United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 1 1 1979 date entered

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

1. Nar	ne				
historic	SALMON FALLS MILL H	IISTOR1C	DISTRICT		
and/or commo	nSALMON FALLS MILL H	IISTORIC	DISTRICT		
2. Loc	ation				
street & numb	er Frant S	Şi,			not for publication
city, town	Rollinsford		vicinity of	congressional district	First
state New	w Hampshire co	de 33	county	Strafford	code ₀₁₇
3. Cla	ssification				
Category X district building(s structure site object	Ownership public s) private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	u X w Acce: X y	ccupied noccupied ork in progress ssible es: restricted es: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture _X commercial educational entertainment government _X industrial military	museum museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
4. Ow	ner of Prope	rty		•	
name street & number	Multiple Ownership er	(See	Contînüatîon	Sheet #1)_	·
city, town			vicinity of	state	
5. Loc	eation of Leg	jal Do	escription	on	
courthouse, re			County Regist County Courth		
street & number	er				
city, town	Dover			state	New Hampshire 03820
6. Rep	presentation	in E	xisting	Surveys	
title	None		has this pro	perty been determined el	legible? yes no
date				federal sta	te county loca
depository for	survey records				
city, town				state	

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	_X original site	
_X good	· ruins	_X altered	moved da	ate
fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Salmon Falls Mill Historic District includes four major 19th-century New England textile mill buildings, complemented by seven lesser but mostly contemporaneous structures. The four major buildings, built of red brick, date from the mid-1840's to the mid-1860's, with one possibly constructed as early as 1836. Alterations have occurred, but most of these date from the 19th century as well. Each time an addition was introduced, great care was exercised to duplicate previous detail, lending a unity to the disparate compositions. The Salmon Falls Mill Historic District comprises the eastern-most portion of Salmon Falls Village, which sits on the upper slope of a moderately steep hill running down to the Salmon Falls River. Clustered on the lower slope of this hill, beside the river rapids, the 11 structures of the District enjoy a rural setting and retain all of the appearance and substance of a 19th-century New England textile manufactory. Of greatest visual impact are the following:

COTTON WAREHOUSE. This is a four-story, slate-roofed Greek Revival building, gable end facing forward, built on the west side of Front Street into the hill. The front half of the structure dates from c. 1848; it has brick corner pilasters and a wide but plain brick entablature identical to those of Mill No. 2, built in 1848. The rear, western half--mostly in the same style--was added 1852-1856. Together, these sections constitute a building 50 feet wide by 147 feet deep. The front, east elevation features brickwork strips strongly suggesting interior framing. The central loading door and the regular door to its north have heavy granite architraves and sills and iron doors. The east and south elevations are pierced by five rows of small, round-arch windows with iron casings and shutters, for effective fire control. The north elevation, which faces the Boston & Maine railroad tracks, is unpenetrated to ward off fires once caused by wood- and coal-burning locomotives. At midpoint on both north and south elevations are the original section's rear corner pilasters. Their raised surfaces are carried straight back to form the walls of the newer section, which does not have corner pilasters. The rear, west elevation lacks the brickwork pattern of the front elevation, having instead a simple gable return and cornice following the raking eaves. Because of the ascending hillside, this elevation is only one story high. The central loading door is similar to the one on the front elevation. One agent's 1858 account suggests that railroad cars were run through this door into the warehouse. Inside the structure, hugh wooden floor joists extending into the brickwork span the width of the building. An elevator shaft used to transport finished cotton up from the mill level to the railroad level remains at the front of the structure, as does a tin-lined wooden chute with moyable stops that carried raw cotton bales down from railroad to mill level.

MILL NO. 2. Built in 1848 to expand production, Mill No. 2 consists of a fiverstory (three stories, basement and attic) Greek Revival main block 332' x 60' no extending north-south along the river -- fronted by a central, six-level Italianate tower facing west. The mill also has a three-story picker house eight bays wide by three bays deep attached to its northwest corner, at right angles. (Because the picker house sits higher on the hill than does the mill, its three stories are as high as the mill's three stories and basement.) First- and second-floor windows on the picker house have granite sills and lintels; third-floor windows have segmentally arched brick lintels. The chief feature on Mill No. 2 is its tower-ractually a one-and-one-half-story cube erected between 1880 and 1891 atop an original, three-story, projecting payilion, replacing the latter's oculus-pierced pediment. The front and sides of the tower's top level each feature a set of paired, medium-size, round-arch windows. The set on the front elevation is

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	 community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement 	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theaterX transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1848 1865	Builder/Architect seve	ral	_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

ARCHITECTURE: The Salmon Falls Mill Historic District represents a largely intact example of a typical small, northern New England textile manufactory. Its buildings constitute a continuum of 19th-century industrial architecture beginning in the 1830's. Yet great care was exercised to reproduce existing motifs--especially in cornices, pilasters, and window construction--on all new structures and additions, which lends unusual unity to the grouping. The District's buildings themselves are well-preserved. Salmon Falls Village has changed little in the past 70 years, and rural farmland still surrounds it. The Salmon Falls Mill Historic District thus retains both the character and the feeling of a small, 19-century textile establishment.

More specifically, while no industrial buildings remain from the earliest period of ownership, the existing 1848 Mill No. 2 reflects contemporaneous construction going on at Lowell. The central protruding gabled pavilion was first used there to connect a pair of earlier, adjacent buildings to get more manufacturing space. The pavilion went on to become a standard feature of new design for the factories built in the 1840's and 1850's. Mill No. 2 illustrates clearly the architectural influence exerted by Amos and Abbott Lawrence and William Appleton after their purchase of controlling interest in the company in 1844.

Certain aspects of the District's buildings also constitute a graphic demonstration of the constant fear of fire on the part of mill owners. The buildings' mostly brick construction is one such aspect; others are the blank walls built between adjoining structures and toward at-risk areas, and the gravel roofs, which theoretically would help smother a fire when they fell in. Most illustrative of all, however, are the iron doors and small, iron-fitted windows of the Cotton Warehouse.

ENGINEERING. Mill No. 2 was constructed in 1848 with a nine-foot, six-inch turbine instead of a waterwheel. This represents a fairly early use of the turbine, which was perfected at Lowell and installed in those mills in the 1840's, but which was not seen extensively elsewhere in New England until the 1850's. The same Mill No. 2 had gas lighting in 1849, although it was little used because of the danger of fire. The gas was made from coal in a gas house on the premises, and stored in retorts. The dam for this mill, with a 19-foot fall and originally of wood, was replaced in 1909-1910 by one of concrete at a cost of \$10,000.

TRANSPORTATION: The Cotton Warehouse, the Boston & Maine railroad bridge, and the depot and bridge piers of the Great Falls and Conway Railroad reflect the important role that rail networks played in developing the New England textile industry. Without their great capacity to bring bales of Southern raw cotton to the mills and to take finished goods to urban marketing areas, textile manufactories in New England could never have operated on the scale that they did. The Boston and Maine Railroad reached Salmon Falls Village in 1843. The Great Falls & Conway Railroad came through in 1849. The latter was taken over by the Eastern Railroad in New Hampshire in 1865

9.	Major Biblio	graphica	l Refere	nce	S	
	e History of the Town			_		talfo, Jr.
	aduate School, Dept.	•	•			Dagta 1079
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10	. Geographic	cai Data				
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	rangle name <u>Dover, Ea</u> References	st			Quadran	gle scale <u>7.5:</u>
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Verba	al boundary description a	nd justification				
(Se	ee Continuation Sheet	# 8)				
List a	all states and counties fo	r properties over	lapping state or	county b	oundarie	S
state		code	county			code
state	· .	code	county			code
11.	. Form Prepa	ared By		÷		
name/	title Richard M.	<u>Candee, Preser</u>	vation Consul	tant		
organi	zation		_	date	Autumn	, 1978
street	& number Route 1, Bo	× 753		telephon	e (207) ¹	+39 - 0578
city or	town Kittery			state	Maine	03904
12.	State History	ric Pres	ervation	Offi	cer (Certification
The ev	valuated significance of this	property within the	state is:			
	_X national	state	local			
665), I	designated State Historic Poly hereby nominate this proper ding to the criteria and proce	ty for inclusion in t	he National Regist	er and cei	rtify that it	has been evaluated
	Historic Preservation Officer			The		
	Commissioner, Departm NH State Historic Pre			Develo	opment date	11-16-78
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	hereby certify that this prop		ne wational Regis	ier		2/2 /2
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	per of the National Register	~0			. -	
Attes Chief	f of Registrati on	yuels		··· · ·	date	Feb 26,1980
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER

OWNERSHIP

SKETCH MAP KEY AND OWNERSHIP

1. Cotton Warehouse Damart, Inc. Lane Gauthier, General Manager,

1811 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801

PAGE

2

2. Mill No. 2 Damart, Inc.

3. Counting House Stowell and Webber, Dr. Dwight D. Stowell, Jr.,

Royalston, Massachusetts 01368

4. Mill No. 1 Damart, Inc.

A. Dam and Flume Head Town of Rollinsford, Town Hall, Main Street

Rollinsford, New Hampshire 03869

B. Railroad Bridge Boston & Maine Corporation, 150 Causeway Street,

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

C. Railroad Depot Society of Freemasons, St. John's Lodge, Melvin E.

Perry, Sec., RFD Box 964, N. Berwick Rd., Berwick.

Maine 03901

D. Hydroelectric Powerhouse Town of Rollinsford

E. Fire Equipment Gazebo Damart, Inc.

F. Wooden Storehouse Damart, Inc.

G. Steam Engine House Damart, Inc.

Intrusions:

(a) One-story, shingle-sided shed

(b) Concrete-block hut

(c) Two-story, corregated-metal shed

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

flanked by a pair of segmentally arched windows. The unaltered walls of the main block consist of a colonnade of giant brick pilasters, which alternate with two-overtwo windows having granite sills and lintels. Atop the main block is a one-story monitor with 12-over-12 windows that replaced the original slate gable roof between 1880 and 1891. This action probably precipitated the raising of the tower. A third major alteration that most likely occurred at this time was the remodeling of the picker house into its present configuration. Previously, the 1848 picker house was two stories high, with a mostly blank rear wall to the railroad tracks and another facing the mill. The remodeling included: adding the third story, which accounts for the segmentally arched windows on the front, south elevation; piercing the rear wall with three rows of the same segmentally arched windows; and widening the passage to Mill No. 2 to the width of the picker house. The original wide brick cornice was duplicated perfectly on both the picker house and the monitor's brick gable end. The basement stories of both mills and the Counting House receive natural light in two ways. These structures were built into the hillside, so the eastern elevations of their basements are at ground level. The western elevations' basement windows are also exposed, however, by means of a ditch dug next to the wall. Each mill's main tower rises out of this ditch, permitting wagon access into the buildings; footbridges provided additional passage for employees. Inside Mill No. 2's basement remain the reinforced walls of the flume entrance and the brick housing for the penstock, the tube designed to speed the flow of water from the flume into the mill's turbine.

COUNTING HOUSE. This structure is a one-story and partially exposed basement Greek Revival building parallel to the street and Mill No. 2; it is separated from the latter by a service road occupying approximately the same position as the early flume for Mill No. 1. The mill complex's original Counting House burned in the fire of 1834; it seems likely that the present gable-roof building was built in 1836-1843, when Mill No. 1 -- also destroyed in the fire -- was rebuilt. The style of the five-bay-long, two-bay-wide Counting House is appropriately early: brick corner pilasters support a wide entablature that encircles the building, but that entablature features typically Federal modillions and dentils, albeit of brick. The slate roof and granite window sills and lintels are original. The present offset front door, on the west elevation, was made from a window in the 1870's; it has an Eastlake-style gabled hood. The new door was necessary because the original front door, at the north end of the same elevation, was bricked up at that time, presumably to allow the installation of a heavy, walk-in safe in that corner. On the opposite, east elevation, the basement level features two regular doors at each end, two loading doors inside these, and a central window. The loading doors were converted from windows sometime around the mid-19th century; they have Italianate-paneled leaves. The north elevation still has two windows at the first-floor level, but both have been altered. The easternmost was converted into a door during the late 19th century and then bricked up again. The westernmost has been moved a few feet to the east, probably

(See Continuation Sheet # 3)

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

to avoid the safe installed in that corner. The south elevation abuts the Cloth Room and Machine Shop. Most sash is now two-over-two, but at least one original 12-over-12 sash remains in a basement window down in the ditch already mentioned. Inside, the Counting House features a pressed-tin ceiling, an iron spiral staircase, and the safe on the first floor; and a meeting room with grained door in the attic.

The Cloth Room and Machine Shop appended to the south elevation of the Counting House also have one story and partially exposed basement, all of brick. The central, 12-bay-long, two-bay-wide Cloth Room probably was built in 1865; its predecessor burned in 1864, and it features in its cornice two bands of brick laid in a saw-tooth pattern that appear on Mill No. 1 -- also destroyed in that fire, rebuilt in 1865. The 10-bay Machine Shop south of this portion was built 1875-1891, while the five-bay connection to the Counting House was constructed after 1891. The sawtooth cornice bands, window lintels and two-over-two sash are the same on all three sections.

MILL NO. 1. East of the Counting House and south of Mill No. 2 is a simply styled 1865 factory standing on the site of at least two earlier mills. (The original Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company woolen mill of 1822 burned in 1834, and was replaced 1836-1843 by a cotton mill that burned in 1864.) The factory's chief feature is a six-level Tuscan tower with a single, large, round-arch window in each elevation of the top level. Atop this tower is a full-bodied, salmon-shaped weathervane. Abutting this tower to the south is a four-story, flat-roofed tower added in the late 19th century. These towers bisect the front, west elevation of the 240 x 50-foot main mill block, which has five stories (three stories and two basements) and a slightly pitched roof. Windows have granite sills, brick lintels, and two-over-two sash. The main block, the front towers, and a smaller rear tower all feature the two bands of brick laid in a sawtooth pattern in their cornices that appear on the Cloth Room. Attached to the north end of the main block is the 1865 repair shop, also five stories. Attached to the repair shop's east wall is a four-story, four-bay-wide brick building with flat roof. The river flows against the east granite basement wall of this building, which is penetrated by an outflow arch, now bricked up. This basement level predates 1852, while the three stories above it postdate 1875. Attached to the south end of the mill building is a six-bay-long, five-bay-deep picker house. This began service as a three-story (one story and two basements) building with blank north and south walls. 1875 and 1891 this building was raised two stories to the height of the mill, and windows similar to those on the main block were cut into the blank south elevation,

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Other structures contributing to the character of the District:

- A. The dam, sluice gate, and flume head for Mill No. 2, located north of the auto bridge. The original wooden dam of 1843 was replaced with one of concrete 1909-1910, and the flume has been filled in with dirt, but the granite intake bulkhead and gate mechanism remain.
- B. The 1888 Boston & Maine railroad bridge across the Salmon Falls River, south of Mill No. 2's dam but still north of the auto bridge. This is a five-span, two-track, Warren-type bridge, with three spans being of deck riveted truss construction and two being of deck plate girder construction.
- C. The vernacular wooden depot for the 1849 Great Falls & Conway Railroad, no longer in existence. This one-story, gable-roof building sits south of the Boston & Maine bridge and north of the auto bridge. The tracks that once ran past it extended northwest under the Boston & Maine bridge (and its predecessor) and southeast across the Salmon Falls River on its own bridge, of which only the stone piers remain.
- D. A 1923, brick and concrete, hydroelectric powerhouse, positioned between Mills No. 1 and 2, that the town of Rollinsford is thinking of reactivating.
- E. A one-story, octagonal, wooden 'gazebo' with vertical-board sides and Eastlakian lines, south of Mill No. 1. This structure housed fire hoses and water pumps.
- F. A two-story, 105 x 50-foot, wooden storehouse with brick foundation, southeast of the "gazebo." Built 1888-1891, the building has vaguely Eastlakian ornament. The first floor has no windows, but only three equally spaced loading doors. The second floor has a five-bay-wide central section flush with the front, north elevation; the rest of the story is set back two bays, extending out eight bays on either side of the center section. Especially notable are the three square but flared ventilators on the roof.
- G. A two-story, brick, 1888 Renaissance Revival steam engine house, constructed to supplement the river's power in times of low water. At the north side of this building is a tall, rounded smokestack with slightly corbeled cap. To the immediate west is a two-story electric power substation, which seems to have been built to receive electrical service before the advent of the 1923 hydroelectric plant, judging from its wooden muntins. (The 1923 facility has metal muntins.)

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

and was renamed the Portland, Great Falls & Conway system. The Eastern Railroad in turn was taken over by the Boston & Maine company in 1885; the original B&M line through Salmon Falls Village became part of the company's western division, while the old Great Falls & Conway line became part of B&M's northern division.

INDUSTRY: The town of Rollinsford was settled in 1623 by people from Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts. For many years it was considered part of Dover. The first waterpowered mill in New England was built 1623-1624 in Rollinsford, on the lower (Quamphegan) falls of the Salmon Falls River. The middle falls site of Salmon Falls Village supported a grist mill and a sawmill c. 1656. The 18th century saw a brisk lumber business develop, and that century's mills were mostly sawmills. There is a possibility that Salmon Falls Village was the site of the first known corporation in New Hampshire. This was the Mill and Works, established August 13, 1761; its function is unknown, but early residents recollected a woolen fulling mill and dam on the spot where the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company later began. In the early 19th century, the success of the Boston Manufacturing Company later began. In the early 19th century, the success of the Boston Manufacturing Company's textile mills at Waltham, Massachusetts, prompted other investors to turn from the declining shipping industry to manufacturing. Portsmouth merchant James Rundlett examined waterpower sites in his neighborhood and ended by purchasing in 1822 the water privileges at Salmon Falls Village for \$5,500. Granted incorporation in both New Hampshire and Maine on June 17, 1822, he sold shares in the company to Portsmouth friends such as Jeremiah Mason, lawyer; John Haven, Rockingham Bank president; and Timothy Ferguson, merchant. A company inventory in 1822 lists a dam and "factory, two fulling mills, dyehouse, store, two barns, blacksmith shop, machine shop and workshop."

This company differed from the Waltham factory in one major respect. It manufactured woolen, instead of cotton, goods, and produced in 1833 one-fifteenth of all the broadloom made in the United States, on 60 looms that turned out almost 300 yards of cloth per day. A disastrous fire in August, 1834, destroyed the mill, the first Counting House, and a large boardinghouse. The mill was rebuilt 1836-1843 for cotton, with 1,900 spindles, but the next year the weary Portsmouth investors sold controlling interest in the company to Mason and Lawrence, Cotton Selling Agents, who introduced drill and heavy sheeting as products.

Amos Lawrence, treasurer of Mason and Lawrence, was one of the Boston Associates, an elite plutocracy that dominated New England manufacturing, economic, and even political life 1820-1860. Some of the other Associates who bought into the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company were Abbott Lawrence and William Appleton. This ownership virtually remade the company. It introduced its characteristic,

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Lowell-style methods of organization and efficiency. It brought in the latest technology from Lowell, including the aforementioned turbine. And it conducted an almost continual building campaign, employing a Waltham-style design for Mill No. 2 in 1848. In the 1840's it also built outbuildings such as the Cotton Warehouse. A fire in July, 1864, destroyed the 1836-1843 Mill No. 1, along with the Agent's House, Cloth Room, and Machine Shop. The present Mill No. 1 was built in 1865, and the other structures were replaced over the next several years. Alterations in 1876 raised the number of spindles from 31,000 (15,000 in Mill No. 1, 16,000 in Mill No. 2) to 54,304, plus 1,143 looms. A steam engine was introduced in 1888 to supplement the existing water power. In its prime-at the end of the 19th century--the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company employed some 600 persons and produced almost nine million yards of cotton goods a year. Because it was smaller and better-founded economically than many of the Boston Associates' ventures, the company prospered in spite of the various financial crises that plagued the Associates during the mid-19th century. After the turn of the century, however, permanent economic disadvantages prompted the textile industry to begin moving south. The Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company was dissolved as a corporation in 1915, although it continued to make cloth until July, 1927. Later, some of the facilities were used to produce automobile tire fabric, and others were occupied after 1943 by a wholesale distributor of groceries. Most of the structures in the District are now owned by Damart, Inc., a mail-order firm manufacturing thermal underwear. They are renovating several of the buildings to serve as corporate headquarters and production facilities.

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"Portrait of Salmon Falls", Gordon F. Grimes. <u>New Hampshire Profiles</u>, Nov, 1974. Vol. XXIII, No. 11.

Salmon Falls - The Mill Village (Historic District Study for the Town of Rollinsford, NH). Gordon F. Grimes. Strafford County Regional Planning Commission; 1974.

- 1851 Map of Dover, Somersworth and Rollinsford
- 1852 Lithograph of Salmon Falls Village
- 1856 Map of Strafford County
- 1875 Insurance Survey
- 1880 Sketch of Mill No. 2 and Counting House
- 1888 Property Map of Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company
- 1891 Property Map of Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company
- 1892 Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire

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SALMON FALLS MILL DISTRICT

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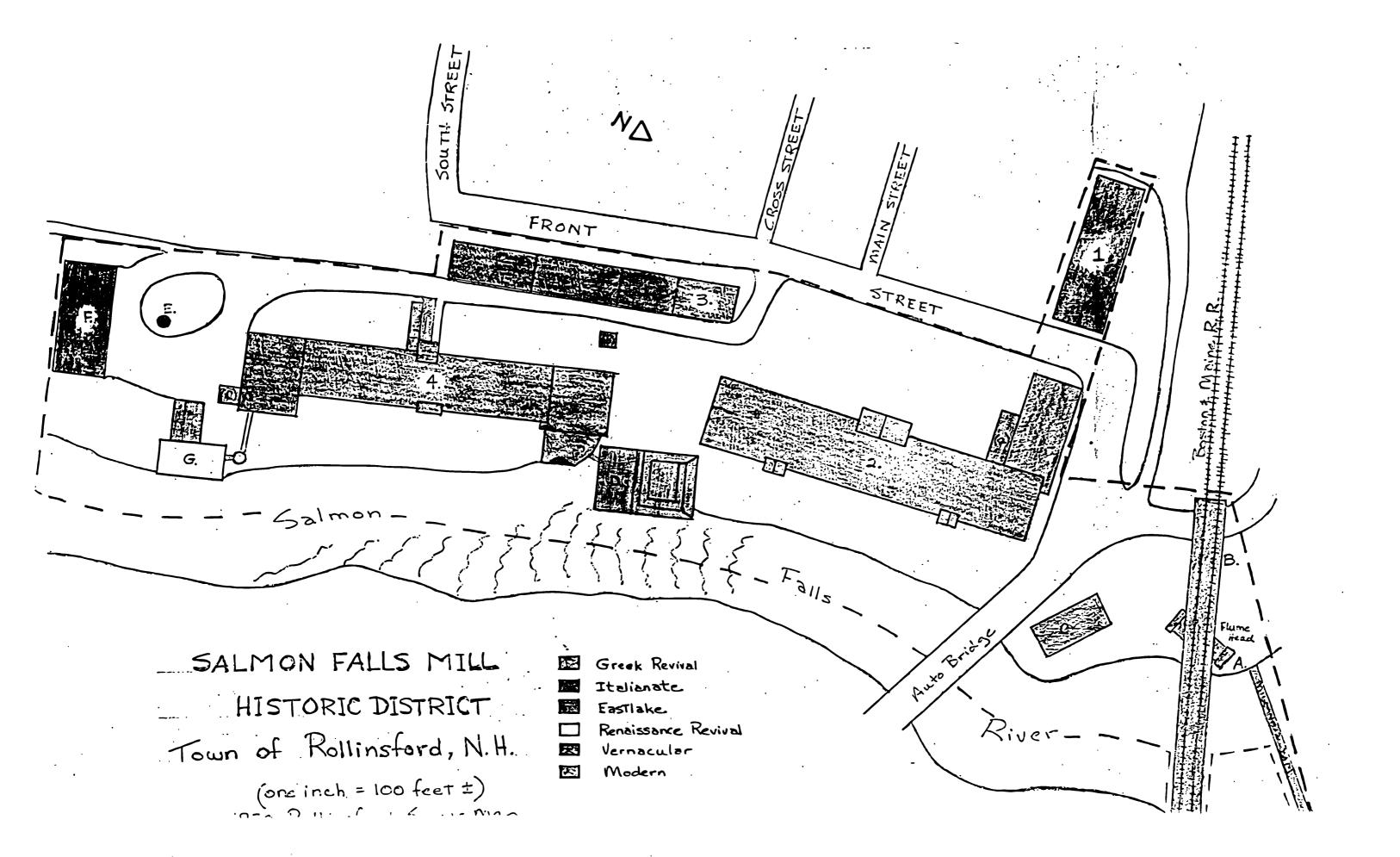
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GE 2

Verbal Boundary Description

From the midpoint of the auto bridge over the Salmon Falls River, north along New Hampshire state line in middle of river to B&M bridge, encircling bridge around northeast end; northwest to Mill No. 2 dam, encircling dam around northeast end; southwest to B&M tracks; southeast to Mill No. 2 picker house; southwest to rear of Cotton Warehouse; southeast behind Cotton Warehouse; northeast beside Cotton Warehouse to east side of Front Street; southeast along east side of Front Street and Damart property line to south end of Cloth Room and Machine Shop; northeast to west side of service road; southeast to rear of Wooden Store house; northeast to New Hampshire state line in middle of river; northwest along New Hampshire state line to midpoint of auto bridge.



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Page	
Salmon Falls Mill Historic District 80000315	Strafford County NEW HAMPSHIRE
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED	April M. Depilly 9/29/90

