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 an 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	Richmond Underwe	ear Company Building	
other names/site r	number <u>Betty Ann Ur</u>	nderwear Co.; Millets; Co	ellucord; Fuelaire Corporation
2. Location			······
street & number _	Millet Street		NŹAnot for publication
city or town	Richmond	·	<u>N/</u> A□ vicinity
		VT county Chittenden	code <u>007</u> zip code <u>05477</u>
3. State/Federal	Agency Certification		
request for thistoric Places Historic Places neets d nationally Signature of cer Vermont S State of Federa In my opinion, to comments.) Signature of cer	determination of eligibility me and meets the procedural an oes not meet the National Re statewide locally. (S <u>unable in Statewide in Statewide</u>	eets the documentation standards for reg and professional requirements set forth in egister criteria. I recommend that this pro- See continuation sheet for additional com <u>A that My than 3/29</u> Date servation Office	iments.)
State or Federa	l agency and bureau		
4. National Park	Service Certification	·· <u>···································</u>	
☐ See c ☐ determined eli National Re ☐ See c ☐ determined no National Re ☐ removed from Register.	National Register. ontinuation sheet. igible for the gister ontinuation sheet. ot eligible for the gister.	Signature of the Keep	ber Alternet in the Date of Action Byun 5-/7/92

Richmond Underwear Company Building Name of Property

Chittenden County, Vermont County and State

5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Proper (Do not include previously listed resources in the	ty ne count.)
🕅 private 🗆 public-local	☑ building(s) □ district	Contributing Noncontributing	h il din ma
D public-State	□ site		•
D public-Federal	☐ structure ☐ object		
		1	-
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources pains in the National Register	reviously listed
N/A		0	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
INDUSTRY/manufactur	ing facility	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty_sto</u> COMMERCE/TRADE/business	<u>re</u>
	·····	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	<u></u>	·	
<u></u>			
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
No Style		foundation <u>stone</u>	
		walls weatherboard	
		steel	
		other	
Narrative Description		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

7	1	Richmond Underwear Company Building
Section number	Page	Chittenden County, Vermont

The Richmond Underwear Company Building is a simple, utilitarian, two story, wood frame building, sided with clapboards, that is 52 feet wide across the gable front and 150 feet deep. Built in 1900, it is located in Richmond village along Millet Street, which runs perpendicular to Main Street (U.S. Route 2) and then along the southern eave side and the back of the building. Its main distinguishing exterior feature is the 35 foot tall flagpole that rises from the front gable end. The gable front facade is partly visible from Main Street, screened somewhat by a house and the Catholic Church on Main Street. The building is currently undergoing a certified rehabilitation. Although some changes have been made to it in the past forty years, it does retain its integrity of materials, design, setting, location, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Richmond Underwear Company Building is a long, two story, wood frame building set back from Main Street on a 1.6 acre lot on Millet Street in Richmond village. Millet Street wraps around the south side and around the back of the building. It is surrounded by numerous houses from the same time period.

EXTERIOR:

The building is seven bays (52 feet) wide and 16 bays (150 feet) deep. All windows are two over two sash unless otherwise noted. It sits on a foundation of primarily rough stone, laid into a wall about three feet thick. Large sections of the foundation have been replaced with either concrete blocks or a poured concrete foundation. In the crawl space, the supports for the main timbers supporting the floors consist of nail kegs filled with concrete. The gable roof is covered with steel standing seam sheet metal. At the front gable peak is a flagpole that rises 35 foot from the roof ridge. In the center of the roof is a wooden, gableroofed cupola. Two round, metal ventilators have been added on the roof ridgeline on either side of the cupola. On the northern roof slope not far from the front ventilator is a low brick chimney that was added between 1973 and 1976. The chimeny is concrete block below the roofline.

The main gable-front facade faces south-westerly, and has seven evenly spaced windows on the second floor and ventilating the attic is a window opening whose sash has been

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 Richmond Underw

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Richmond Underwear Company Building Chittenden County, Vermont

replaced with wooden slats. Running across the first floor is a loading dock, which was added by the 1950s. The flat roof of the dock was replaced in 1974, when the left-hand third of the loading dock was closed in. This addition covers up a set of double doors, made of beaded boards, and one of the original windows. These modern additions will be removed in the rehabilitation. Running across the rest of the facade are two windows in the middle, a door inserted in the fifth bay c.1973, and to the right a double-leafed wooden door with square windows.

The side wall along Millet Street faces south-easterly and has sixteen equally spaced windows on the second floor. The sash in the last window on the right has been removed and the opening has been covered with clapboards. The first floor originally had nine equally spaced windows, but has undergone some changes over time. The first four windows on the left remain. To the right there had been a fifty foot chimney and an addition, which houses a 15 horsepower engine and dynamo. The chimney and addition have been demolished since 1976, when two wooden overhead doors and one set of wooden double doors were added.

The rear (north-easterly) wall has a one story storage shed, dating from before 1910, which extends across the left half of the wall. The rear wall of the shed is lit by a bank of six windows (windows with two sashes placed horizontally and hinged to swing up and in). The shed side wall facing Millet Street has a set of vertical board double doors, while the other side wall has three windows and a door. To the right of the shed is an entry door into the main block of the factory, and to the right of the door is a mark in the clapboards where originally there was a window. This window may have been removed in 1979 when Fuelaire added a ramp here going up to the second floor. The second floor has a small 2/2 window to the left, four regular size windows, and to the right an overhead door reached by the 1979 ramp. The ramp and loading dock below are built of rough lumber. The ramp is enclosed in plywood, left unfinished on the east side, and covered with composition siding on the west side. The attic has one window.

The side (north-westerly) wall has (from left to right) an entry door covered by a gabled hood to the far left, two windows, a boarded up opening (which at one time was connected by an enclosed walkway to a one-story storage shed {now gone}), and then nine windows. Along the right half of

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Richmond Underwear Company Building Chittenden County, Vermont

the foundation wall are several small doors leading to the crawl space. They are too small to provide access for a person, and probably were used for ventilation. The second floor originally had sixteen equally spaced windows with a small window the size of one sash to the far left. Doors and fire escapes have replaced windows nine (before 1973) and sixteen (between 1973 and 1976 when Fuelaire rented the building).

INTERIOR:

This building has always primarily been open spaces on both floors. Originally the first floor housed the offices, ironing and packing departments of the Richmond Underwear Company. The second floor was used for sewing. Remains of the layout were changed when Fuelaire used the building (1973-1976).

The most significant interior elements that remain are the window trim and beaded wall and ceiling boards. The window trim consists of molded side and top boards with square corner blocks enriched by concentric circles. All the walls and ceilings were covered with beaded boards, much of which is still intact. Also remaining is the enclosed staircase.

The wood frame structure has never been insulated, but it does have back plaster in the wall cavities throughout the exterior wall of the building. The building was heated with steam pipes that ran, several pipes on top of each other, along the walls.

Large sections of the first floor were covered with eight inches of poured concrete in the 1970s when Fuelaire Corporation used the building. A large section of this has recently collapsed into the crawl space.

The building is now connected with the municipal water system, but originally it had its own supply from a hill one quarter mile from the building and 150 feet above the floor of the factory. The 80,000 gallon reservoir was connected with a two inch pipe to the building.

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 a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- □ B removed from its original location.
- \Box **C** a birthplace or grave.
- \Box **D** a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- \Box **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

Bibilography

(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 # _____

<u>Chittenden County, Verm</u>ont County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture **Period of Significance** 1900 Significant Dates 1900 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A **Cultural Affiliation** N/A Architect/Builder Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Richmond	Underwear	Company	Building
Name of Prope	erty	-	

1	0.	Ge	ogi	rap	hical	Data	

Acreage of Property 1.6

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 8	6 5 9 7 5 0	4 9 1 8 8 0 0
Zone	Easting	Northing
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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 Gary	Bressor			
organizationRich	mond Restorations	date February 1990		
street & numberP.0	D, Box 94	telephone (802) 434-2800		
city or townRio	chmond	state <u>Vermont</u> zip code <u>05477</u>		
Additional Documenta	ition			

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 SHPO or FPO.)				
nameSidney	T. Miller IV, IV & V Corporation				_
street & number _	240 Loomis Street	telephone _	(802)	862-4722	_
city or town	Burlington	state Vermont	zip c	code05401	_

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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	Zone	Easting		Northing	
4					
	See c	ontinuation	sheet		

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The Richmond Underwear Company Building, built in seven weeks in May and June, 1900, in Richmond, Vermont, is significant as a good example of a wood frame industrial building of the turn of the 20th century, and is eligible for the National Register under criterion C. The building retains a majority of its simple design features. The company, which made women's and children's muslin underwear, was attracted here through a financial inducement offered by townspeople who raised a considerable sum of money. Richmond Underwear was the largest employer in the town in the early 1900s, and its presence caused considerable growth in Richmond village.

Note: Much of the following information comes from Harriet Riggs' booklet, The Richmond Underwear Company Bldg.

Richmond may have been one of the first towns in the area to offer a financial inducement to attract industry. In 1900, residents raised several thousand dollars to entice two gentlemen from New York to establish a plant for the manufacture of women's and children's muslin underwear. The men were company president J. S. Baker of Peekskill, New York, and his wife's brother-in-law, I. H. Goodwin of New York City, the general superintendent. The manufacturing department was under the supervision of Goodwin's son, The men were interested in Richmond because one of Philip. them already had a relative in town who made underwear. An editorial in the January 31, 1901, Richmond Gazette comments the town for its actions. "The village of Richmond has set her sisters of the state a good example. She accepted a proposition last summer to raise a sum of thousands of dollars as an inducement to secure the location of the underwear factory she now has. Her citizens fairly peeled down to their underclothing and started on a hustle of raising money and almost before they were aware of it the sum sufficient has been secured. The underwear factory came and everyone is delighted with the result. . . What Richmond has done in this instance other towns of Vermont can do. The example has been set. The thing to do now is to follow suit with Richmond and play just as strong a game."

The area around Baker Street was an apple orchard before this building was constructed. The company laid out new streets and installed drains, as well as a tennis court for their employees.

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 Richmond Underwear Company Building

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The <u>Burlington Free Press</u> reported on May 9, 1900, that "Messrs. Baker and Goodwin of the new industry are in town making preparations for building. . Ground was broken back of Dr. Heath's Monday morning for building the Richmond Underwear factory. The building will be 150 by 50 feet, and two stories high. Mr. Goodwin is superintending the work." Two weeks later the "wall for the new factory [was] completed and work has been commenced on the frame work. It is to be completed in 30 days. While digging to lay the underpinnings of the factory a large pocket of good building sand was found, more than enough to make mortar for the wall." A week later the same paper stated, "The new factory building is progressing rapidly. The flooring and nearly all the lower story is in position."

By June 27 the two-story building was ready for the machinery. The <u>Burlington Free Press</u> reported on July 11, 1900, that the underwear factory started on Monday with twenty employees. A week later they noted that the factory "is running 50 machines. More girls are ready for work than there are machines for them to operate." In six months, the work force had grown to over 100, mostly women, with a daily output of over 4,000 garments. Wages were \$1.25 to \$1.75 a day.

Over the next few years the factory continued to grow. Expansion Magazine in March 1904 commented that the company "is one of the most extensive underwear factories in the State--employing over one hundred and sixty hands the year round, its average weekly pay-roll being about \$1,200.00. This factory has never shut down for a day for lack of orders, its only limit being the ability to secure sufficient operators for the machines. They stand ready to double their output at any time they can secure sufficient help. There then is constant steady employment here for a large number of The factory manufactures a medium grade of muslin ladies. underwear for women and children. Every Vermonter should take pride in wearing these garments in preference to any made in some distant city sweat shop. The Richmond plant is large, commodious, well lighted, heated and aired, making a comfortable work room that is a credit to the town and State, as well as an enjoyable place to work. It offers a marked contrast to the city sweat shops in which so many poor women ruin their eyesight and their health. This company is constantly erecting new buildings for residences, etc., as fast as necessity requires."

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Section number _____ 8 3 Richmond Underwear Company Building Chittenden County, Vermont

The success of the underwear factory led to large scale growth in Richmond. <u>Expansion Magazine</u> of 1904 also noted that over 20% of the buildings in the heart of town were built within the past five years. The company brought employees to town and made sure housing was available for them. On September 1, 1901, they completed a "fine commodious boarding house" with steam heat and electric lights on Baker Street (since demolished). It accommodated 40 employees and was run by John C. Bradley. The company also built double tenements to rent out at reasonable rates and had other houses built throughout the village. One of the buildings, called "The Beehive," was given by Mr. Baker to his daughter as a present when she married Clarence Story.

Goods were sold only to wholesale dealers and the largest retail stores in the United States. One of the customers was John Wanamaker, who had department stores in Philadelphia and New York City.

The new factory was very up-to-date. The engine room had an engine and dynamo that furnished electricity for the plant and the company's surrounding buildings. The company had its own water system with a covered reservoir. W. H. Buckley and Co. of Burlington supplied the heating system, with 6,000 feet of pipes extending around the whole building. Exhaust steam in the pipes was used to heat the building during the day. In late 1900 or early 1901 the company installed a standpipe, running to the roof with a supply of hose.

By 1924 the factory housed the Betty Ann Underwear Co., which was run by Roland Layfield, who had operated a shirt factory in Rutland. His first wife was Baker's daughter Edith. The company made ladies' fancy undervests, teddies, and blouses.

The plant was sold to B. Milton Kimball, general manager of the Gilman Paper Co. in Gilman, Vermont, in December of 1946. He purchased the factory for Cellucord Corporation, a Gilman Paper Co. subsidiary. They moved in in February of 1947. The plant was called Millets, after the man who originated the process of tightly winding paper to use for the backing of rugs, but later became know as Cellucord. At that time jute, which was normally used for rug backing, was scarce and very expensive. Over 300 employees worked three shifts at the height of operation. They supplied the "big three" in the rug business--Bigelow-Sanford, Alexander Smith, and Mohawk Rug Company. Jute became plentiful again when some rug makers began backing rugs with foam rubber. Cellucord

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 Richmond Underwear Company Building

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stopped making the paper backing in December of 1953, but returned to the building in September 1955 to resume operations. In 1961 the company moved to Winooski, but retained the Richmond building. For a few months in 1964 they did experimental work making sand bags from cellucord fibers.

After this, the factory was empty for a number of years. Different groups of people have formed corporations and purchased the building as an investment. The First Burlington Corporation and the Richmond Corporation were two such owners. In 1970 a 32 apartment complex for the elderly was proposed, but was turned down by the Town.

The Fuel-Air (Fuelair) Company, founded in 1971 by Ned Pettingill, a Vermont oil distributor, moved into the building. An article in the November 1978 <u>Country Journal</u> described Fuelair as a "company chartered to manufacture and sell automotive fuel-saving devices." In the old underwear factory Edward LaForce and twenty assistants ran "one of the most sophisticated automotive testing laboratories in New England. Here for the next couple of years the inventor worked doggedly to develop an efficient gasoline-powered automobile engine."

Some time after this the building was used by Design Craft, Inc., a cabinet making firm, and was the workshop of Augustin Gonzalez, maker of fine furniture. The building was purchased in 1984 by M.C.H. Associates from the estate of Ned Pettingill. Its occupants were Sikora Auto Parts and North Country Wholesale Distributors, which supplied 1,100 retail stores in northern New England with outdoor and industrial clothing and footwear, and hunting, fishing, camping and marine equipment.

Plans are currently under way to do a substantial rehabilitation of the building. The work will include restoring the exterior and creating usable space inside.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Burlington Free Press. April - July 1900.

- Fire Insurance Maps of Richmond, Vermont. New York: Sanborn Map Company, Inc., 1904, 1910, 1926, 1926/39.
- "Richmond, A Prosperous Town," <u>Expansion Magazine</u>, March 1904.
- Riggs, Harriet. "Remembering Richmond--Richmond Underwear Factory," Richmond Times. May 1985.
- Riggs, Harriet and Gary Bressor. <u>The Richmond Underwear</u> <u>Company Bldg</u>., Richmond, Vermont, 1988. (Wilbur Collection, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont)
- "The Story Behind the LaForce Engine," <u>Country Journal</u>. November 1978.

Interviews:

Izetta Barrett, Richmond, Vermont, January 29, 1990 Theodore Bressor, Richmond, Vermont, January 29, 1990 Gary Gaudette, St. Albans, Vermont, February 1, 1990 Beverly Morrill, Richmond, Vermont, January 29, 1990 Sandy LaForce Rocque, Huntington, Vermont, January 30, 1990

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: This property is an irregularly shaped parcel, 1.6 acres in size, that is bisected by Millet Street. It is parcel numbers 66 and 67 on the Richmond Tax Maps, map 22. The boundary is established by a survey recorded in the Richmond Map Records, book 6, page 18.

Boundary Justification: The boundary lines have been established by survey, and are sufficient to convey and protect the historic integrity of the building and its setting.

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Richmond Underwear Company Richmond, Chittenden Co., Vermont

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PHOTOGRAPH LABELS

The following information is the same for all photos: Richmond Underwear Company Building Richmond, Chittenden County, Vermont Credit: Gary Bressor Date: January 1990 Negative filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photo 1: View looking north. Front and side facades.

Photo 2: View looking south. Rear and side facades.

Photo 3: View looking northeast from Main Street (U.S. Route 2). Front and side facades.

Photo 4: View looking southwest from Browns Trace (Jericho Road). Rear of building and surrounding neighborhood.

Photo 5: View looking east under stairway at the southeast corner of the building.

