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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 18 1990

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name New Mill and Depot Building, Hawthorne Woolen Mill other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 350 Pemberwick Road NA not for publication city, town Greenwich vicinity Glenville state CT code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06831

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [x] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal. Category of Property: [x] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 2, Noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total 2.

Name of related multiple property listing: NA Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date 1/12/90

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: [x] 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:) Entered in the National Register Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2/23/90

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
COMMERCE/business, stores

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival/Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof roll asphalt, asphalt shingle

other \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Two buildings, the New Mill and the Depot Building, remain standing from the Hawthorne Woolen Mill complex near the dam on the Byram River in Greenwich. In an aerial view, c. 1958 (Photograph 1), they are the two northerly structures in the complex as it appeared at that time and are the two architecturally most distinguished buildings in the group. The balance of the buildings have been demolished in favor of new construction.

The New Mill, the larger of the structures, is a three-story 56' x 156' brick building facing the river. The setting of this building is dramatic. It is separated from the deep gorge of the river by green lawn and shrubbery, standing just below the waterfall of the 30-foot-high 1867 granite dam. This is the historic site plan, which has been well maintained. (Photographs 1, 2)

The building creates the impression of a medieval fortification. The projecting four-story central tower and crenelated roof line form appropriate battlements for an armory rather than a mill. The overall effect is supported by intricate brickwork in the form of arches, panels, belt courses, dentil courses, and other decorative embellishments. The round window arches spring from belt courses which are composed of three rows of brick arranged as two rows of headers separated by a projecting row of black stretchers. The effect is reversed in the arches, where the black stretchers are recessed. (Photograph 5) At the roof line the tops of the pilasters are flanked by small squares of brick and this entire motif is repeated in the spandrels between the windows where there are no pilasters. The 55-foot central tower, one story taller than the building itself, is flared at the top as is proper for the machicolations in which its brick are laid. The year 1881 in diaper work establishes the year of construction. (Photograph 4)

There is a two-story 19' x 46' office section, probably added c. 1890, north of the tower. (Photographs 3, 4) Its windows are paired under segmental arches, as are those in the front wall of the tower and in the slightly projecting low towers at the four corners of the building. (Photograph 6) The upper sash of the office windows have borders of small colored lights. (Photograph 5)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

New Mill and Depot Building  
Hawthorne Woolen Mill  
Greenwich, CT

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Because of the change in grade, the mill building is two stories on its west elevation, where it has lost its battlements. (Photographs 8, 9, 13) The space between it and the second building, historically a street (Photograph 1), is now a plaza at a somewhat higher elevation than the former street. (Photograph 8) The overhead connector that once ran between the two buildings (Photograph 11) has been removed.

The Depot Building is a 1½-story 30' x 123' structure probably built, not long after 1875, as a station for a railroad line that never was constructed.<sup>1</sup> Whether it was intended as a freight and passenger depot, or simply a freight depot, is not known, but the multiple wide openings on its west elevation, which once surrounded paneled doors with raised stiles and rails (Photograph 11), suggest that it was intended to be a freight depot. The doorways, which in the present adaptive use have become part of the shop fronts, are now filled with glass. (Photograph 12)

This building also has elaborate brickwork but not to the degree found in the three-story structure. (Photograph 9) In the second building the chief decorative interest is the wooden braces, brackets, and dormers. The braces in the gable peaks are perforated in a lacy foliated pattern of considerable grace. (Photograph 10) The triangular paired brackets supporting the eaves overhang, strong and knobby, rise from pilasters. These features are echoed in the paired segmentally arched windows of the eight dormers on the western roof slope. The gable brace of the dormers is perforated in a simpler pattern than at the gable peaks, while the dormer roof overhangs are supported by vigorously shaped visible rafter ends. (Photograph 13)

The mill buildings once were filled with machinery and workers. In 1897, the principal machines were 20 sets of cards and 70 broad looms for the manufacture of cassimeres and felting.<sup>2</sup> In 1939, there were 24 cards, 5 pickers, and a payroll of 200.<sup>3</sup> By this time, the product had become exclusively heavy felt which when cut into pads was used in mounting machinery to lessen floor vibration. Steam and electricity replaced water as source of power. In the present adaptive use, the interiors have been remodelled using sheetrock partitions and modern trim and fixtures in a clean and efficient but non-historic manner. The New Mill is now occupied by a firm as its executive offices. The Depot Building has several tenants, retail on the ground floor and offices on the second. During the course of rehabilitation in the early 1980s, certain selected small areas of the New Mill were sandblasted, as were the the north, south, and west walls of the Depot Building. Its east wall was rebuilt and the brackets there recreated.

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<sup>1</sup>The proposed railroad line was to run from Port Chester, New York, to Ridgefield, Connecticut. It shows on the 1867 Beers Atlas of Westchester and Fairfield Counties. The Greenwich Historical Society holds copies of the prospectus distributed c. 1870s for sale of the stock. The reason why the plan did not go forward is unknown.

<sup>2</sup>Dockham's American Trade Report & Directory of the Textile Manufacture and Dry Goods Trades, 1897. (Boston: C.A. Dockham & Company, 1896), p. 66.

<sup>3</sup>Davison's Textile Blue Book, (Ridgewood, N.J.: Davision Publishing Company, 1939), p. 289.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1875 - 1881  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1875  
1881  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

**State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.**

The New Mill and the Depot Building of the Hawthorne Woolen Mill are significant architecturally because they constitute elaborate examples of mill construction in two 19th-century architectural styles, the Romanesque Revival in the New Mill and the Queen Anne in the Depot Building. Their masonry and wooden features of battlements, machicolations, imaginative string courses, braces, and brackets contribute to their overall elaborate but cohesive designs that set them apart from most industrial buildings of the period. (Criterion C)

Architectural Assessment

Mill buildings that were more elaborate in their appearance than was necessary for their function occurred frequently during the 19th century, apparently as an effort on the part of their owners to make a statement to the community as to the importance of the enterprise. In the case of the New Mill, a late-19th-century romantic style was adapted to create a castellated mill building with battlements and machicolations. These features are an expression of contemporary architectural fashion. The thoroughness and attention to detail with which the effect is carried out bespeak the serious intent of the builder. The string courses, arched window heads, pilasters, and pilaster motifs in the spandrels are evidence of a desire to create a design with all details complete in disciplined support of the overall purpose. The corbeling at the top of the tower crowns a well-thought-out composition.

The long rectangular Depot Building is typical of its type in size and proportions. Again, it is more elaborate than most freight depots in its Queen Anne brickwork and wooden trim features. The wooden trim by its elaboration and three-dimensional effect carries a suggestion of the Eastlake style while the vertical component of the dormer braces may suggest influence of the Stick style. Since this building is the earlier of the two by a few years, it may have inspired the larger and more ambitious military statement that followed. The Depot Building's pierced and knurled decorations are above average in intricacy.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Davison's Textile Blue Book. Ridgewood, New Jersey: Davison Publishing Company, 1939.

Dockham's American Trade Report & Directory of the Textile Manufacture and Dry Goods Trades, 1897. Boston: C.A. Dockham & Company, 1896.

Kerschus, Nils. Inventory form, Hawthorne Woolen Mills - Picking House. June, 1982.

Mead, Spencer P. Ye Historie of ye Town of Greenwich. New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1911.

The Official Handbook of Textile Companies. Boston: Frank P. Bennett & Company, 1920.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 0.8 prox.

**UTM References**

A 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is the area shown encompassed by the dotted line on the accompanying map drawn at a scale of 1" = 85'.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary has been drawn to encompass the land between the Byram River and the three-story mill, the three-story mill, the land between the three-story mill and the depot, and the depot. The new construction has been excluded because it is not historic. The Byram River, dam, and mill pond have been excluded because the applicable National Register criterion is C - Architecture.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David F. Ransom/Consultant, Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register  
 organization Connecticut Historical Commission date 4 February 1989 Coordinator  
 street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005  
 city or town Hartford state CT zip code 06106

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Hawthorne Woolen Mill  
Greenwich, CTSection number 8 Page 1

Both buildings on their exterior appear to be almost intact, except for the doors to the depot. Fortunate survivors, they are significant for being reasonably well preserved. Greenwich is the site of few mills of any kind. The intricate and unusual designs of the New Mill and the Depot Building of the Hawthorne Woolen Mill make them a rare resource in Greenwich.

Historical Background

Woolen manufacture at the falls on the Byram River in Glenville had a long and checkered history. While it is uncertain when a mill for processing textiles first was established on the site, a small factory is known to have existed by 1814, called the Byram Manufacturing Company. It was sold in 1829 to George and Samuel Cornell of Brooklyn, who continued it in operation until going bankrupt in 1852. The next owner, Ralph H. Isham, changed the name to Glenville Woolen Company, but was not successful, selling out in 1855 to Augustus Whitlock. The mill continued to change hands every few years, in 1864 to Amos D. LeFevre and in 1874 to Hoyt, Sprague & Company, which operated under the name of Glenville Mills until foreclosed in 1875. The next owner was William J. Tingue of Patterson, New Jersey, who formed Tingue, Hous & Company, which under the name of Hawthorne Woolen Mill manufactured woolen and cotton goods until 1892. It was during these years that the New Mill and the Depot Building were constructed. The reason for replacing the existing buildings is not known.

Upon acquisition of the property, Tingue, Hous & Company had an insurance survey carried out promptly, on December 3, 1875. (See plan with sketch, attached.) In commenting on the character of the risk, the survey says, "Buildings substantial and in good repair. Are just getting started, and at present in chaotic condition.... When fully in operation, it promises to be a superior risk." The main brick building was three stories with basement, attic, and slate roof. To replace so substantial a structure in 1881 indicates that the enterprise experienced several successful years.

In 1892 the corporate name became Hawthorne Mills Company, which continued to 1899 when the premises were acquired by the American Felt Company. Incorporated that year in New Jersey, the American Felt Company brought together under one ownership mills in four states. By 1920, its headquarters were located in Boston<sup>2</sup> and in 1939 in New York.<sup>3</sup> After World War II, the mill fell prey to the general decline of the textile industry in New England.

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Tenuous conditions and constant change have been characteristic of operations at the falls on the Byram River in Glenville for a century and three-quarters. At present, the site is active and prosperous and incorporates the two architecturally most distinguished buildings from its 19th-century past in a busy commercial and retail complex.

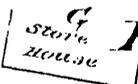
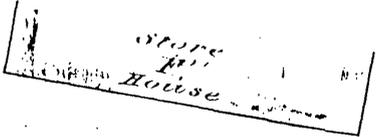
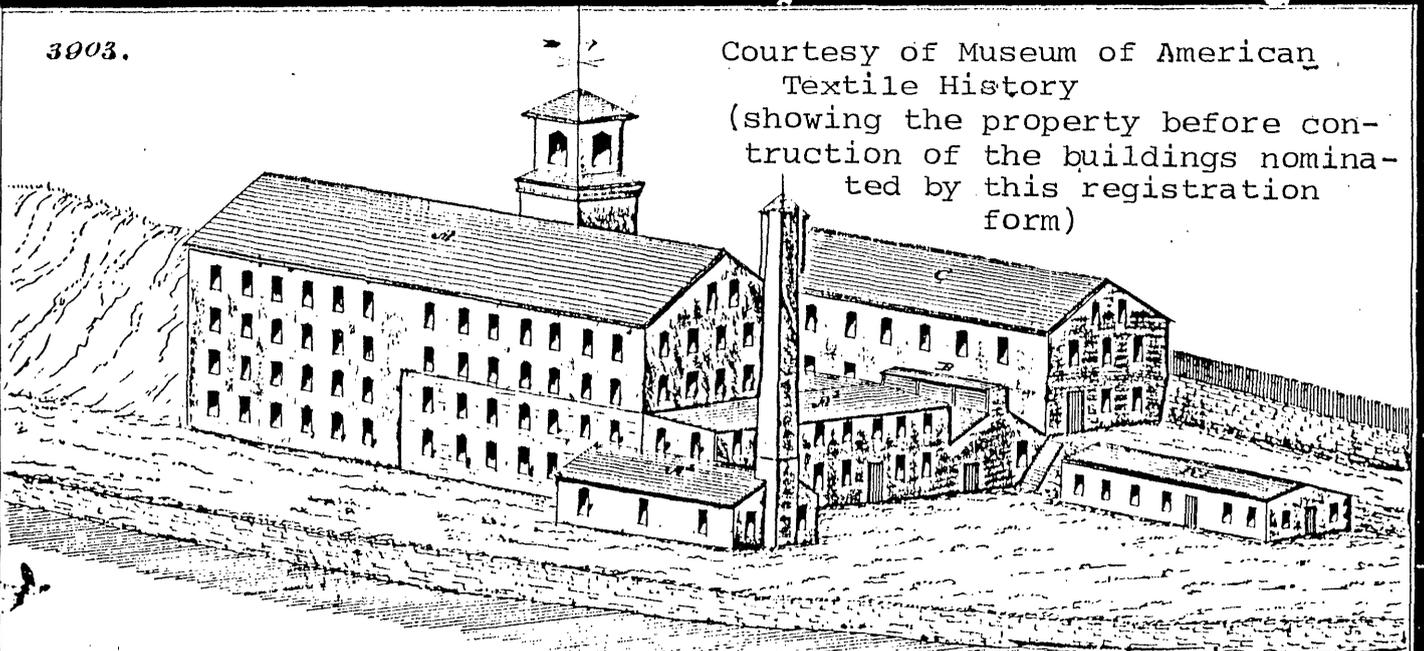
<sup>1</sup>The account of the site's history to this point is taken from Spencer P. Mead, Ye Historie of ye Town of Greenwich (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1911), pp. 347, 348.

<sup>2</sup>The Official Handbook of Textile Companies (Boston: Frank P. Bennett & Company, 1920), pp. 128, 132.

<sup>3</sup>Davison's Textile Blue Book (Ridgewood, New Jersey: Davision Publishing Company, 1939), p. 289.

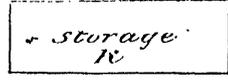
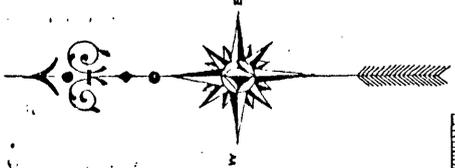
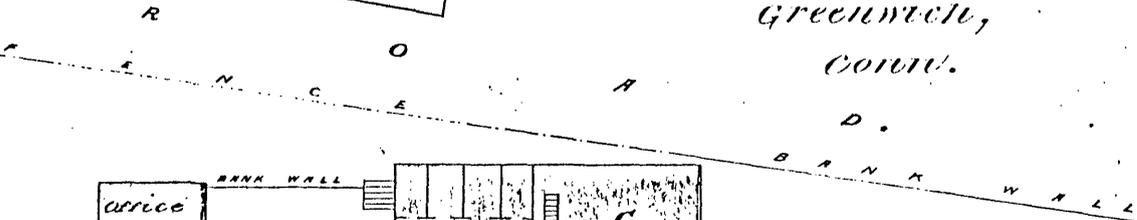
3903.

Courtesy of Museum of American Textile History  
(showing the property before construction of the buildings nominated by this registration form)

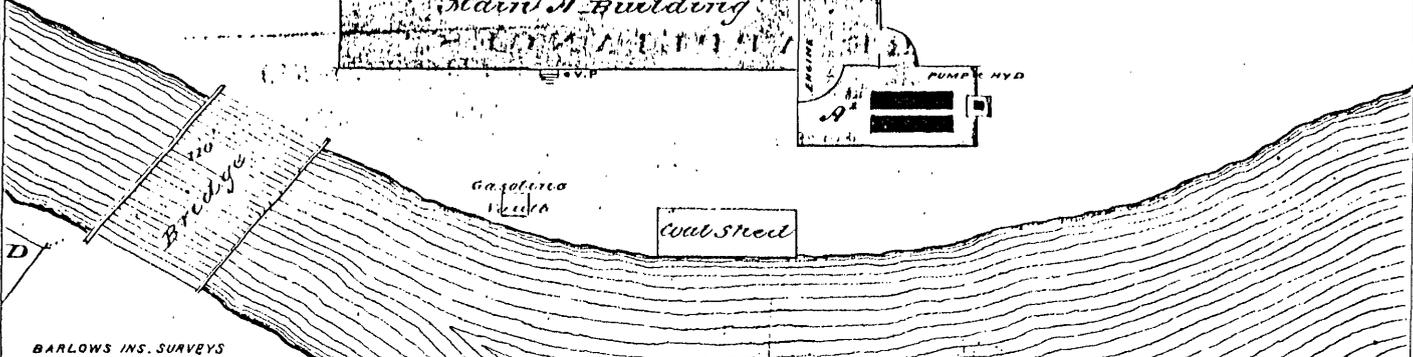
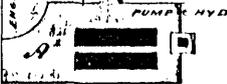
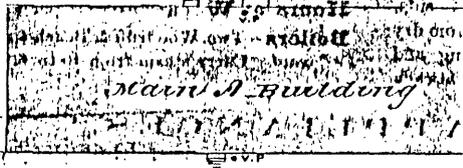
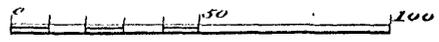


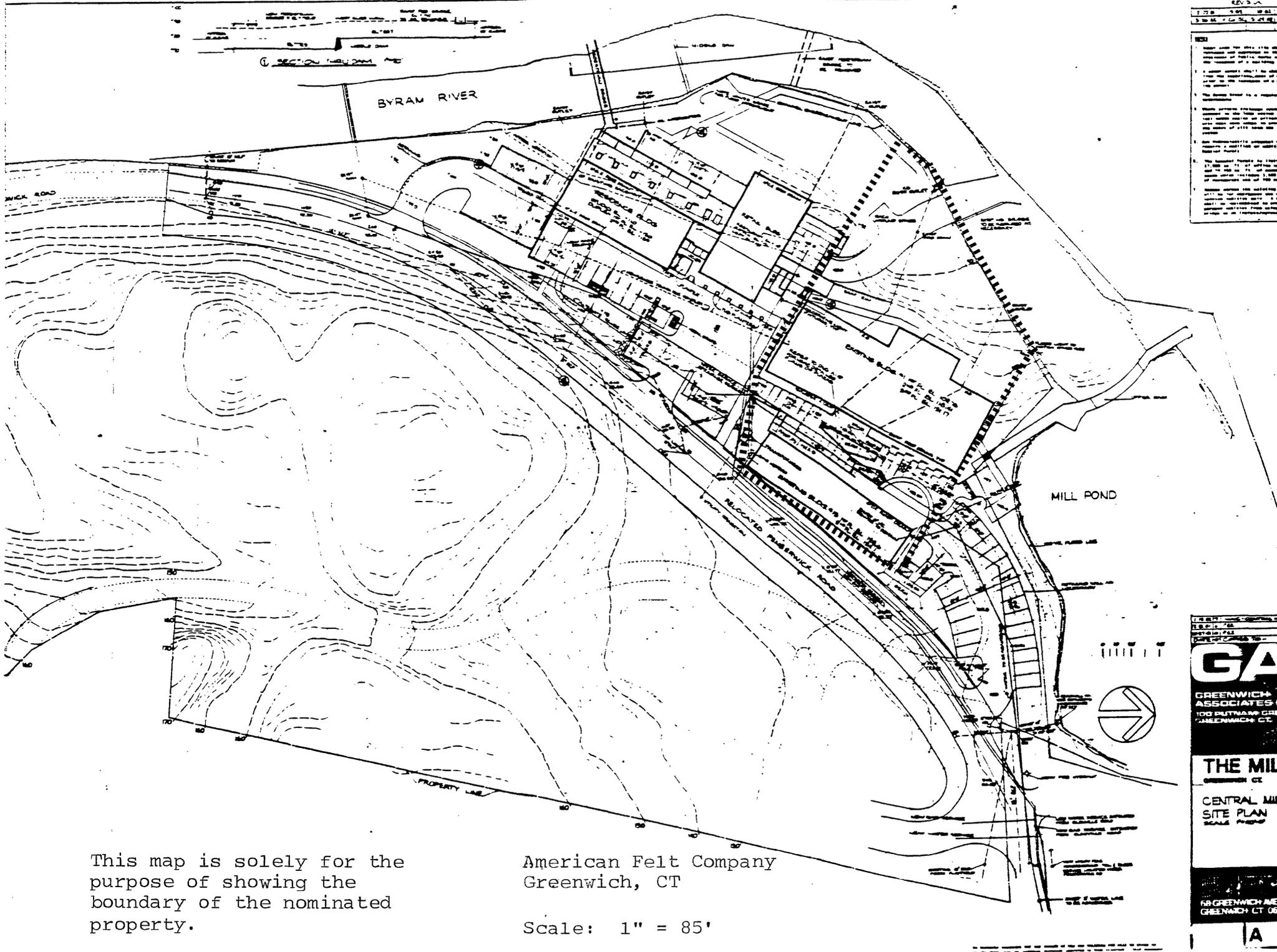
# HAWTHORNE WOOLEN MILLS

Greenwich,  
Conn.



Scale of Feet.



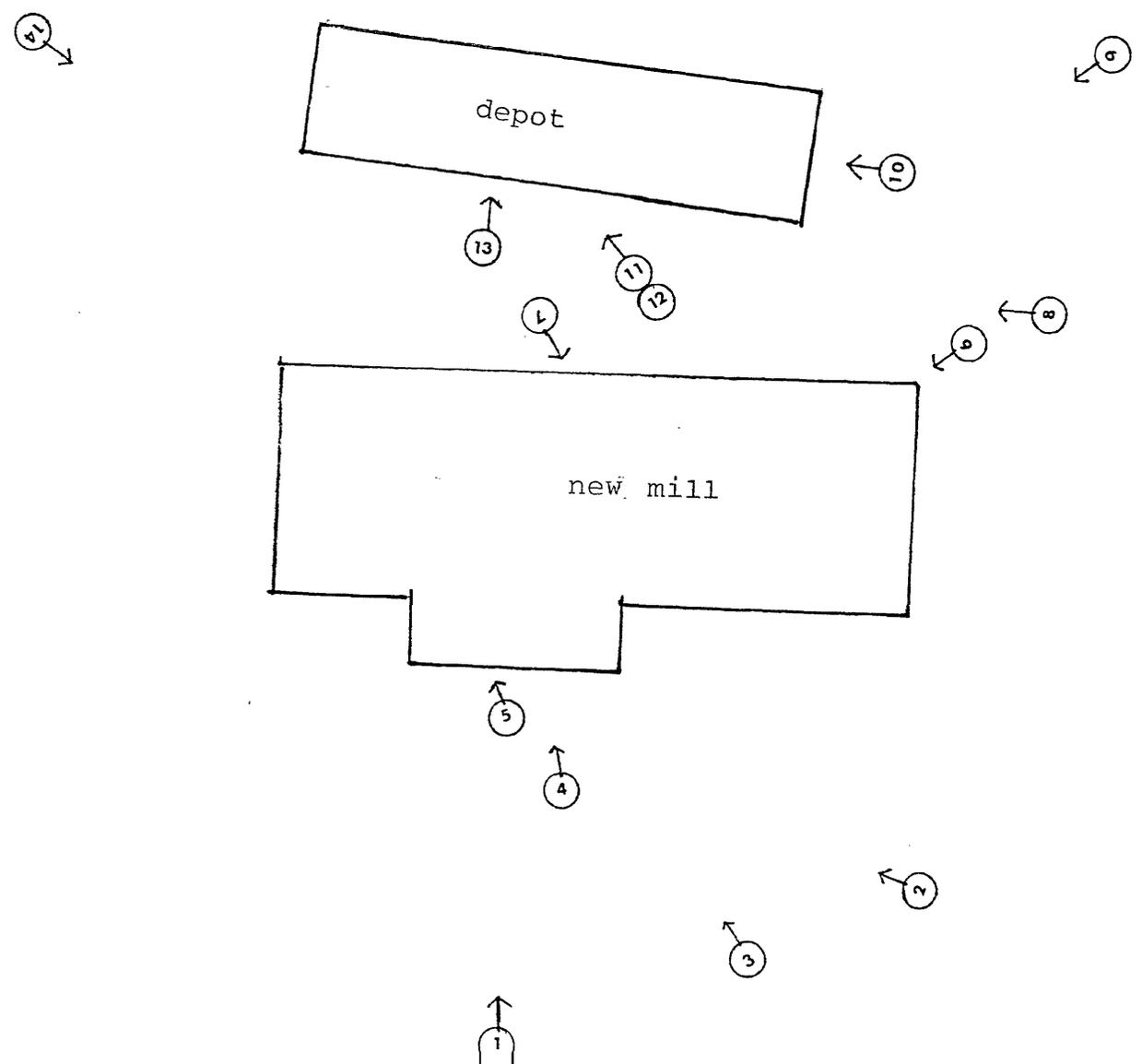


This map is solely for the purpose of showing the boundary of the nominated property.

American Felt Company  
Greenwich, CT

Scale: 1" = 85'

Z ←



New Mill and Depot Building  
Hawthorne Woolen Mill  
Greenwich, CT  
Photo key

The New Mill is the building  
in the center of Photograph 1.

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American Felt Company, Greenwich, CT

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All photographs were taken (in the case of 1 and 11 copied) by David F. Ransom in December, 1988. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1  
Aerial photograph, c. 1958\*  
View east

Photograph 11  
Depot, c. 1981  
View northeast

Photograph 2  
Dam and Three-Story Mill  
View northeast

Photograph 12  
Depot  
View northeast

Photograph 3  
Three-Story Mill  
View northeast

Photograph 13  
Depot dormer  
View east

Photograph 4  
Tower of Three-story mill  
View east

Photograph 14  
General view southwest

Photograph 5  
Detail of Photograph 4  
View northeast

Photograph 6  
Southeast corner of three-story building  
View northwest

\* The New Mill is the building with the tower in the center of Photograph 1. The Depot is just behind it.

Photograph 7  
Door on east elevation  
of three-story building  
View west

Photograph 8  
General view north

Photograph 9  
General view northwest

Photograph 10  
South gable end of depot  
View north