	Iandscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Commerce/Industry: This building is a fine example of the vernacular style of architecture commonly associated with the developmental stages of the New England textile industry, designed as a solution to the problem of attracting and housing labor. Originally one of a row of several brick tenements lining the westerly side of Main Street, it is one of only two which remain today, having survived a history of disastrous fires and urban renewal. Other than the mills themselves, these brick tenements are among the few remaining obvious examples of the overwhelming influence of the Great Falls Manufacturing Company on the development of Somersworth. This property is also one of only a handful of surviving original buildings along Main Street, reflecting a period of rapid development during the 1840's and 1850's.

History: The site on which the property is located was granted by the Great Falls Manufacturing Company to the partnership of Thomas B. Parks and Job Harris of South Berwick, Maine, in February of 1843. The building was constructed soon afterward and was owned by Parks and Harris for nearly 20 years. The property was acquired by Rufus Janvrin, one of the city's wealthiest landowners at that time, in 1864. Changing hands many times afterward, commercial uses were introduced in the basement level of the property sometime prior to 1891.

Architectural: The Great Falls Manufacturing Company Tenement Building is representative of multi-family housing in the Greek Revival period. The modest use of Greek Revival detailing visible on exterior features clearly suggest the use of classical models. Thus, the building survives as a significant example of mid-nineteenth century architectural style in New Hampshire mill housing.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed Research: Strafford County Registry of Deeds.

	I Data UM NUT	VERIFIED
Acreage of nominated propertyApp!	roximately 6,500 sq. ft.	
Quadrangle name	Quadrangle scal	le
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Zone Easting Northing	B   Easting North	ning
c		
E	FL.J.L.J.L.J.L.	
	H L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L	
Verbal boundary description and ju	ustification	
Somersworth Tax Records: Ma	· ·	
List all states and counties for pro	perties overlapping state or county boundaries	
state	code county	code
11. Form Prepare	code county	code
Ctunfford Posiona	l Planning Commission date December 12,	1978
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