

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| STATE:<br>Oregon  |            |
| COUNTY:<br>Marion |            |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY  |            |
| ENTRY NUMBER      | DATE       |
|                   | MAY 8 1973 |

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Thomas Kay Woolen Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 260 12th Street S. E. Oregon 2nd Congressional District Representative Al Ullman

CITY OR TOWN: Salem

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41 COUNTY: Marion CODE: 047

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both   | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered  | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Mission Mill Museum Association (Owner notified of proposed nomination 11-7-72.)

STREET AND NUMBER: 580 State Street, Suite 207

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 97301 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Marion County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 97301 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

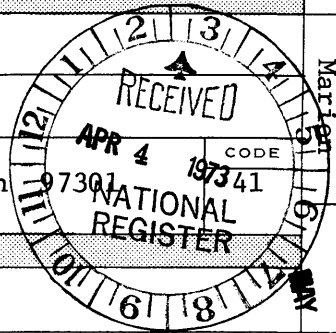
DATE OF SURVEY: 1959, 1969  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Marion

ENTRY NUMBER: 8

DATE: MAY 8 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

|           |                                    |   |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                        |   |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                        |   |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the eastern edge of Willamette University campus, the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill property is livened by a water course and large oak trees. The facade of the mill is the focal point of a park-like corridor through the campus which is created by the mill stream. The major component of the property (the mill and its warehouse, dye house, picker house and other back buildings) is to be partially restored as a museum of wool technology by the non-profit Mission Mill Museum Association.

The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill is built according to traditional rectilinear industrial plant plan. It is a two and a half story brick and timber-framed structure with a basement of cement and rubble masonry salvaged from the predecessor mill. Its dimensions are roughly 60 by 183 feet, including a 36-foot extension to the rear, or east end. A typical section, from basement floor to ridge of the roof, is about 55 feet, 1 1/2 inches in height. The gable ends are oriented west to east. The main entrance is located in the west face, which is organized into five bays and is finished by a kind of corbel chain beneath the eaves. The longitudinal elevations are composed of 16 bays set off by brick piers. The additions of 1898 and 1925 increased the number of bays on the north and south sides to 20. Openings have segmental brick arch heads and double-hung sash windows. Company minutes show that there were three major periods of development and expansion at the mill. The first of these took place in 1898 during the mining boom and after the destruction of the Company's mill at Waterloo by fire made it necessary to combine all operations in the mill at Salem. The second period of alterations and additions occurred in 1904 when fuel oil supplanted wood as an auxiliary fuel for heating and dyeing. The third period of development came in 1925 when a new boiler room and other additions were constructed.

The Kay Mill was designed to accommodate three sets of cards, and eventually housed four. By 1915 twenty-eight looms were operating. The mill was fitted with an hydraulic elevator, and there were also two large pumps for fire-fighting, and an Edison dynamo to generate electric light. By the First World War period the complex included the detached office and storage buildings, a 15,000-gallon Redwood water tank, the main mill building with automatic sprinkler system, a single-story extension for dry finishing; a boiler room, picker house, carpenter and machine shop, housing for a turbine water wheel; a dye house with drug and drying rooms, two wool warehouses, an oil and bleach house, and a shoddy and wool storage house. Most of the complex has remained intact to the present day.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

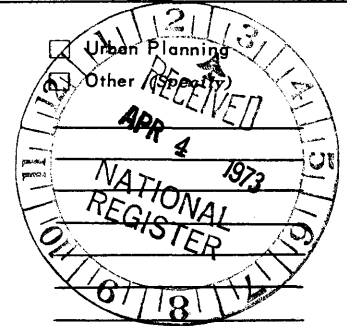
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1889-1964

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On the Pacific Coast, the mechanized woolen industry dates from 1857, when the first full textile factory, the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company, was opened in Salem. Through most of the rest of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, woolen manufacture was a vital part of Salem's economy.

The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill Company was founded in 1889 by native-born Englishman Thomas Kay, Squire Farrar, and C. P. Bishop. The existing mill, built to replace a frame structure destroyed by fire in 1895, was completed without delay in 1896. For a time it was the largest plant of its type in the state, and it was the longest-lived woolen manufactory ever established in Salem. Until its sale to the Mission Mill Museum Association in 1965, it had been under continuous ownership and management by the family-controlled Thomas Kay Woolen Mill Company.

The mill and its subsidiary structures are virtually unique survivals in the Pacific Northwest of industrial type-specimens based on English and Atlantic seaboard models. The Oregon City Woolen Mill in Oregon City, reconstructed after a fire in 1873, is still standing, but having been used as a warehouse for some years, it lacks a full complement of line shafting and equipment. The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill is one of the few known plants in North America capable of demonstrating an entire manufacturing process by direct-drive water power. Its detached dye house is a rare resource, for its type is usually the first to be supplanted by modern improvements.

The mill's designer, Walter D. Pugh (1863-1942), was hired to pattern the plans after the mill at Waterloo which the Company had acquired two years before the fire. Pugh appears to have begun his career in Salem around 1880 as a carpenter-builder. Within a decade or more, which included association with the Salem firm of McCauley and Wickersham, Pugh was the Capitol City's prominent architect. Shortly after the turn of the century began to receive commissions from the State of Oregon. He designed the recently-raised Salem City Hall which was erected between 1893 and 1897. Contractors for the mill were John Gray and Henry Lukers.

The Kay mill processed Oregon-grown wool stock, and produced finished suitings, flannels, cassimeres, tweeds, and blankets. The goods produced by the Company's mills in Salem and Waterloo were distributed first to jobbers for fashioning, and then to retailers for marketing, principally in Portland and San Francisco. The Kay mill in Salem produced the first bolt of worsted goods west of the Mississippi in November, 1896. Kay and his oldest son, Thomas B. Kay, then assistant manager, returned to the East to purchase new machinery for worsteds, principally looms from North Andover, Massachusetts, and to recruit technicians. The Klondike gold rush and steady mining activity elsewhere in the Northwest created a demand for mackinaws,

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Lomax, Alfred L., "Thomas Kay Woolen Mill Co., A Family Enterprise," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 54, No. 2 (June 1953), 102-139. Based on the Company Minute Book and the Stock Issuance Book 1889-1940.

Ross, Marion D., A Century of Architecture in Oregon, 1859-1959 (Portland: Women's Architectural League of the Oregon Chapter, AIA, 1959), 9, 12.

Historic American Buildings Inventory Form, 1959.

"Historic American Buildings Survey, Thomas Kay Woolen Mill Buildings," 17-page report submitted with 40 sheets of measured drawings, March 1969.

Prepared by Elisabeth Walton and William Lindburg, AIA.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

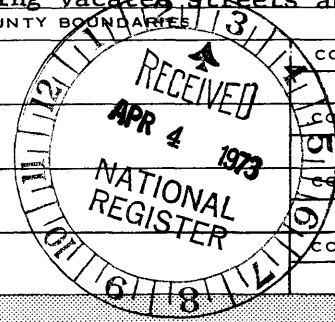
| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | ° ' "   | ° ' "                   |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | 44 56 06  | 123 01 34               |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |

UTM  
10/49779  
497552  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.5 acres, including vacated streets and alleys

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Elisabeth Walton, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: March 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

✓ Name George M. Baldwin

Title Administrator of Highways

✓ Date 3-30-73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 27 73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |        |      |
|------------------|--------|------|
| STATE            | Oregon |      |
| COUNTY           | Marion |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |        |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |        | DATE |
|                  | MAY 8  | 1973 |

(Number all entries)

THOMAS KAY WOOLEN MILL

2. Location

The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill buildings are located in portions of Block 36 and Block 37 of the University Addition to Salem. The 4.5-acre property comprising Thomas Kay Historical Park is located in the NW 1/4 Sec. 26, T. 7 S., R. 3 W. of the Willamette Meridian, in Marion County, Oregon.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings  
1970  
Parks and Recreation Section  
Oregon State Highway Division  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Code: 41

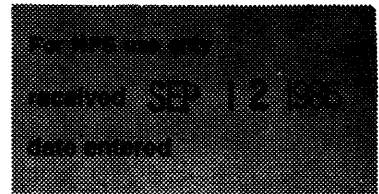
8. Significance (Continued)

flannels, and knitted socks. Although the mill was already geared full time to fill Pacific Coast orders, in 1897 Thomas B. Kay was sent to New York, where he briefly attempted to develop and expand the Eastern market. It transpired that the regional market was stable enough. The mill a Waterloo which the Company had purchased in 1894 to absorb bed and camp blanket orders, burned in 1898. Subsequent expansion of the Salem mill and the pressure of an enlarged market made the scope of the Company's operation second only to that of the Oregon City Woolen Mill on the entire West Coast.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 4

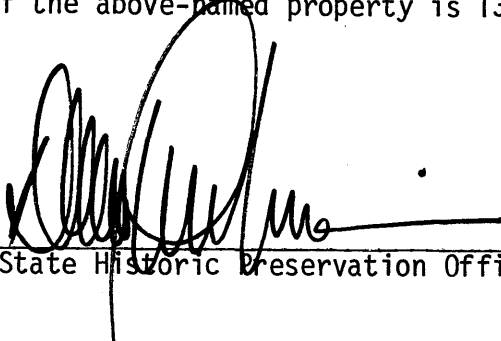
Page 1

KAY, THOMAS, WOOLEN MILL  
260 12th Street SE  
Salem  
Marion County  
Oregon

Control number: 73001579

Listing date: 5-8-73

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to verify that the new address of the owner of the above-named property is 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97301.



Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 5, 1986