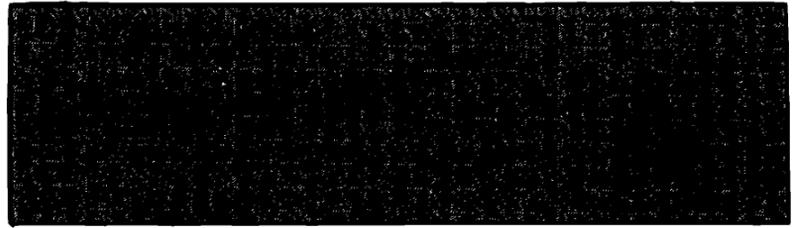


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



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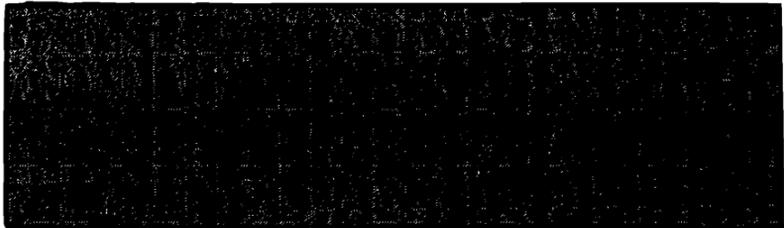
1. Name: New England Butt Company 80000001
2. Location: 304 Pearl Street, Providence, R.I.
3. Owner: Wanskuck Company,
304 Pearl Street, Providence, R.I. 02907
4. Description: The New England Butt Company plant complex is located in the block bounded by Pearl, Perkins, Rice, and A streets (see site plan). Much of the complex pre-dates 1875. The front building, at 304 Pearl Street, was erected in 1865 from the designs of Providence builder-architect Spencer P. Read. Originally, the machining and assembling building and now used for offices, it is a handsome, 3½-story, brick structure, with a trap-door monitor roof, corbelled brick cornices, and brick window caps and arched door surrounds. Exterior changes have been minimal. A long wing, originally two stories in height, but raised to three c. 1907, extends along Perkins Street. Although its brick window caps correspond with those in the Pearl Street building, part of the structure may pre-date 1865. Perhaps the oldest structure in the complex is the much altered, 2½-story, monitor-roofed, frame building in the center of the block on Perkins Street. It was probably in existence in 1865, and may have been constructed between 1849 and 1857. The factory complex also contained a foundry, which was closed in 1948. A large, flat-roofed, glass-brick structure, replacing the foundry and occupying the rest of the block, was erected in 1951. It is intended to nominate all of the complex except for the 1951 structure. Photographs 35 and 36.
5. Significance: The New England Butt Company's nineteenth-century buildings are being nominated because of their architectural significance and historical importance in the Providence context. The main building (304 Pearl Street), with its rich detailing, is a particularly handsome example of the industrial architecture of the 1850-1875 period, and one of the relatively few factory structures of that age surviving intact in Providence.

The entire complex remains the home of the firm for which it was originally constructed, The New England Butt Company. Organized in 1842, the company established a small complex at Pearl, Perkins, and Rice streets before 1849. The firm, which originally manufactured cast iron butt hinges, turned to the manufacture of braiding machinery about 1880, when the introduction to the market of less costly stamped-metal butts rendered cast iron ones obsolete.

See continuation sheet 64

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The company continues to manufacture braiding machinery under the New England Butt Company name although it was purchased by the Wanskuck Company, another local firm, in 1955. The longevity of the survival of the New England Butt Company and its affiliated buildings is an increasingly rare phenomenon in the annals of economic and industrial history.

- 6. Acreage: about 2 acres.
- 7. Plat 30, lot 22.
- 8. UTM reference: 19 298760 4631860
- 9. Level of significance; state

