NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 any 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 Harris Mill

other names/site number Harris Cotton Mill Corporation, Harris Manufacturing Company, Interlaken Mills Corporation

2. Location

street & number 618 Main Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Coventry ☐ vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Kent code 003 zip code 02816-7870

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ other (explain)

Harris Mill
Name of Property

Kent County, Rhode Island
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- ☒ buildings
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation STONE: Granite
walls STONE: Granite
roof ASPHALT
other BRICK

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

Harris Mill
Name of Property

Kent County, Rhode Island
County and State

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.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1850 - 1953

Significant Dates

1850 - Construction
1900 - Sale of the Harris Mill to Interlaken Mills, Inc.
1953 - End of cotton production at Harris Mill

Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
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 36) 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 # No Number On Card

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State Agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository
RI Historical Society, Providence Public Library.

Harris Mill
Name of Property

Kent County, Rhode Island
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.29 acres

UTM References
(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	19	289003	4622261
2	19	289124	4622166
3	19	289055	4622078
4	19	289931	4622143

☐ See continuation sheet

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 Matthew Kierstead, Industrial Historian

organization PAL, Inc. date September, 2006

street & number 210 Lonsdale Avenue telephone 401-728-8780

city or town Pawtucket state Rhode Island zip code 02860

Additional Documentation

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.)

name Gerald Diodati

street & number 1 Victoria Mount, Building 3 telephone 401-437-3674

city or town Johnston state RI zip code 02919

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 amend 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 2050

DESCRIPTION

Summary

(Note: for clarity, the Main Street elevation of the mill is considered the south elevation)

The Harris Mill is a historic textile mill complex located on the north side of Main Street in the village of Harris in the extreme northeastern corner of the town of Coventry, Rhode Island. The mill complex is located on the north bank of the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River, and occupies 4.29 acres on two contiguous parcels bordered by commercial Main Street to the south, residential Harris Street to the west, Mill Street to the north, and Broad Street to the east. The mill is approximately one-quarter mile northwest of the village of Phenix in the town of West Warwick, and one-half mile southeast of the Interlaken Mill in Coventry, which Harris Mill was associated with in the twentieth century.

The complex includes one contributing building, the Mill, and one contributing structure, the Headrace, both associated with the historical development of the property between 1850 and 1953, its period of significance. The mill consists of 10 connected component buildings: the Main Mill and its North Addition (Building No. 1), the Spinning Mill (Building No. 2), Weave Shed (Building No. 3), Boiler House (Building No. 4), another Boiler House (Building No. 5), Engine House (Building No. 6), Pump Room (Building No. 7), Waste House (Building No. 8), and Picker House (Building No. 9). The land falls gently to the southeast from a high point at the northwest corner of the property at the intersection of Harris and Mill streets, resulting in greater exposure of the lower portions of the south and east elevations of the buildings from northwest to southeast. The single contributing structure, the Headrace, is a partially watered, 160 ft long, concrete and masonry-lined trench located between Harris Street and the Picker House. Two buildings located opposite the mill property on the south side of Main Street, the Opener Room (Building No. 12) and the Store House (Building No. 13) have been heavily altered resulting in a loss of integrity of historic fabric. Associated discontiguous waterpower infrastructure including a section of headrace and a granite block dam are located southwest across Harris Street and Main Street. These buildings and waterpower features are not included in this nomination.

The property is surrounded by complete or partial sidewalks on all sides, and protected by a chain-link fence on all but the east side, where the Weave Shed rises from the edge of the sidewalk. There are vehicle gates providing access to large paved parking lots on the south, west, and north sides of the property, and a paved alley running between the mill buildings connects the north and south sides of the property.

The Harris Mill has an irregular footprint, reflecting the organic growth of the complex starting in 1850 with construction of the north-south-oriented 1850 Main Mill on the west side the property. Nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century additions and building orientation were dictated by the need for efficient

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centralized power generation and distribution and materials transport between the component buildings of the mill, and were also constrained by the streets bounding the lot.

The Harris Mill buildings share a common vocabulary of building materials and architectural features common to mid-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century New England textile mill construction including gabled and flat roofs; parged rubblestone and exposed brick walls, and fire-resistive wood and/or steel frame interior construction with sawn and/or hewn timber members. A notable feature is the decorative quality of the masonry treatment on the parged rubblestone-walled buildings flanking the paved alley bisecting the site, which include brick window and door surrounds, some with quoins, with quarry-faced granite lintels and/or sills.

The mill is currently partially occupied by several commercial concerns including a self-storage facility, a furniture store, and rental office space. The interior spaces have been stripped of all historic textile machinery, however, some retain minor evidence of power transmission features. The cluster of powerhouse buildings west of the paved alley at the center of the complex retain a notable collection of well-preserved examples of historic power generation machinery including a water turbine, vertical tube boilers, steam- and water-powered electrical generators, and electrical switchgear.

The following component building descriptions follow the growth of the Harris Mill in chronological order as determined by historical sources including atlases, fire insurance maps, and visual inspection. The building names, numbers, and dimensions used in this description are taken from Factory Mutual Insurance Company maps for the Harris Mill complex.

Main Mill (Building No. 1) (original 1850 Section)

The Main Mill is located toward the west side of the property, facing Harris Street to the west. The Main Mill consists of two attached buildings, the original 1850 Harris Mill, described here, and the ca. 1870 North Addition that completely obscures the north elevation of the 1850 mill and extends north to Mill Street (described separately below). The 1850 mill is a three-and-one-half-story, rectangular, 21-bay, 172 ft north-south by 4-bay, 48-foot wide east-west building. A four-and-one-half-story stair tower is attached to the west facade, with ten bays exposed south of the tower and eight bays exposed north of the tower. The two northernmost bays on the west elevation are obscured by a later freight elevator tower built in the corner at the junction between the 1850 mill and the ca. 1870 North Addition. A toilet tower is located at the center of the east elevation, opposite the stair tower.

The building has a moderate pitch gable roof with a full length gable monitor, both sheathed in asphalt shingles. The monitor roof includes ogee-profile molding at the gutter line, a deep soffit with a tall plank fascia with ogee-profile crown molding at the soffit, a continuous band of six-light fixed wood sash separated by wide vertical planks, and a simple coffered panel at the ends and flanking the tower. The

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monitor and the main roof have deep cornice returns with simple, paneled pilasters at the corners of the monitor. The trim of the main roof is similar to the monitor trim, but with components of slightly larger proportions. The tower has a shallow pyramidal roof sheathed in asphalt shingles that replaces an earlier belfry, no longer extant.

The walls and foundation are built of parged rubblestone with horizontal rows of diamond-shaped, cast iron anchor washers at the interior floor beam lines. On the south elevation, centered between the third story and attic windows, is a dressed granite block that bears the date "1850." The window openings are regularly spaced and approximately one-third as wide as the piers between them. The window openings have thick split quarry-faced granite lintels and narrower split granite sills that extend horizontally beyond the window openings.

Many of the window openings are covered with a variety of materials including stuccoed concrete block, painted plywood, and modern vinyl double-hung replacement sash. The building retains a number of historic, 16-over-12-light, double-hung, pegged wood sash with wide, wood brick mold with a simple bead detail, and heavy wood sills. Examples of these sash are prevalent on the ground story of the west elevation, and the first and second stories on the south end of the east elevation.

The exterior stair tower on the west elevation has a single door opening on each story with monolithic granite lintels, sills and piers. The ground level opening contains a modern, insulated steel entry door with a single, rectangular wire-glass pane. The three upper story openings each contain a set of wood double doors with four vertical rectangular panels in a cruciform pattern. All of the doors are deeply set into the granite openings. The windows on the south elevation of the west stair tower are 12-over-12-light, double-hung, pegged wood sash.

On the east elevation, directly opposite the west stair tower, is a late-nineteenth-century toilet tower. The tower is one bay wide north-south by two bays wide east-west, with tall, narrow window openings with granite lintels and sills containing four-over-one-light, double-hung wood sash. The north elevation of the tower is blank. The second story of south elevation is obscured by a wood frame overhead bridge that connects the Main Mill to the Spinning Mill to the east.

On the west elevation, south of the stair tower, is a modern, low, rectangular concrete enclosure at ground level. South of this is a six-bay-long, masonry-lined basement light well. On the south elevation, a distinctive, double switchback fire escape constructed of bolted and riveted structural steel is located in the two center bays. The fire escape has landings constructed of a steel strap frame with wood plank decking and steep, ladder-like stairs with steel strap railings. On the east elevation, the southernmost bay of the first and second stories is obscured by the Picker House. The second and third southern window openings have been removed to accommodate a low, wide doorway with a steel lintel that originally opened into a small shed. The remnants of its modern, poured concrete foundation remain. The fourth

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bay from the south end contains an original rope drive opening with quoins and a segmental arch brick lintel, now filled in with brick. A section of the ground level elevation to the north is partially obscured by a flat roof, one-story connection to Boiler House No. 5. North of this one-story connection, just south of the toilet tower, is a small open rectangular area with an open brick-lined sump pit and a small first story connector to Boiler House No. 4 that has concrete walls, a shed roof, and board-and-batten siding.

The interior spaces of the first, second, and third floors of the Main Mill are divided into two longitudinal aisles by a single central row of round wood posts, supporting transverse wood beams. Ceiling materials on those floors consist of the exposed underside of splined, beaded floor planks of varying widths. Most interior surfaces including masonry, ceilings, and structure are painted with the exception of some surfaces stripped by modern sandblasting. The floor surfaces have a maple or pine plank, nailed wearing layer, with the exception of the first floor, which is a concrete slab.

The primary feature of the fourth floor, or attic level, is the exposed, painted, king post truss framing system built of sawn, chamfered timbers joined with oak pegs. Some of the outer diagonal substruts have been replaced with cast iron or steel pipe brackets. Modern homasote panels have been installed between the rafters. The panels are absent in several locations where framing indicates the locations of possible skylights. The east and west walls incorporate trim including a continuous lintel and sill for the band of monitor windows, with a chair rail and horizontal wood planks between the window sills and the beaded baseboard. The floor consists of pine or maple planks laid transverse to the long axis of the building, with two aisles of planks laid longitudinally.

The second and third floors are divided into north and south areas by a modern transverse hallway with sheetrock walls at the center of the building that connects the stair tower with the toilet tower. The south half of the third floor retains its open floor plan and houses a slot-car race track clubhouse. The room has deep window openings with wood trim including a plank frame and lintel with a shallow segmental arch and pediment. Trim also includes a continuous chair rail under the window frames and beaded baseboard molding. The floor has been covered with plywood. The structural members, ceilings, and window frames of this enclosed area were aggressively sandblasted during a prior rehabilitation. At the south end of this room the ceiling incorporates additional framing elements, shaft hanger bolt holes in the beams, and rectangular holes in the deck planks. This appears to have been the location of a main shaft pulley that transmitted power to the attic via a wide belt running through the floor, and is located above the main belt drive wheels in the south end of the basement. The north half of the third floor has been partitioned into offices off a double-loaded corridor that have sheetrock walls and carpeted floors. The south half of the second floor has also been converted to modern offices. The north half of the second floor is partially divided into older modern offices with wood paneling on the walls.

The first floor retains its original open floor plan with the exception of some small modern office partitions on the east and south walls. Thirteen of the round wood posts have been replaced with vertical

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steel I-beams. The first floor has the same plank window surrounds and chair rail as the upper floors; however the chair rail is not continuous between the windows. All surfaces are painted, and the floor is a concrete slab. A small basement occupies a few bays at the south end of the building, and contains an Allis-Chalmers dynamo and associated belt drive wheels.

The west (stair) tower lobby at the attic level has a plank ceiling, deep chamfered beams, multiple beaded horizontal plank rails on the walls, plank window frames with deep sills, a continuous chair rail with a half round lip, cove molding, and beaded baseboard. The stairs from the attic to the third floor feature a chair rail and baseboard that match the lobby area above, and a historic wood staircase with wood treads, risers, and turned balusters. The third floor stair lobby has a plank ceiling, deep chamfered beams, plank window frames with deep sills, and beaded baseboard. All of the trim of the third floor lobby has been aggressively sandblasted. The floor of the lobby area consists of untreated plywood. The stairs from the third floor to the second floor have been modernized with wood paneling and modern handrails. The second floor stair lobby has plank ceiling, deep chamfered beams, plank window frames with deep sills, and beaded baseboard that match the third floor lobby. The wood plank floor of this area is covered with vinyl roll flooring. The stairs from the second floor to the first floor have been modernized with wood paneling, and modern handrails. The lobby of the stair tower ground floor has been extensively modernized, and retains no historic trim. The east toilet tower is empty and unaltered at the attic level, and contains modern lavatories on the three floors below.

The Main Mill, along with the west section of the connected Picker House (Building No. 9) to the southeast and the Headrace, were all built in 1850 and are the oldest resources at the Harris Mill site. The Main Mill originally housed all carding, spooling, spinning, speeders, and weaving operations until construction of the Main Mill North Addition and the later Spinning Mill (Building No. 2) in 1883. According to the 1911 Sanborn fire insurance map, the Main Mill at that time had carding machines on the first floor, spooling machines on the second floor, and mule spinning machines on the third floor. By 1922, eleven years after construction of the Weave Shed (Building No. 3), carding was still taking place on the first floor, frame spinning and speeders were located on the second floor, and speeders were on the third floor. Some operations then spread out to other buildings, with spooling and some spinning operations in the 1883 Spinning Mill.

Headrace (1850)

The Headrace is an approximately 160 ft long section of open, partially watered power canal located at the west side of the property, between Harris Street and the west face of the Picker House. It is divided into two sections separated by a bulkhead wall and gate structure. The west two-thirds is watered and has vertical poured reinforced concrete walls stabilized by two transverse concrete beams above the waterline. This section ends at a transverse concrete bulkhead wall opposite the southwest corner of the Main Mill. This bulkhead incorporates a footbridge with a steel grate deck and angle iron railing. A badly

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deteriorated timber vertical stem slide gate structure is located immediately east of the footbridge and bulkhead. East of the concrete bulkhead and gate structure, the headrace opens into a dry forebay with mortared granite block walls that extend to a riveted sheet iron penstock in the west foundation of the Picker House. The penstock extends down at a shallow angle into the former wheel pit. A vertical shaft Leffel-type turbine is located at the bottom of the penstock tube. Historical maps indicate a covered tailrace extending south from the south elevation of the Picker House to Main Street and then extending southeast at an angle under Main Street to an outfall at the Pawtuxet River. This tailrace structure is buried, not visible, and its extent and condition are unknown.

The Headrace was built in 1850 at the same time as the Main Mill, and provided the head of water to run the earliest waterpower generation equipment at Harris Mill. This equipment consisted of a turbine (in situ) (and possibly an earlier waterwheel) located in the basement of what is now the west section of the Picker House (Building No. 9). The shaft and gearing system that transferred the mechanical power from the wheel to the main lineshafting in the Main Mill is located in the first floor of the west section of the Picker House.

Picker House (Building No. 9) (1850 with ca. 1915 addition)

The Picker House is located southeast of the Main Mill, south of the Engine House. It is a rectangular, 10-bay, 67 ft long east-west, by 47 ft wide north-south building consisting of two sections attached by a wide overhead bridge. The west section ("wheelhouse"), built at the same time as the 1850 Main Mill, is attached to the southeast corner of the Main Mill, at the east, downstream end of the Headrace, and contains a ground-level wheel room where the waterpower turbine and drive gears and shafts are located. The east section ("Picker House addition"), added about 1915, is attached to the south end of the Waste House. A full-width overhead bridge, which is part of the east addition, forms a first-story tunnel through the middle of the building, which provides passage between the north and south sides of the property via a paved alley. Although the east addition was built about 1915, its construction included a parged outer finish and granite trim, which smoothly integrates it into the two mid-nineteenth-century stone buildings it connects.

The west wheelhouse section is a rectangular, two-and-one-half-story, three-bay long east-west by two-bay wide north-south building with a shallow gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles, with parged rubblestone walls with granite block window lintels and sills. The wood roof trim of the west section is identical to that on the Main Mill, including the ogee-profile molding at the gutter line, a deep soffit with a tall plank fascia, ogee-profile molding at the soffit, and deep gable returns.

The south elevation contains six window openings. The two second-story openings contain original six-over-six-light, double-hung wood sash with the same flat, wide, beaded brick mold found on the Main Mill. The remaining south elevation window openings are filled with painted plywood. On the north

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elevation there are five window openings, three on the second story and two in the upper gable. These contain original twelve-over-twelve-light, double-hung wood sash. The sole window on the east elevation is a single fixed, 12-light wood window located in the southern bay of the first story. The west elevation of the wheelhouse is unfenestrated and contains a broad, recessed, segmental arch above the brick foundation wall containing the turbine penstock.

The center bay of the south elevation is a hoist bay, with deep doorways with a quarter round brick mold, framed with quarry-faced granite blocks. The first story hoist doorway is blocked by a plywood panel, and the second story hoist doorway contains a set of wood double doors with diagonal tongue-in-groove plank panels. On the east elevation first story, the north bay contains a wood plank door. The north elevation contains two doors, one on the first story containing a wood replacement door in an original opening with granite lintel and sill, and one on the second story in the easternmost bay containing a wood and glass entry door and a set of wood stairs.

The interior roof framing of the west wheelhouse section incorporates a row of exposed king post trusses built of sawn and chamfered members joined by oak pegs, and incorporates closely spaced rafters. The space between the rafters is filled with beaded tongue-in-groove wood plank with a quarter round trim at the perimeter. The windows on the north and south walls retain their original wood trim including a plank frame with deep sill, and a segmental arch with a shallow pediment. The walls of the interior space are painted plaster. The floor surfaces are narrow pine or maple planks. A modern office enclosure with wood stud and sheetrock walls is located in the east-center section of the space.

The ca. 1915 Picker House addition to the east is a rectangular, two-story, four-bay by four-bay building with a built-up, sloping shed roof. Roof trim consists of ogee-profile molding and a simple plank soffit and fascia. The walls are parged rubblestone. The window openings are tall and rectangular, wider than the spandrels, and have quarry-faced granite lintels and sills that extend beyond the window openings. The window openings on the first story contain vinyl replacement casement windows within a plywood filler panel, while the second story openings contain painted plywood but retain their original wood brick mold. On the west elevation of the Picker House addition are two doorways with brick quoins with granite lintels and sills, flanking a single window opening. The north opening contains a pair of original wood doors with diagonal tongue-in-groove panels, and the south opening contains a wood and glass entry door with tongue-in-groove lower panels.

A prominent historic industrial feature of the Picker House is the broad, squat, rectangular, exterior, red brick “chimney” centered on the east elevation. This structure is indicated on fire insurance maps as a “dust flue.” The dust flue has a slight taper toward the top, a shallow corbel with a single brick string course, and a narrow, bush-hammered granite cap. In the first story of the east elevation is a single doorway with a quarry-faced granite lintel and heavy cast iron hinges. This doorway is covered by a

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plywood panel. The dust flue was associated with collecting dust from the air in the rooms where the cotton picking machines operated, which were typically very dusty areas.

The bridge connecting the second stories of the west and east sections of the Picker House was built as part of the addition about 1915. The bridge is three bays wide by two bays deep and extends across the entire width of the east side of the wheelhouse section. The sloping, built-up roof of the bridge is continuous with the roof on the rest of the Picker House addition. The walls of the bridge are sheathed in parged rubblestone with tall, rectangular window openings with quarry-faced sills and lintels. The window openings contain ten-over-ten-light, double-hung wood sash with an elliptical brick mold. The bridge is built on six rolled iron I-beam stringers which support a floor deck of transverse, splined, beaded deck planks. The two outer beams are deeper than the inner beams. The inner beams are set on cast iron shoes that are mortared into the exterior walls of the east addition and west wheelhouse sections of the building. The interior space of the bridge is open with a single north-south row of round wood posts supporting the junction of the wheelhouse roof trusses and bridge roof beams. The second floor of the east addition has been converted to a machine shop and storage area and is separated from the bridge and wheelhouse section by a wood stud and wire partition wall. The original surfaces in the north half of the first floor of the east addition are exposed including the splined, beaded ceiling planks, deep beams and exposed masonry walls. The south half of the east addition has been converted to office space with modern wood stud and sheetrock walls.

The Picker House was built in sections from west to east. The west, gable-roofed section, which served as the wheelhouse, was built in 1850 and housed the waterpower generation equipment at Harris Mill. This equipment consisted of a turbine (in situ) (and, possibly, an earlier waterwheel) located in the basement. The system that transferred the mechanical power from the wheel to the main lineshafting in the Main Mill consists of a vertical shaft off the turbine, beveled 90-degree transfer gears, and a horizontal shaft with a beltwheel. The beltwheel drove a wide drive belt that passed through the northwest corner of the building into the basement of the Main Mill where another set of beltwheels are located that drove the lineshafting, and later, the Allis-Chalmers dynamo located in the southeast corner of the Main Mill basement. The 1911 Sanborn fire insurance map indicates that the west section housed picking operations on the first and second floors, and a waterwheel in the basement. By the 1922 map, after the building had been expanded, the building contained a carpenter's shop on the second floor, and picking operations on the first floor.

Waste House (Building No. 8) (by 1870)

The Waste House, originally a freestanding building, is attached to the north side of the east addition to the Picker House, south of the Spinning Mill and east of the Engine House. The Waste House and Picker House addition are separated by a brick firebreak wall topped by a terra cotta drain tile coping that partially projects from the east elevation. The Waste House is a rectangular, five bay, 45 ft long north-

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south by two bay, 32 ft wide east-west building. It has a moderate-pitch gable roof sheathed in green asphalt shingles, and wood trim including an ogee-profile molding at the gutter line and a simple plank soffit and fascia. The exterior walls of the building are constructed of parged rubblestone with window and door openings featuring brick quoins and brick segmental arch lintels, with some rectangular windows with quarry-faced granite sills and lintels. On the east elevation, the second story west window opening is rectangular and contains eight-over-twelve-light double hung wood sash, while the remainder of the windows on the second and first story are shorter, segmental arch openings containing eight-light wood sash units. The north bay of the second story is obscured by a modern steel frame, corrugated metal-clad connector ramp leading to the Spinning Mill. The south bay of the first story is a doorway containing original wood double doors with four fixed lights over two tongue-in-groove plank panels, sheltered by a small shed roof awning. On the north elevation, the ground story is obscured by the Pump Room, and the exposed second story wall contains two short square window openings with granite sills and lintels with wood plank panels with inset six-light window sash and iron strap hinges, and a similar attic window with metal louvers under the gable. On the west elevation, the south bay of the first story is a doorway containing original wood double doors with three tongue-in-groove plank panels. The rest of the west elevation is blank, with a portion of the south upper wall obscured by the Picker House addition bridge. A horizontal row of diamond-shaped cast iron floor beam anchor washers are located at the floor beam line on the east and west elevations.

The interior of the second floor is a clear-span space without columns with the roof supported by four exposed king post trusses with diagonal braces at the outer ends and radiating up and out from the bases of the king posts. The horizontal beams of the trusses are hand hewn with prominent adze marks, while all other structural members are sawn. All truss connections are mortise and tenon joints joined with oak pegs. The spaces between the roof rafters are filled with beaded tongue-in-groove wood planks. The floors are wide pine plank, covered by steel diamond plate panels. A modern toilet enclosure is located in the southeast corner of the space. A historical wood staircase with plank treads and risers and a simple wood handrail is centered on the south wall. The first floor is divided into two longitudinal aisles by a single, centered row of round wood and vertical steel I-beam posts that support four transverse, hand hewn beams with prominent adze marks. The first floor space has a concrete slab floor and painted parged walls. The space was last used as the mill pipe shop and still includes longitudinal pipe storage racks and a turret lathe on the west wall. The south wall includes a wide doorway leading into the ground level of the Picker House addition that includes a metal-clad sliding fire door.

The first map evidence for a building of this size at this location appears in the 1870 Beers Atlas. The hand-hewn interior timber construction may indicate an earlier construction date, possibly as early as 1850, contemporaneous with the Main Mill. Sanborn fire insurance maps for 1911 and 1922 indicate the building as a “cotton house.”

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Main Mill North Addition (ca. 1870)

The Main Mill North Addition extends north from the north end of the 1850 Main Mill, and its north elevation rises from the south edge of Mill Street. It is a rectangular, three-story, ten bay, 91 ft north-south by seven bay, 71 ft east-west building. The east elevation is flush with that of the Main Mill, and the west elevation projects 26 feet west of the Main Mill. An original, four-story, one-bay-by one-bay freight elevator tower with a flat roof and parged rubblestone walls is located on the south elevation of the addition, in the angle between the two buildings.

The Main Mill North Addition has a flat, built up roof with modern, metal flashing at the gutter line, a simple ogee-profile molding, a deep overhanging plank soffit, and exposed, beveled rafter tails. The walls of the addition are built of parged rubblestone. The large, rectangular window openings are twice as wide as the piers, and have thick quarry-faced granite lintels and thinner sills that both extend horizontally beyond the sides of the openings. No historic wood sash remain, and the window openings are filled with painted plywood, parged concrete block, bare concrete block, full-size single- and multiple-pane fixed aluminum sash, and single- and multiple-pane vinyl and aluminum fixed replacement sash set into plywood surrounds. Historic photographs indicate that the building originally had 15-over-15 light, double-hung wood sash windows. All window openings in the freight elevator tower are filled with parged concrete block.

Entrances are located on the west and north sides of the building. These openings have deep, monolithic frames of quarry-faced granite. The central bay of the north elevation is a vertical hoist bay with large stacked openings on all three stories. The third story opening is completely filled with parged concrete block, the second story opening is partially filled and contains a small replacement window, and the first story opening is covered with plywood. On the west elevation, a doorway is located in the second bay north of the south end. It contains paneled wood double doors set deeply into the opening with a plywood-covered transom, and retains a historic quarter-round wood brickmold. A plywood panel covers the existing glass lights. The freight elevator doorway in the south elevation of the freight elevator tower is filled with parged concrete block.

On the west elevation, a modern welded steel fire escape extends up diagonally to the north, with landings at the second and third stories. Each of the upper story fire doors off the fire escape landings consists of a modern steel door set into a modern concrete block surround in an original window opening. On the east elevation, the entire first story is obscured by a modern addition with a flat roof, steel frame, corrugated metal siding, and two wood personnel doors and a paneled wood garage door.

(continued)

The interior floor spaces are divided into three longitudinal aisles by two rows of round wood posts, supporting transverse wood beams. Ceiling materials consist of the exposed underside of splined, beaded floor and roof decking planks. The third floor, now vacant, has been remodeled for open office space with carpeted floors, applied texture coating on outer walls, and aggressively sandblasted posts, beams, and ceiling. The second floor space is also vacant and has not been remodeled. The first floor has a concrete slab floor and is currently occupied by a furniture sales showroom.

According to the 1911 Sanborn fire insurance map, the Main Mill North Addition housed a cotton room on the first floor, frame spinning on the second floor, and speeders on the third floor. There is no indication of function on the 1922 Sanborn map.

Spinning Mill (Building No. 2) (1883)

The Spinning Mill is located at the center of the mill complex, west of the Weave Shed and north of the Waste House. It is a two-story, rectangular, 15-bay, 175 ft long east-west by 6-bay, 75 ft wide north-south building with a partially exposed basement on the south elevation. It has a flat, built-up roof with modern metal flashing at the gutter line, and a simple plank fascia. The absence of any overhang or exposed rafter tails indicates that the roof may have been replaced and the roof beams altered. The walls are parged rubblestone with tall, rectangular window openings with narrow piers. Window openings have segmental arch lintels of three header courses of brick and quarry-faced granite sills. A flat-roofed toilet tower is located just east of center on the north elevation. Tower materials including walls, trim, window lintels and sills all match the materials used in the rest of the building. The tower window openings have all been filled with parged concrete block, except for a single opening at the basement level filled with painted plywood.

The window openings in the Spinning Mill contain a mix of original wood sash, bare concrete block, parged concrete block, and single and multiple pane replacement windows within plywood surrounds. Approximately a dozen original wood sash remain, most concentrated at the ground story on the west and north elevations. These windows consist of paired, nine-over-nine-light, double-hung wood windows with a prominent vertical division, with half-arched right and left upper sections. On the south elevation, every third bay contains a short segmental arch basement window opening containing an original three-light wood sash.

Entrances are located on all exposed sides of the building. The only original doorway is centered on the west elevation, under an overhead bridge connecting to the Main Mill, and consists of a tall segmental arched opening containing an original paneled and glazed wood door flanked by sidelights, with the area above the door filled with tongue-in-groove beaded planks. The doorway retains its original beveled brick mold and massive bush-hammered granite steps. On the south elevation, a modern, two-story, flat-roofed, one-bay square stair tower with stucco-clad concrete block walls, was constructed after 1956.

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This stair tower provides access from ground level to the second story only via a pair of steel personnel doors with single-pane windows. On the north elevation, west of the toilet tower, is a four-bay long, modern raised truck loading dock with a steel-frame, corrugated metal awning. The masonry under the two window openings closed to the tower has been removed to create a loading door and personnel door for a loading dock.

An original, one-story, one-bay wide, enclosed overhead bridge connects the second stories of the Spinning Mill and the Main Mill. The bridge has a flat, built-up roof, with a simple plank cornice and soffit and exposed rafter tails. It has a timber frame, and walls sheathed in a mix of original stamped metal tiles and modern vinyl siding. The north and south elevations contain a single one-over-one-light, double-hung, vinyl replacement window.

Projecting from the west end of the south elevation is a rectangular, 23 ft by 17 ft, partially subterranean building with parged rubblestone walls, and a shallow gable roof consisting of a later concrete slab. The building has a single, centered window opening with a quarry-faced granite sill on the south elevation. On the opposite, east end of the south elevation and east of the modern stair tower, is a free-standing concrete block walled pit containing a modern process water tank sheltered by a steel frame with corrugated plastic roofing.

The interior floors of Mill No. 2 are divided into three longitudinal aisles by two rows of 15 round wood posts that support 15 transverse, deep, sawn wood beams with chamfered corners. Each ceiling bay is subdivided by an additional transverse beam. The second floor has been partitioned with multiple modern private offices with wood stud, sheetrock and paneled walls; suspended acoustical tile ceilings; and carpeted floors. At the southeast corner of the second floor are a modern wheelchair ramp and a modern staircase leading down to the first floor and across to the third floor of the adjacent Weave Shed. An original wood staircase is located in the southwest corner. The frame of the first floor is exposed, and includes elaborate cast iron pockets at the tops of the posts. The ceiling consists of the exposed underside of transverse, beaded, splined floor decking, with a quarter-round molding inside the perimeter of each ceiling bay. Evidence of machinery drive includes multiple rows of threaded line shafting pins on the undersides of the beams, rows of corresponding pairs of drive belt slots cut into the ceilings, and later steel ceiling framing for electrical belt drive motors. The walls of the first floor are painted plaster over wood lath, with a wood bead molding set into the plaster at the edges of window openings. The window openings are deeply recessed with sloping sills. The entire first floor has been converted to rental storage space with wood stud and corrugated metal-walled storage units that do not extend to the ceiling. At the southwest corner of the first floor space is a cast concrete ramp that leads to the elevated, modern connecting bridge to the Waste House. A set of wide fire doors in the east wall provide access to the Weave Shed. The full basement consists of a high crawlspace with a dirt floor, with two rows of square, mortared granite block piers supporting the structure above.

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According to the 1911 Sanborn fire insurance map, the Spinning Mill housed weaving operations on the first and second floors, with a slasher room at the west end of the second floor. The small one-story projection on the south elevation is marked "steam box" on the 1911 map, and possibly contained equipment for conditioning yarn or fabric or the atmosphere in the building. The 1922 Sanborn map indicates that the building housed spinning and slashing on the first floor, and spooling and warping on the first and second floors, reflecting the shifting of weaving operations to the 1912 Weave Shed to the east.

Boiler House (Building No. 4) (1903 et seq.)

Boiler House (Building No. 4) is located east of the Mill No. 1 North Addition, and west of and across the paved alley from the Spinning Mill. It is attached to Boiler House (Building No. 5) on its south side, with the two buildings separated by a brick firebreak wall capped with glazed drain tile coping that projects above the rooflines of both buildings. Boiler House (Building No. 4) is a rectangular, five-bay, 91 ft long north-south by two-bay, 27 ft wide east-west, high one-story, flat roofed, masonry-walled building. It has a built-up "flat" mill roof with a subtle longitudinal crown for drainage, wood ogee-profile molding, modern metal flashing at the gutter line, a simple wood plank soffit and exposed rafter tails with an ogee detail. A full length, flat-roofed, box monitor with ogee-profile molding at the cornice and shingled ends is located on the west edge of the roof. The east side of the monitor is covered with square plywood panels, and the west side contains a row of nine-light moveable sash windows. The exterior walls are built of parged rubblestone. Masonry trim includes brick doorway piers with segmental arch lintels, and brick window frames with projecting quarry-faced granite lintels and sills. Window sash is original with a row of double-hung, wood, 12-over-12-light units on the upper section of the east and north walls, and a single eight-over-eight sash window on the ground level of those same elevations. The window openings retain their original elliptical brick mold. There are four wide segmental arch doorways in the east elevation, each containing a historical vertically sliding wood door divided into four blank panels at the bottom and eight lights above. A single wider doorway is located in the east bay of the north elevation and includes an inset personnel door. All of these doorways have sheet iron pier guards.

Although the exterior of the building contains two levels of windows, the interior consists of a single uninterrupted vertical space. The ceiling consists of the exposed underside of the heavy, splined roof planks, supported by five transverse chamfered wood beams. A set of tall, steep cast iron stairs in the northwest corner provides access to an elevated metal catwalk along the west wall, under the box monitor. The interior walls are parged and painted. The floor level is approximately 4 ft below grade and is covered with a mix of poured concrete slab and brick. The building contains a row of three riveted sheet iron 225 hp Manning vertical tube boilers (no longer in use) along the west wall. Some areas of the floor are poured concrete slab, with a brick apron with a row of granite blocks in front of the ash pits for the vertical tube boilers. A single modern, horizontal Packard boiler is located in the southeast corner of the room, and an emergency backup diesel generator is located in the northwest corner of the room.

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The boiler flues converge on the west side of the building where they pass into a 100-foot tall, round chimney constructed of glazed red tile block with a concrete cap. The top of the chimney has a multiple-course brick corbel and is stabilized by three sets of steel bands. The upper steel band incorporates four copper lightning rods with copper wire conductors running down the sides of the chimney.

The 1903 Sanborn fire insurance map indicates that this building first served as a "coal house" attached to a small boiler room immediately to the west with a 75 ft high square brick chimney (both no longer extant), north of the overhead bridge between the Main Mill and the Spinning Mill. By 1911, according to the Sanborn map for that year, Boiler House (Building No. 5) had been constructed immediately to the south of the coal house, and had a 100 ft tall brick chimney. The 1922 Sanborn map indicates that the coal house had by then been expanded to the north and modified and to its present configuration, containing three vertical tube boilers (in situ).

Boiler House (Building No. 5) (By 1911)

Boiler House (Building No. 5) is located east of Mill No. 1's east toilet tower, and west of and across the paved alley from the Spinning Mill. It is located between and attached to Boiler House (Building No. 4) to the north and the Engine House (Building No. 6) to the south, with the two buildings separated by brick firebreak walls, leaving only the east and west elevations of the building exposed. Boiler House (Building No. 5) is a rectangular, three-bay, 34 ft long north-south by two-bay, 36 ft wide east-west, high one-story, flat roofed, masonry-walled building. It has a built-up "flat" mill roof, lower than the roof of adjacent Boiler House No. 4, with wood ogee-profile molding, modern metal flashing at the gutter line, a simple wood plank soffit and exposed rafter tails. The elevated pedestrian bridge connecting the Main Mill and the Spinning Mill passes through the roof of the building.

The only window opening in the building is located low on the west elevation, in a pit immediately south of the junction of the building with the Main Mill toilet tower, and contains an eight-over-eight-light, double-hung wood sash window with quarry-faced granite lintel and sill. On the east elevation, the center and north ground level bays contain paired wide door openings with brick surrounds including a shared brick center pier and segmental arch lintels of three courses of header laid bricks. Each opening contains a historical vertical sliding wood door with four fixed lights in the top half and two rectangular panels in the bottom half. The south bay contains a door opening with brick piers, granite lintel and sill, and a modern wood door with an upper single light and three horizontal, rectangular panels below.

The interior consists of a single open vertical space. The floor is a poured, engineered concrete slab floor with raised concrete machinery pads and sunken drainage trenches covered with steel diamond plate. The walls are parged and painted masonry, with doorways in the north and south walls connecting to adjacent Boiler House (Building No. 4) to the north and Engine House (Building No. 6) to the south. An interior

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structural steel post and girder system supports a variety of machinery and associated piping. The underside of the section of the upper story bridge connecting the Main Mill with the Spinning Mill is covered with fireproof cement over metal lath.
Boiler House (Building No. 5) was built to replace an earlier, smaller boiler house (no longer extant) located north of the overhead bridge connecting the Main Mill with the Spinning Mill. It originally housed four horizontal boilers. The boilers were eventually supplanted by the three vertical boilers in adjacent Boiler House (Building No. 4) to the north. The room now contains electrically driven oil and water pumps, air compressors and an Ingersoll-Rand single cylinder process water heater.

Engine House (Building No. 6) (By 1911)

The Engine House is located east of the Main Mill, west of and across the paved alley from the Spinning Mill, and attached to the south side of the Boiler House (Building No. 5) to the north. From the exterior it appears to be two connected buildings, however, it is actually a roughly L-shaped building with an open interior plan measuring 57 ft long north-south by 38 ft wide east-west. The building can be divided into two sections with flush west walls, with a narrower north section and a wider south section, with the south section projecting several feet east into the paved alley past the north section. The north section is only exposed on its east and west elevations, and the south section is also exposed on its south elevation. Both sections have shallow-pitch, built-up gable roofs with deep overhanging soffits with exposed rafter tails. An box monitor with covered windows is located on an east-west axis on the roof of the south section where it meets the roof of the north section. The walls are constructed of parged rubblestone with quarry-faced granite lintels and sills at the window openings, and quoined brick piers with segmental arches at the door openings.

The north section has a four-bay-wide east elevation with four window openings on the second story level containing eight-over-eight-light, double-hung wood sash with an elliptical brickmold. The three-bay first story includes two windows with similar sash, and the north bay contains a set of wood double doors with rectangular panels on the lower section and nine fixed lights above. The west elevation is mostly blank with the exception of an eight-over-eight-light, double-hung wood sash window in an opening with granite sill and lintel on the upper wall at the north end. A large portion of the lower west wall is occupied by a wide passageway connecting to the Main Mill to the west. It is a one-bay wide structure with a flat, built-up roof, parged rubblestone walls and a single window opening with brick sides and bush hammered granite lintel and quarry faced sill containing a 12-light wood sash window.

The south section has a two-bay wide east elevation with eight-over-eight-light, double-hung wood sash windows in the second story. The east elevation first story includes a tall, eight-over-sixteen double-hung wood sash window in the south bay, and wood double doors with lower panels with diagonal tongue-in-groove planks and six-light windows in the upper portions in the north bay. The four-bay south elevation window openings contain wire glass panes in eight-over-eight-light, double-hung wood sash with an

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elliptical brickmold. The west elevation is unfenestrated, however, it includes a surviving power transmission feature, a rope drive passage consisting of a tall, narrow brick opening with a segmental arch lintel that is located opposite an identical feature in the east wall of the 1850 Main Mill. This feature is clearly indicated as a "rope way" on early fire insurance maps.

Although the exterior of the building contains two levels of windows, the interior consists of a single uninterrupted vertical space. The ceiling consists of the exposed underside of the heavy, splined roof planks. The roof support structure consists of conventional transverse beams in the north section, and shallow king post trusses in the south section. The north ends of the south section trusses and south ends of the north section roof beams meet directly under the center of the roof monitor where they are supported by a transverse beam supported by a row of cast iron posts. The timber structural members are all sawn with chamfered corners. The interior walls are painted cement. The floor is a raised wood deck with a narrow plank wearing layer on joists supported by massive brick and masonry piers.

The Engine House retains much of its historic machinery. Power generation equipment includes a small steam-electric turbo-generator consisting of a Curtis condensing steam turbine driving a 750 kw General Electric generator. Ancillary equipment includes two motor-generator sets to provide the excitation current for the stator in the steam turbo-generator: one General Electric generator powered by a small Curtis steam turbine, and a conventional General Electric motor-generator. A bank of black slate switch gear panels stands along the west wall and contains volt, watt and ampere meters; relays; knife switches; manual circuit breakers; recording meters; and two chain-driven rheostats. Additional banks of brass gauges and recording meters are mounted to the north wall. A large Ingersoll-Rand steam-powered air compressor is located along the east wall. This machinery is not in use and is in excellent cosmetic and physical condition, although much of it is likely no longer operable.

The Engine House as shown on the 1911 Sanborn fire insurance map contained a 300 hp steam engine and a carpenter's shop in its north section, and a 600 hp steam engine on the first floor of the south section with a cloth room above. This configuration indicates that these buildings originally had second floors and associated interior structural members. These functions and floor indications do not appear on the 1922 Sanborn map, suggesting that the interiors were altered to their current configuration by that time.

Pump Room (Building No. 7) (By 1911)

The Pump Room is located between the Waste House and the west end of the south elevation of the Spinning Mill. It is a rectangular, 24 ft long north-south by 16 ft wide east-west, one-story building. It has a flat, built-up roof with a ogee-profile molding at the gutter line and a deep exposed plank soffit with exposed beveled rafter tails. On the west elevation, it has an original V-channel wood gutter. The west

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elevation contains a single doorway with a segmental arch brick lintel containing wood double doors with diagonal tongue-in-groove panels.

The 1911 Sanborn Fire insurance map indicates this building as a "belt house." It is unclear if it housed belt drive equipment associated with the Spinning Mill, or if it was for the storage of belting. The 1942 Factory Mutual Insurance Company map indicates the building as the Pump Room. The building currently houses a 1,000 gallon-per-minute Worthington fire pump that provided water pressure for the Harris Mill's overhead sprinkler fire-fighting system.

Weave Shed (Building No. 3) (1912)

The Weave Shed occupies a large footprint on the east edge of the property, immediately east of and connected to the adjacent Spinning Mill (Building No. 2) to the west. The Weave Shed is a rectangular, 35-bay, 322 ft long north-south by 13-bay, 122 ft wide east-west, three-story, flat-roofed, brick-walled loft building. The building rises from the edge of the street on the north elevation and the sidewalk on the east elevation. Because the lot slopes gently toward the Pawtuxet River only the two upper stories are exposed at the northwest corner, and the first story, a partially subterranean "basement" level, is increasingly exposed toward the southeast, resulting in ground-level entries on both the first and second stories. The west elevation is divided into north and south sections by the Spinning Mill, which extends perpendicular to the west, obscuring several bays of the Weave Shed. Small, one-bay square toilet towers are located in the two corners formed by the intersecting buildings. An open, rectangular, cast concrete process liquid cooling or settling tank with an open steel grate cover is located immediately west of the building, north of the Spinning Mill.

Mill No. 3 has a built-up "flat" mill roof with a subtle longitudinal crown for drainage, with modern sheet metal flashing at the cornice, and downspouts. Small, regularly spaced brick patches under the eaves indicate that the original exposed rafter tails were removed as part of a roof structure replacement. The exterior walls are red brick laid in a common bond pattern with slender, protruding piers and full-width, recessed window spandrels. The window openings on the third story have segmental arch lintels made of three rows of header-course bricks, and the windows on the lower stories have rectangular openings. The second story window openings are taller than the window openings on the first and third stories. All window sills are quarry-faced granite. The exposed foundation is constructed of large, quarry-faced granite blocks.

The Weave Shed window openings contain a variety of historic sash as well as modern infill and outer coverings. The original wood window sash consists of six-over-six-light units with a three-light transom. Most windows that retain their original sash also retain their original elliptical wood brickmold. Third story transoms have segmental arched sash. All three sections of these windows are horizontal bottom-pivoting, inward-tilting (hopper) sash. Most of the first story window openings on the east and south

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elevations are filled with concrete block, and many second and third story window openings are filled with painted plywood, concrete block, or mortared glass block. All of the lower sections of the third story window openings of the south section of the west elevation have been filled with mortared glass block, but retain the original wood segmental arch transoms. The windows on each of the two exposed walls of the two west toilet towers flanking the Spinning Mill contain original wood sash with tall, 12-light, fixed sash with a six-light transom on the second story; and a six-light lower fixed section with a center-pivot six-light segmental arch transom on the third story. On the west elevation south of the Spinning Mill, a short section of exposed first story wall includes several window openings containing original three-light wood sash.

The Weave Shed includes several original ground-level doorway openings on the first ("basement") and second stories. On the north elevation, the central bay contains a raised loading dock opening filled with painted plywood, with a brick segmental arch lintel, a massive granite sill, and steel pier protectors. On the south elevation, the central bay contains original paneled wood double doors in an opening with a shallow segmental arch brick lintel, granite stoop, and sheet steel pier protectors. The south elevation's west bay contains a doorway blocked off with plywood with a granite lintel. On the east elevation, the northernmost and southernmost bays each contain original rectangular personnel door openings with modern replacement double doors in the south bay and a modern replacement door with a plywood surround in the north bay. These doors open into wells at the feet of interior staircases. The east elevation also contains a vertical hoist bay near the center of the elevation, consisting of second and third story openings with segmental arch brick sills, granite lintels with brick corbeling, and paneled wood double doors. The second story loading bay includes screen doors and a wood picket fence safety gate. A horizontal steel I-beam for a block-and-tackle hoist extends from the cornice above the hoist bay. On the west elevation, the second bay from the north end contains replacement double doors. A modern, one-story loading dock addition with an excavated truck ramp facing Main Street is located along the west elevation south of the Spinning Mill. It has a shed roof, steel-framed walls sheathed in corrugated metal, and doors and steel sash windows in its west elevation. A steel roll door and steel personnel door located on the south end of the dock enclosure lead to a concrete ramp excavated into a pit along the west side of the building that descends to a wide doorway cut through the foundation, providing access to the basement. Inside the enclosure, next to the ramp, a stairwell pit leads to an original doorway cut into the foundation containing original wood double doors.

The interior space on each floor is divided into five longitudinal aisles by four rows of 34 round wood posts, supporting 34 transverse, bolted, steel I-beams. Ceiling materials consist of the exposed underside of the splined, beaded floor and roof decking planks. Interior surfaces including masonry, ceilings, and frame are painted white with some walls and posts retaining their industrial "vista" paint scheme of color on the lower portion. The floor deck planks are sheathed with a wearing layer of maple or pine plank. Staircases are located at the northeast and southeast corners and connect all floors except the basement. The staircases have steel sides, risers, and railings and wood plank treads and landings. Railings include

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rectangular ornamental posts and balusters with pipe hand rails. The southeast staircase has been altered with a modern elevated steel landing and steps on the ground floor. The northeast staircase is unmodified and leads to a well with granite steps leading to the replacement personnel door in the north end of the east elevation. The only vertical materials handling feature is an unusual diagonal freight lift connecting the second and third floors on the east side of the building, south of the hoist bay doors.

The third floor is subdivided into several modern rectangular rooms and storage areas, including wood stud-framed, sheetrock-sheathed rooms at the west center and southeast corner, and wood stud-framed wire cages at the north end and southwest corner. A modern elevated block of supervisory offices occupies a single transverse bay near the center of the third floor. The second floor is partitioned into several modern self-storage and packaging warehouse spaces with wire cage or wood stud and plywood walls. The basement has a poured concrete slab floor and is used for furniture making and storage.

The 1922 Sanborn fire insurance map indicates that the second and third floors housed weaving operations, and the first floor housed a machine shop.

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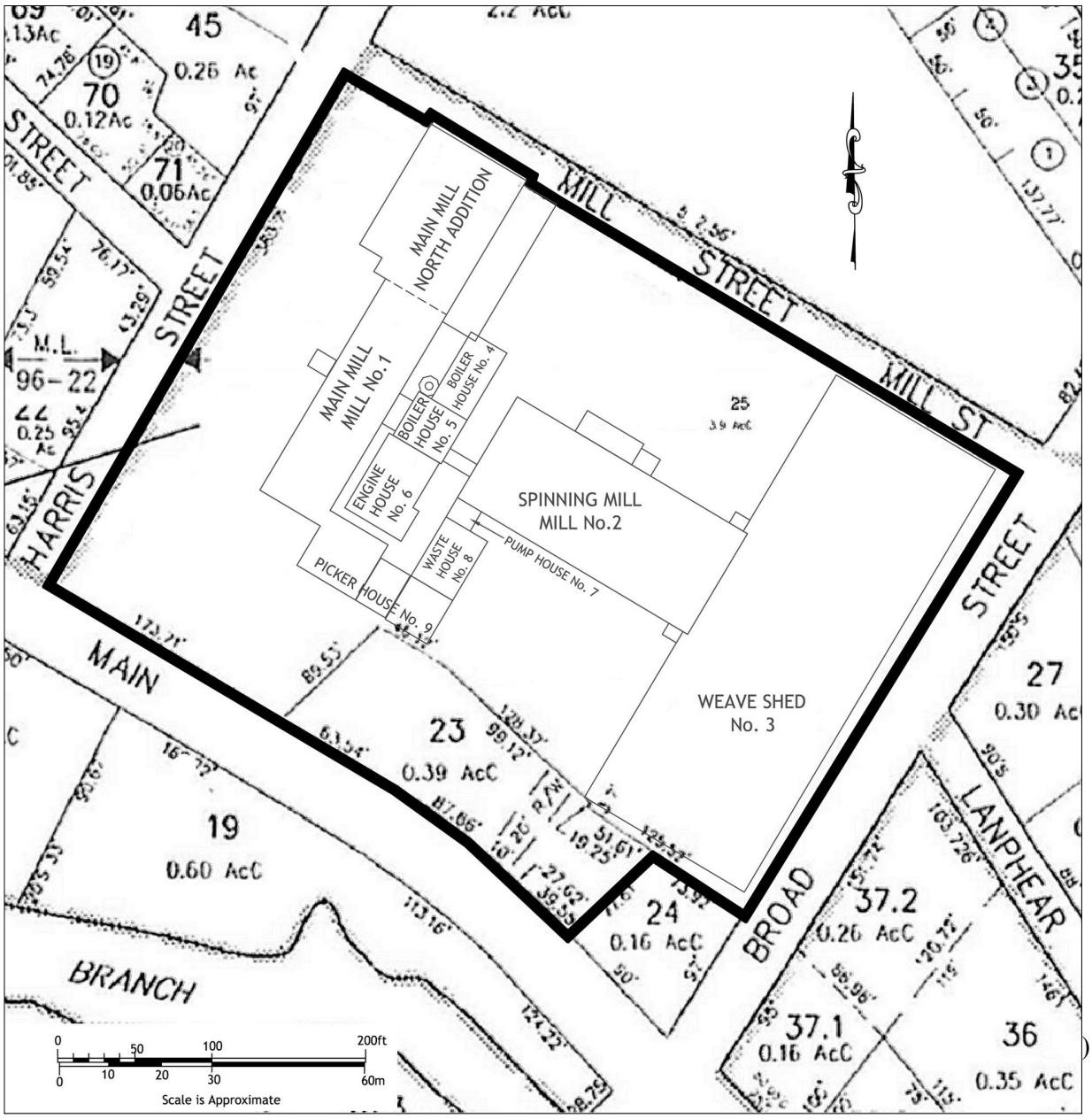
Site Plan


MAIN MILL NORTH ADDITION
MAIN MILL MILL No.1
BOILER HOUSE No. 5
BOILER HOUSE No. 4
ENGINE HOUSE No. 6
SPINNING MILL MILL No.2
PUMP HOUSE No. 7
WASTE HOUSE No. 8
PICKER HOUSE No. 9
WEAVE SHED No. 3
MILL STREET
MILL ST
HARRIS STREET
MAIN STREET
BROAD STREET
LANPHEAR
BRANCH
M.L. 96-22
45
0.26 Ac
70
0.12Ac
71
0.06Ac
25
3.9 AcC
23
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19
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37.1
0.16 AcC
36
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0.30 Ac
0 50 100 200ft
0 10 20 30 60m
Scale is Approximate

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(Note: These photographs were taken with a 6.2 megapixel digital camera at high resolution and printed on Epson Premium Glossy paper using Epson UltraChrome pigmented inks per the National Park Service March 2005 Photo Policy Expansion list of Acceptable Ink and Paper Combinations for Digital Images).

Index to Photographs:

1. General view of complex, showing from left to right: Main Mill North Addition and Main Mill (Building No. 1)

2. West elevation of Main Mill

3. Main Mill North Addition, west and north elevations

4. General view of complex, showing from left to right: Main Mill, Picker House (Building No. 9) and Spinning Mill (Building No. 2)

5. North elevation of Spinning Mill from Mill Street

6. West elevations of Spinning Mill and Waste House (Building No. 8)

7. North and east elevations of Weave Shed (Building No. 3) from the intersection of Mill and Broad streets

8. Boiler House (Building No. 4) and Boiler House (Building No. 5), bridge between Main Mill and Spinning Mill and Engine House (Building No. 6)

9. Engine House east elevation

10. East elevations of Picker House and Waste House, from left to right

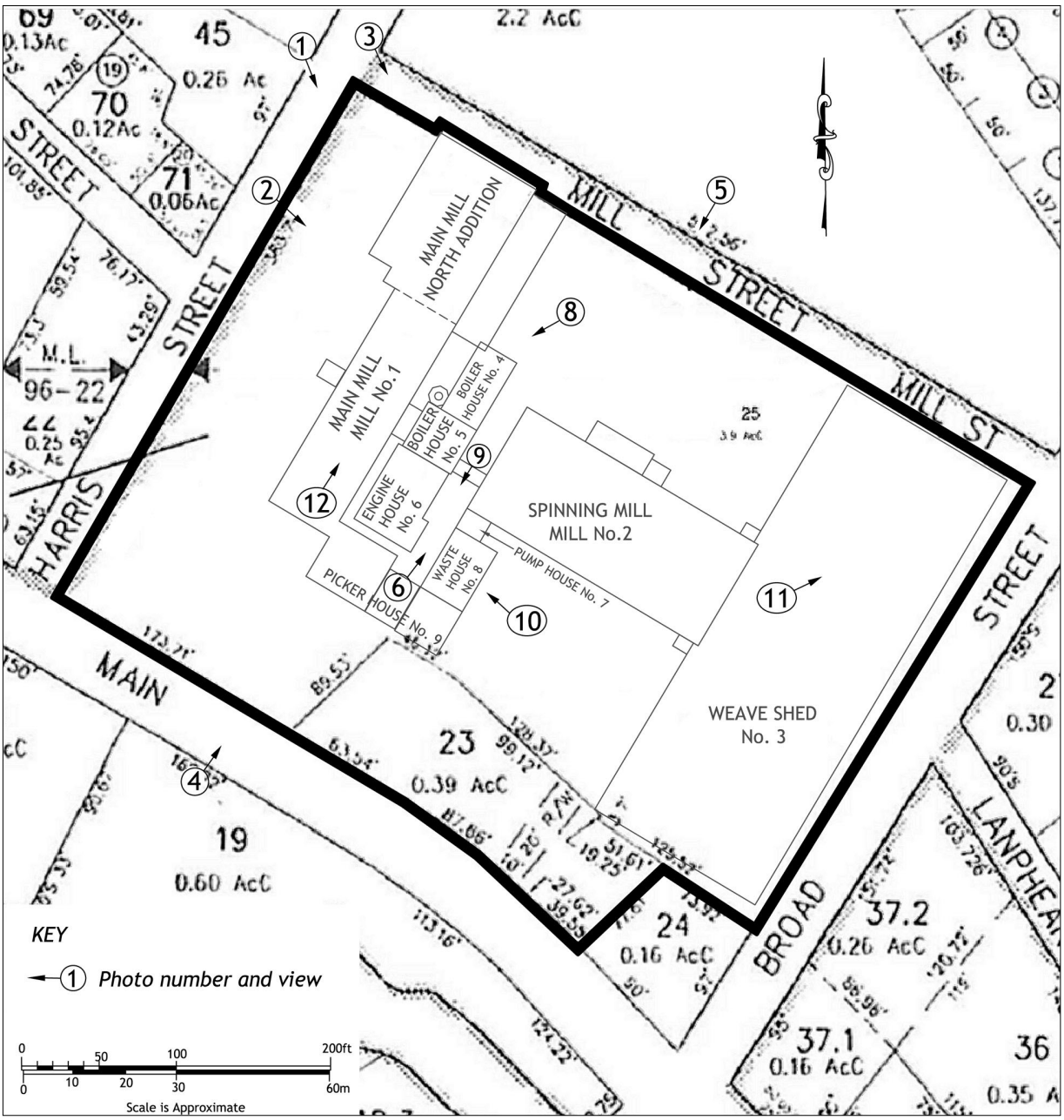
(continued)

11. Interior view, Weave Shed, third floor

12. Interior view, Main Mill, fourth floor

(continued)

Photo Key Map



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Harris Mill is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level. Under Criterion A, the mill is significant for its association with the development of the textile industry in Rhode Island's Pawtuxet River valley. Built in 1850, the mill was the second of two textile mills developed by Elisha Harris, a former governor of Rhode Island, on land that he purchased in the early 1820s along the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River in Coventry, Rhode Island. Under Harris's ownership the mill was an independent operation that manufactured plain and twilled cotton cloth. Following industry trends toward consolidation and specialization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Harris Mill later produced book cloth for Interlaken Mills, Inc., one of the nation's largest suppliers of the cloth used by the publishing industry. In 1900, Interlaken Mills purchased the Harris Mill as part of its attempt to consolidate and control all of the processes for its book cloth production operations. The mill remained in operation until it was closed by Interlaken Mills, Inc. in 1953, the date that marks the end of its period of historical significance.

Under Criterion C, the Harris Mill derives its significance as a well-preserved example of mid-nineteenth-century stone industrial construction. The original three-and-one-half story mill building and the associated power canal headrace embody the distinctive arrangement of an early American industrial water-powered factory. The mill is also a good example of the Greek Revival style as it was applied to industrial buildings between 1830 and 1860. Subsequent additions added during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries represent the organic growth of the mill over time to keep pace with changing operations and new technology.

Textile Mill Development in the Pawtuxet River Valley, 1794–1950

The Pawtuxet River was among the most significant early sites for textile mill development in the United States. The upper reaches of its two branches flowed through hilly terrain that combined with the underlying hard crystalline rock of the area, created numerous cataracts that were ideal locations for early water-powered mills. The utility of this source of power was long recognized by local farmers who established saw- and gristmills at numerous locations along the river during the Colonial Period. The birth of the area's textile industry along the Pawtuxet River followed closely on the heels of the establishment of Samuel Slater's cotton mill on the Blackstone River in Pawtucket in 1793. The following year, Job Greene erected Rhode Island's second cotton spinning mill at Centerville, on the south branch of the Pawtuxet River in present-day West Warwick. Although Greene's operation failed soon afterward, a new company formed in 1799 continued production at the mill (Greene 1886:415; Nebiker 1987:9).

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The uneasy relationship between the United States and its primary trading partners Great Britain and France during the early decades of the nineteenth century sparked the nation's first period of concerted industrial development. Beginning with Nonimportation and Embargo Acts of 1806 and 1807, respectively, and culminating in the War of 1812, international trade was virtually halted for a period of nearly 10 years. The embargo on imported British textiles and the availability of large and relatively cheap quantities of raw cotton that could not be exported provided American entrepreneurs with an opportunity to exploit ready markets free from international competition and spurred the development of industries to meet product demand (Kulik and Bonham 1978:5).

The impact of industrial development on the previously agriculture-based economy of the Pawtuxet River valley was dramatic during this period. The most intensive activity took place in present-day West Warwick where the new mills included the Warwick Manufacturing Company's Centerville Mill (1807), the Natick Reel Mill (1807), the Providence Manufacturing Company's Crompton Mill (1807), the Roger Williams Manufacturing Company's Phenix Mill (1810), the Lippitt Manufacturing Company Mill (1809), Caleb Atwood and Sons Mill (1813), and the Greene Manufacturing Company's Riverpoint Mill (1813). Mills constructed in other communities along the Pawtuxet River included the Pontiac Mill in Warwick (ca. 1810); the Anthony (ca. 1810), Washington (1810), Arkwright (1810) and Quidnick (1811) mills in Coventry; and the Hope (1806) and Fiskeville (1812) mills in Scituate (Jones 1981:17; Lasky 1978:16–45; Nebiker 1987:9–12).

With the end of the War of 1812 in 1815, international trade on a large scale resumed and a brief period of correction in the textile industry followed. Faced with new competition, some cotton manufacturing companies went bankrupt. The industry rebounded shortly afterward as many of the failed companies were quickly bought out by larger concerns. The U.S. Congress assisted in the recovery by imposing a 25 percent duty on all imported cotton and woolen goods in 1816. The invention of the power loom in 1817 also had a beneficial effect, leading to an increase in production capacity and efficiency. In the early 1820s textile mill development resumed and by the end of the decade the number of cotton manufacturing plants in Warwick (including present-day West Warwick, which was not incorporated as a separate town until 1913) totaled 38, while the total number in Rhode Island had reached 139 (Bicknell 1920:836–837).

By 1840, textile manufacturers occupied most of the suitable waterpower sites along the North and South branches of the Pawtuxet River. In order to attract and retain a steady work force to the still remote area, Pawtuxet River valley mill owners constructed company towns in the areas surrounding their mills. Patterned on the paternalistic model that was a hallmark of Industrial Revolution era development throughout the nation, the mill villages typically consisted of a number of single and multi-family workers tenements, superintendent's houses, company stores, farms, schools, churches, and community buildings (Nebiker 1987:8).

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The structure of the national cotton industry changed in the mid-nineteenth century, and led to further expansion of production in the Pawtuxet River valley. The Panic of 1857 bankrupted some companies and resulted in a shift in company organization from individual or joint ownership to a more financially stable corporate structure (Fink 1981:12). After the Civil War, production trends shifted when cotton manufacturing companies began consolidating the multiple stages of production under one company to ensure the continuous flow of materials through the process, and to achieve faster, more profitable production levels. While the number of post-bellum cotton factories in Rhode Island decreased during this period, the number of employees and production output increased (Carroll 1932:863).

The rise of the Sprague and Knight corporate empires in the Pawtuxet Valley exemplified these industry trends. William Sprague began assembling his multi-property cotton conglomerate in 1821 with purchase of the Natick Mills, which fed cotton cloth to his Cranston Print Works in Cranston, Rhode Island. His sons William and Amasa succeeded him, forming the A. and W. Sprague Company. They acquired several additional cotton mills during the 1840s and 1850s, including those at Arctic and Quidnick in Warwick, Rhode Island, and Baltic, Connecticut (Nebiker 1987:13–15). In 1856, after William Sprague's death, the company was taken over by Amasa's sons, William and Amasa, and William's son, Byron. Under their ownership A. and W. Sprague expanded their textile holdings to include mills in Maine and Georgia and pursued a myriad of business opportunities in other industries. At its height, the company owned 10 cotton mills, seven factories manufacturing metal products, five banks, a streetcar company, multiple railroads, a steamboat line, and land for harvesting wood (Nebiker 1987:15). The Spragues influence in Rhode Island also extended into politics. In 1860 William Sprague, at the age of 30, was elected governor of Rhode Island and later, in 1863, represented the state as a senator.

When the overextended A. and W. Sprague Company failed during the Economic Panic of 1873, the B.B. and R. Knight Company replaced it as the preeminent textile concern in the Pawtuxet Valley. Founded in 1852 by brothers Benjamin Brayton and Robert Knight, the Knight Company began operations at the relatively small Pontiac Mill in Warwick. Benjamin and Robert Knight began manufacturing operations of the B.B. & R. Knight Company at Pontiac with 4,000 spindles in 1852 (PBT 1909:18). The company subsequently purchased the Hebronville Mill on the Ten Mile River in Attleboro, Massachusetts, and the Dodgeville Mill 1 mile from it in 1854, then added the Grant Mill in Providence to their holdings in 1871. During this period they began manufacturing the famous "Fruit of the Loom" brand of woven muslin cloth. The Knight Company continued to steadily expand through the late nineteenth century with the purchases of the Manchaug Mills in Sutton, Massachusetts in 1872; the White Rock Mills in Westerly, Rhode Island in 1874; and the Fiskeville Mill in Scituate in 1877. In 1882, the Knights bought the Sprague's Natick Mills and in 1885 purchased the Arctic and Riverpoint mills (PBT 1898). The 1885 acquisitions gave the Knights' a continuous chain of mills along the south branch of the Pawtuxet River extending from Arctic, north and east to the Royal Mill, the Valley Queen Mill, Natick Mills, and finally the finishing works at Pontiac. The company's holdings also included the Jackson, Fiskeville, and Lippitt mills on the north branch of the Pawtuxet River. With the purchase of the Centerville Mill from Robert

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B. Treat in 1903, B.B. & R Knight became the "the largest individual cotton manufacturer in the world, with an unbroken line of mills and buildings for over four miles in the Pawtuxet Valley alone" (PBT 1903b:317). In 1906 the Providence Board of Trade reported that "one half of the 25,000 inhabitants of the Pawtuxet Valley where mills are located are directly or indirectly dependent upon the mills operated by the B.B. and R. Knight Company" (PBT 1906a:15–16).

The industrial history of the Pawtuxet River valley from the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century was consistent with regional economic patterns. The Rhode Island cotton industry peaked in the late nineteenth century, and then began to decline after 1900. After World War I, the pace of the decline became precipitous because of competition, labor unrest, and the effects of the Great Depression. The New England mills could not compete with the lower wages, better hours of labor, lower freight rates, cheaper electricity, and lower taxes available in the southern states. As a result, they were forced to cut employee wages and engaged in overproduction, requiring employees to work longer hours at faster production speeds—strategies known as speed-ups and stretch-outs (Young 1928:14, 19). In response, workers became increasingly agitated and began to seek redress through organized labor strikes. The most devastating began on January 23, 1922 when workers at B.B. and R. Knight's Royal Mill, angry at a proposed 22 percent reduction in wages and an extension of the work week from 48 to 54 hours, shut down their machines and walked out. The strike quickly spread to other mills throughout the Pawtuxet and Blackstone river valleys and crippled production until it was finally settled the following September. The mills never fully recovered from the strike and many went under during the ensuing Great Depression of the 1930s. The onset of World War II and the need to supply cloth for the war effort resulted in a brief rebound in the Rhode Island textile industry. After the war, however, the industry was again faced with the systemic problems of the pre-war period. By the 1960 textile manufacturing in the Pawtuxet River valley was almost nonexistent. The old mills were either torn down or converted for other industrial or storage uses as the area struggled to recover from the loss of its primary industry (Nebiker 1987:24–25).

Elisha Harris and the Early Development of the Harris Mill, 1821–1861

The development of textile operations on the small stretch of the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River that runs through the northeastern corner of Coventry began when Caleb Atwood & Sons constructed a spinning mill there in 1813 (Lasky 1978:29). Located on the north side of the river, south of present-day Main Street, where the Lanphear Machine Shop was later constructed, the mill was a two-story stone building that the Atwoods called the "Dumplin' Mould" (Cole 1889:1209–1210).

In 1821, Elisha Harris began purchasing property near the Atwood mill for the purpose of erecting a new mill. Harris was born in Cranston, Rhode Island on September 8, 1791. The eldest son of Joseph and Catherine (Greene) Harris, Harris attended public school in Cranston and for a time studied at the East Greenwich Seminary (Beers 1908:761). He married Sarah Taylor, daughter of William Taylor of Providence, and the couple had two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth (Davis 1897:2583).

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Harris's introduction to the textile industry began about 1811, when he went to work in the counting room of the Roger Williams Mill, which was partially owned by his father. By 1820, he had established his own textile business at a small mill that he leased at Fiskeville in Scituate (Davis 1897:2582). On August 2, 1821, Harris purchased 5 acres of land adjacent to the Atwood mill property from George Burton for $300.00. In November, Harris purchased an undivided half interest in two lots of land and a water privilege from William Hines. After securing the water privilege he constructed a stone dam and a 500-ft-long canal from the pond to the southeast part of his property where he built a two-story, 34-x-50 ft wood frame mill. In 1822 he began manufacturing heavy cotton sheeting for general use. The business soon proved profitable and he made several additions to the mill, ultimately doubling its size to 34-x-106 ft. In 1825 Harris acquired an additional 13 acres of land from the estate of George Atwood. The land ultimately formed the bulk of the property where Harris constructed a number of one-and-one-half-story duplex and two-story single family dwellings for mill workers, supervisors and their families. Later, in 1841, he purchased the former Atwood & Sons Mill and water privilege from Daniel Atwood. In 1846, Harris entered a partnership with Robert Levalley, Thomas P. Lanphear and Giles Spencer to form Levalley, Lanphear & Company, which manufactured textile machinery (D'Amato 1991:64). Soon afterward, Harris had the Atwood mill dam removed, razed the old mill building, and constructed a one-story stone machine shop on the site. The following year, the Levalley, Lanphear & Company moved into the building (Cole 1889:1210).

Harris's reputation as a successful businessman who was "universally respected for his unflinching integrity," was noticed by the local Whig Party, which drafted him to represent Coventry in the State Assembly in the early 1840s. He served several terms in the Assembly before being elected Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island in 1846. The following year, Harris was elected Governor of Rhode Island and served a 1-year term. While he did not seek any further official positions, Harris remained active in politics and ultimately became a prominent member of the state's Republican Party. In 1860 he served as a Presidential elector when Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States (Beers 1908:761). He also served for a number of years as the president of the Bank of North America in Providence and was for some time the president of the Warwick Institution for Savings (Davis 1897:2583)

Soon after leaving the Governor's office, Harris began construction on a new and larger mill building, northeast and across present-day Main Street from the 1822 mill. The existing power canal was extended southeast several hundred feet, turning northeast and extending under both Main and Harris streets before turning east toward the new mill site (Cole 1889:1211). There he constructed the impressive Greek Revival-style stone mill that exists today. The original 1850 Main Mill building (Building No. 1) is three and one-half stories in height and measures 172-ft-long by 48-ft-wide. It featured a prominent tower with a Greek Revival-style belfry and clerestory monitor that ran the length of the building (no longer extant). A 42-ft by 43-ft wheelhouse, which is now a component of the Picker House (Building No. 9), is attached

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to the southeast corner (Rupp and Townsend 1999:35). The mill and the extended power canal were completed and opened by 1851 (Lasky 1978:30).

The Village of Harris began to take its present form during the period following the opening of the new mill. The mill and Levalley, Lanphear & Company provided employment for more than 200 workers, who were housed in the dozens of neat cottages that the company built along a developing street network that included Broad, Mill, Elm, Harris, Lamphear, and Plain streets and ultimately spread across the Coventry town border into Warwick. A brick company store was located northwest of the machine company's complex on the south side of Main Street. A large superintendent's house was located on the north side of Main Street, between the store and the mill. Harris's own impressive Greek Revival-style residence, which was constructed about 1840, was located on the western fringe of the village on Main Street (Beers 1870; Lasky 1978:2–8).

In 1860 the Harris Company undertook another significant expansion; beginning construction on a third mill and improvements to the waterpower system for the entire complex. A new stone block dam was constructed approximately 400 feet downriver (southeast) of the 1821 dam, which was subsequently removed (Cole 1889:1211). The 1860 mill, which is no longer extant, was constructed along the river, south of Main Street and adjacent to the 1822 mill building.

The Henry Howard Era, 1861– 1900

While the construction on the new 1860 mill was underway, Elisha Harris died at his Main Street home on February 1, 1861. Control of the Harris Manufacturing Company, and Harris's other commercial interests, ultimately passed to his son-in-law Henry Howard. Howard was born on April 2, 1826 in Cranston, Rhode Island to Jesse and Mary Howard. Jesse Howard was a prominent local businessman and lawyer. He served as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas and later was treasurer of the People's Savings Bank of Providence. He sent Henry to several elementary schools and intended that he receive a collegiate education at Brown University. Howard's delicate health, however, precluded his enrollment and he decided to pursue a mercantile career. In 1848 he began studying law in the office of Governor W.W. Hoppin and was admitted to the state bar in 1851. That year he married Harris's daughter Catherine, and went into private law practice. The couple had three children; daughter Jessie H. and sons Elisha H. and Charles T. Howard. Like his father-in-law, Howard was an active politician, serving as both a representative in the General Assembly, and as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1856. In 1858, Howard left his law practice to open a sales office for the Harris Company in New York City. Upon Harris's death in 1861, he returned to Rhode Island to control the financial department of the company in Providence (Davis 1897:2583–2584). In 1865, Howard, David S. Harris (Elisha's brother), and Albert and Edwin Gallup, were formally granted an act of incorporation by the general assembly to form the Harris Manufacturing Company and Howard was installed as the company's president (Cole 1889:1211).

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In addition to running the Harris Manufacturing Company, Howard became one of Rhode Island's most prominent political leaders and businessmen of the late nineteenth century. In 1873 he was elected Governor of Rhode Island and served two consecutive terms. He was also a presidential elector on the Republican ticket (1872), delegate to the National Republican Convention (1876), and received an appointment by President Rutherford B. Hayes as assistant commissioner to the Paris Exposition (1878). In addition to guiding the affairs of the Harris Manufacturing Company, his far ranging business pursuits included founding the Armington & Sims Engine Company and the Providence Telephone Company, for which he served as president until his death in 1905. He was also a director of the National Bank of North America in Providence (Davis 1897:2584). In 1871, Howard partnered with William Howard and Henry Grant to form the Arkwright Manufacturing Company, which constructed a factory on the west side of the Pawtuxet River approximately a one-half northwest of Harris Mill (Rupp and Townsend 1999:42).

Under Howard's leadership, the Harris Manufacturing Company significantly expanded its production space and capacity. A three-story, 91-ft.-long-by-74-ft-wide, stone addition (Main Mill North Addition) was erected on the north elevation of the 1850 mill building in the early 1870s. In 1883 a free-standing, two-story, stone Spinning Mill (Building No. 2) was constructed to the east of the 1850 mill building (Cole 1889:1212). A cotton storehouse and bale opening room on the south side of Main Street, adjacent to the Lanphear Machine Company building, were also added to the complex in the 1880s. By October of 1890, the Harris Mill was operating 408 individual looms with 17,000 spindles (PBT 1890:40).

Bucking the industry trend toward mill mergers and consolidation during the late nineteenth century, the Harris Manufacturing Company remained independent during the period of Howard's presidency. Beginning in the 1880s, the firm began to manufacture heavy cotton cloth that was processed into buckram, which was used by the publishing industry to cover hardbound books. Together with the Arkwright Mill, Harris Mill supplied the raw grey cloth to the Interlaken Dye Works where the final processing of buckram was performed. In 1883, Arkwright Mill and the dye works were combined to form Interlaken Mills, Inc. That company was later sold in 1892 to the Winterbottom Book Cloth Corporation, an English company. Control of the plant operations, however, remained with the local management team that included Howard's son-in-law Edward Bucklin, who served as secretary and treasurer (PBT 1892:878).

Interlaken Mills Era, 1900–1953

The Harris Mill remained independent until May 1900, when it was purchased by Interlaken Mills, Inc. to facilitate and manage all of the production and processing of its book cloth operations. The sale made the Interlaken Mills the largest book cloth manufacturing facility in the world, with more than 200 acres of land and 550 employees (Rupp and Townsend 1999:51). Further expansion of the company's holdings occurred in 1903, when Interlaken Mills acquired the Anawamscott Mills in Barrington, Rhode Island

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from the J.W. O'Bannon Company. The O'Bannon Company had been a dealer in Interlaken Products, and a competing manufacturer of book cloth products. The purchase included a lucrative contract to provide book cloth to the U.S. Government Printing Office and resulted in giving Interlaken Mills a virtual monopoly on the east coast production of book cloth materials. Soon afterward, however, the B.B. & R. Knight Company entered into competition for the lucrative industry by purchasing the Centerville Mill in present-day West Warwick in 1903, and converting it for the production to buckram (Kierstead and Matos 2004).

After the purchase of the Harris Mill, Howard retired from the business and Bucklin assumed control of Interlaken's Pawtuxet River valley mill facilities, serving as a corporate vice president and treasurer. Soon afterwards, an aggressive campaign was undertaken to modernize and expand the Harris Mill plant (Hall 1901:314). In 1902 the original 1822 mill, which was no longer used for production, was demolished (Harpin 1976:179). That same year, Interlaken Mills purchased the former Lanphear Machine Company buildings on the south side of Main Street and later leased it to the Thornton Machinery Company of Providence (PBT 1906a:67; Rupp and Townsend 1999:58). In 1903, the corporation had completed the installation of new equipment, including 350 46-inch Draper Automatic looms, throughout the Harris Mill (PBT 1903a:29; Rupp and Townsend 1999:66). As part of the modernization process, a new power plant, including two Boiler Houses (Building Nos. 4 and 5), an Engine House (Building No. 6) and a prominent brick smokestack, were built between the 1851 and 1883 mill buildings (Sanborn 1903:3, 1911:11).

In January of 1907, Bucklin reported to G.H. Winterbottom that the Harris Mill earnings for the 1906 fiscal year were $318,141.90, and that the demand for book cloth at Interlaken Dye Works was greater than the production capabilities of Harris and Arkwright Mills (Rupp and Townsend 1999:58). In an effort to keep up with the demand, further investments were made to increase the Harris Mill physical plant. Between 1911 and 1916, the wheelhouse was expanded to form the current Picker House and a large, three-story brick Weave Shed (Building No. 3) was constructed to further increase production space (PBT 1916:46). The expansion of the Picker House involved the construction of a two-story building to the east of the existing wheelhouse and a second story enclosed bridge over a ground level passageway. A one story, detached office building (no longer extant) facing Main Street was also built during this period (PBT 1916:46; Sanborn 1911:11).

In 1918, at the height of its production during World War I, the two Interlaken mills (Harris and Arkwright) had a combined total of 38,576 spindles on 944 automatic looms and a workforce of 212 employees (PJC 1918:47). That same year, Interlaken Mills established the Arkwright Finishing Company to manufacture non-book cloth finished textiles, including cotton, wool, silk and linen fabrics (Rupp and Townsend 1999:63). A factory for the Arkwright Finishing Company was constructed on the east side of Main Street across from the Interlaken Print Works.

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Like other textile northeastern manufacturers, Interlaken Mills was seriously affected by the general downturn the industry experienced following World War I. The economic conditions forced contraction of the business in the early 1920s and resulted in the closing of the Arkwright Mill, which was in need of modernization, in 1924. Some of the equipment and workers from the Arkwright Mill were transferred to the Harris Mill, which continued on as the primary supplier of grey cloth for Interlaken Print Works (Rupp and Townsend 1999:73).

In 1924, just before the Arkwright Mill was closed, Interlaken Mills hired J. Frank Morrissey to serve as superintendent of the company's Pawtuxet River valley operations. Born in 1882 in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, Morrissey worked for 22 years at the Central Mills in Southbridge, Massachusetts where he rose to the position of superintendent (Rupp and Townsend 1999:72). After Morrissey assumed control at the Harris Mill, he initiated a study based on Frederick Taylor's 1911 work *The Principles of Scientific Management*. With the help of a student from the Lowell Textile School, Morrissey studied all aspects of the book cloth manufacturing process, including raw cotton quality, the job responsibilities of weavers, the heating and illumination of production spaces, and efficiency of machinery. Based on his findings, Morrissey made sweeping changes to the weaving process, including limiting the responsibilities of the weavers to supervision of looms, assigning less demanding tasks to lower paid workers, and implementing mandatory 5-minute rest periods after 25 minutes of work. Morrissey's improvements helped keep the Harris Mill operating at a high capacity throughout late 1920s and 1930s, when many other mills were closed because of competition from southern mills and the affects of the Great Depression (Hadcock 1945:242–246). In fact, Harris Mill was one of the few mills in the area to add workers in the period, going from 300 in 1928 to 386 in 1933 (PJC 1928:80 and 1933:65).

In March of 1936, Robert Gee Sr., the longtime Superintendent of the Interlaken Print Works, died and Morrissey was promoted to general superintendent of both the Harris Mill and Interlaken Print Works. The following October, he was promoted to treasurer and managing director (Providence Journal 1961:B22). At that time the Interlaken Mills employed more than 500 people and Harris Mill was operating 36,912 spindles on 872 Draper Automatic Looms (PJC 1938:86).

In the years leading up to World War II, the products of Interlaken Mill were increasingly being sold to the US Government. During the war years, that element of the business expanded dramatically as 99 percent of the material produced at the Harris Mill was sold to federal agencies (Rupp and Townsend 1999:88). In 1942, the Harris Mill was using 150 bales (75,000 pounds) of raw cotton and producing 319,248 yards of grey cloth per week. The Harris Mill alone employed 425 people, with an additional 200 employees at the Interlaken Dye Works (Interlaken Mills 1942:8).

At the end of the war, however, Interlaken Mills was faced with same inescapable problems that had plagued the industry since the early 1920s. Orders for goods from the federal government slowed significantly and the production decreased to pre-war levels. In early 1953, drastic cuts were made to the

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workforce, which went from 500 to between 200 and 300 employees (Rupp and Townsend 1999:96). In August, the remaining workers were informed that the mill would close once the supply of cotton on hand was exhausted (Providence Journal 1953:16). The Harris Mill was officially shut down near the end of September, marking the end of more than a century of textile production.

In 1956, the Harris Mill was sold to the Victor Wire and Cable Company. The mill is now partially occupied by a variety of commercial and light industrial tenants including a self-storage center, a gymnastics training center, a mortgage company, and a furniture store (Rupp and Townsend 1999:97).

Architectural and Engineering Significance

The Harris Mill contains individual elements representative of more than 100 years of New England textile mill architecture and engineering. It is a good example of the nineteenth-century masonry wall mill construction. Found throughout Rhode Island and, and relatively common in the Pawtuxet River valley, this type of construction typically consists of heavy, thick, gravity masonry walls built of mortared stone, with a range of mortared surface finish and decoration. The Pawtuxet River traverses three north-south oriented bands of rock, including, from west to east, two bands of hard, resistant, Devonian and Precambrian granites and gneisses; and a band of softer Pennsylvanian metasediments including shales and sandstones. The stone used in construction of the Pawtuxet Valley mills was obtained from quarries at Foster's Ledge in Coventry, Nipmuc Hill in Scituate, quarries in Sterling and Oneco, CT, as well as smaller local boulder and ledge quarries. The degree of metamorphism that the granites were subjected to after formation is higher to the west, resulting in increasingly parallel orientation of the mineral grains. This resulted in increasingly parallel cleavage lines, making it ideal for splitting into rectilinear, tabular blocks for building flush surface gravity walls and trim elements. Use of these local building stones resulted in walls of varying roughness. In the Pawtuxet River Valley, well-dressed, rectangular blocks were simply laid up with narrow mortar joints, such as at the Valley Queen Mill (Bradford Soap). Walls built of rougher rectilinear blocks were typically made smoother by the application of a wider layer of mortar at the joints, often scored while still wet and plastic to delineate the actual joint lines beneath. Walls made of rougher stone were often parged completely smooth like Harris, and, in some cases, carefully scored to imitate finely jointed regularly coursed stone blocks, such as at Phenix Mill (no longer extant) in West Warwick. Some examples were highly decorated with dressed granite quoins, and brick and stone window and tower trim, such as Stone & Carpenter's industrial *tour-de-force* 1875 Anthony Mill in Coventry.

The 1850 Main Mill of Harris Mill (Building No. 1) is also an early example of the nineteenth-century tradition of the long, narrow, multistory "industrial loft." This specialized type of building often associated with textile manufacturing consists of two or more stories in a long narrow configuration. It draws on the precedents of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century ecclesiastical and institutional buildings (Sande 1975:24). This configuration was developed to satisfy the combined needs for interior light and

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power transmission via lineshafting. Useable floor space was maximized by concentrating vertical circulation in exterior towers. By the 1830s mill buildings commonly employed fire resistive, or "slow-burning" construction, with heavy, self-supporting masonry outer walls. The interior framing system, which supported the floor load, consisted of widely spaced, heavy timber (or sometimes cast iron) posts, timber or steel beams, and thick, multilayer plank floors providing limited surfaces for fire to take hold.

Like the 1850 Main Mill, early examples of this type of building were built with gable roofs, some with monitors, many of which were replaced with flat roofs because of fire insurance regulations (Bradley 1999:25, 29–34, 93, 117–121, 126–129, 155; Brooks 1906:50, 54–68). Few of these original gabled monitor roofs remain on Rhode Island mills. The clerestory monitor used on the roof of the Main Mill represents a second wave of roof design for textile mills and a shift away from the "trapdoor" style of monitor used on the circa 1793 Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI (Sande 1975:21). The continuing changes to textile mill roof design in the nineteenth century are indicative of an evolution in the use of attic spaces. The clerestory monitor design allowed for more light and air to enter the attic space than a traditional gable roof or the trapdoor monitor. These roofs were sometimes modified with dormers or skylights to provide additional illumination. The 1905 Associated Mutual Insurance drawing for Harris Mill shows three, evenly-spaced rectangular features on the east roof plane, which may indicate the addition of skylights to the roof. The king post truss framing used in the monitor of the 1850 Main Mill provided a lane of uninterrupted floor space for machinery. Later evolution in roof design resulted in the flat, built-up roofs of textile buildings constructed in Rhode Island after the Civil War. The change to flat, built-up roofs was made possible by the availability of bituminous coatings by several manufacturers starting in the 1840s (Bradley 1999:179; Sande 1975:21). The stair tower of the 1850 Main Mill originally had an open cupola with Greek Revival detailing including shallow pediments. The cupola at Harris Mill had been destroyed or removed by 1939 (Hitchcock 1939:42).

The Spinning Mill (Building No. 2) and the Weave Shed (Building No. 3) are late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century variations of the industrial loft and reflect many of the changes in textile mill design and construction technology over a 60 to 70-year period. Both buildings are lower and wider in scale than the 1850 Main Mill, with flat, built-up roofs. The Weave Shed is constructed of brick, with a structural steel frame, typical for early twentieth century industrial construction (Bradley 1999:31, 135–136, 144–145).

Powerhouse buildings, exemplified by the Boiler Houses (Building Nos. 4 and 5) and Engine House (Building No. 6) incorporated non-combustible materials, such as masonry, and separate rooms for the boilers and steam engines, built to keep coal dust from boilers away from engine room machinery (Bradley 1999: 49–52). Powerhouses contained tall open spaces to accommodate boilers and engines, and chimneys to provide draft for the boiler fireboxes and to carry away waste gases. The powerhouse

(continued)

was separated from primary buildings to prevent fire hazards where possible, or was attached as a separate section of a building. At Harris Mill, the relationship of the Boiler and Engine Houses to the Main Mill is associated with providing mechanical power via a former rope drive system.

Harris Mill retains a significant collection of original power generation and transmission equipment including an intact penstock, turbine, transfer gears, and belt drive wheels in the basement and ground level of the Picker House; belt drive wheels and an Allis-Chalmers dynamo in the basement of the 1850 section of the Main Mill; three riveted sheet iron 225 hp Manning vertical tube boilers in Boiler House (Building No. 4); and a Curtis condensing steam turbine attached to a 750 kw General Electric generator, motor-generator exciter sets, slate switch gear panels, and a large Ingersoll-Rand steam-powered air compressor in the Engine House. This machinery is not in use and much of it is likely no longer operable, although it is in excellent cosmetic and physical condition. This machinery represents a range of industrial hydro-mechanical, hydroelectric, and steam-electric power generation and transmission equipment not often seen together in such a high degree of preservation.

The design of the Harris Mill has been attributed to noted Providence architect James C. Bucklin, who is best known for his 1828 design of the Providence Arcade. Bucklin was born on July 26, 1801 in Providence, and began his career in construction and design as an apprentice to John Holden Greene. In 1822 he formed a partnership with William Tallman, a builder and lumber dealer (Beers 1908:873). By 1828, when he teamed with Warren Russell to design the Providence Arcade, Bucklin was promoting himself as an architect (International Publishing Company 1886:104). Most of his early work employed Greek Revival precedents, but by 1847 had begun to embrace the Gothic Revival as demonstrated in his design of the Butler Hospital for the Insane (Hitchcock 1939:47). Bucklin counted among his commissions more than 300 mill buildings in the northeast (Beers 1908:873).

The origin of the Bucklin attribution can be traced to architectural historian Henry Russell Hitchcock who noted in a photo caption of his 1939 book *Rhode Island Architecture*; "Governor Harris Manufactory, Harris, West Warwick. 1851. This photograph taken in the sixties shows a fine mill of the type probably designed by Bucklin . . ." (Hitchcock 1939: Plate 38). While no primary documentation has been discovered to support this assertion, the architectural design of the mill, particularly its Greek Revival-style elements were in keeping with Bucklin's work.

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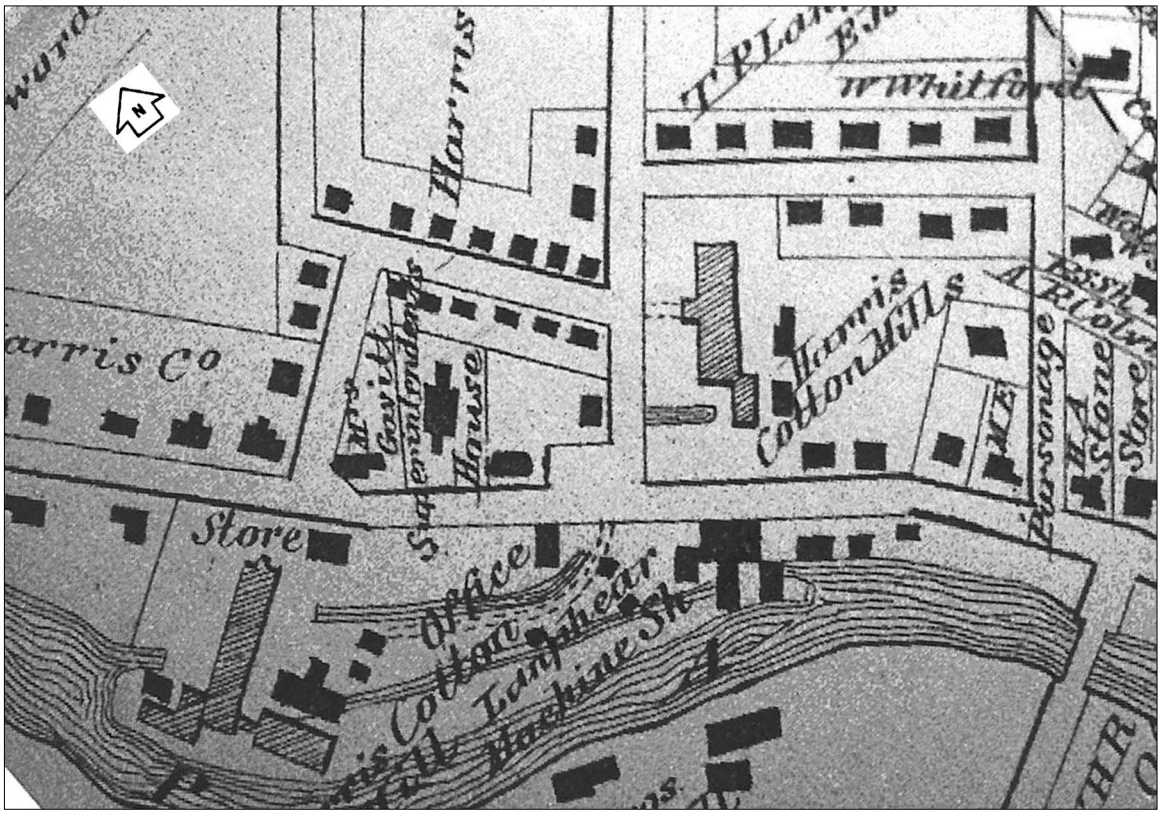
1870 Beers Atlas Detail of Harris Mill



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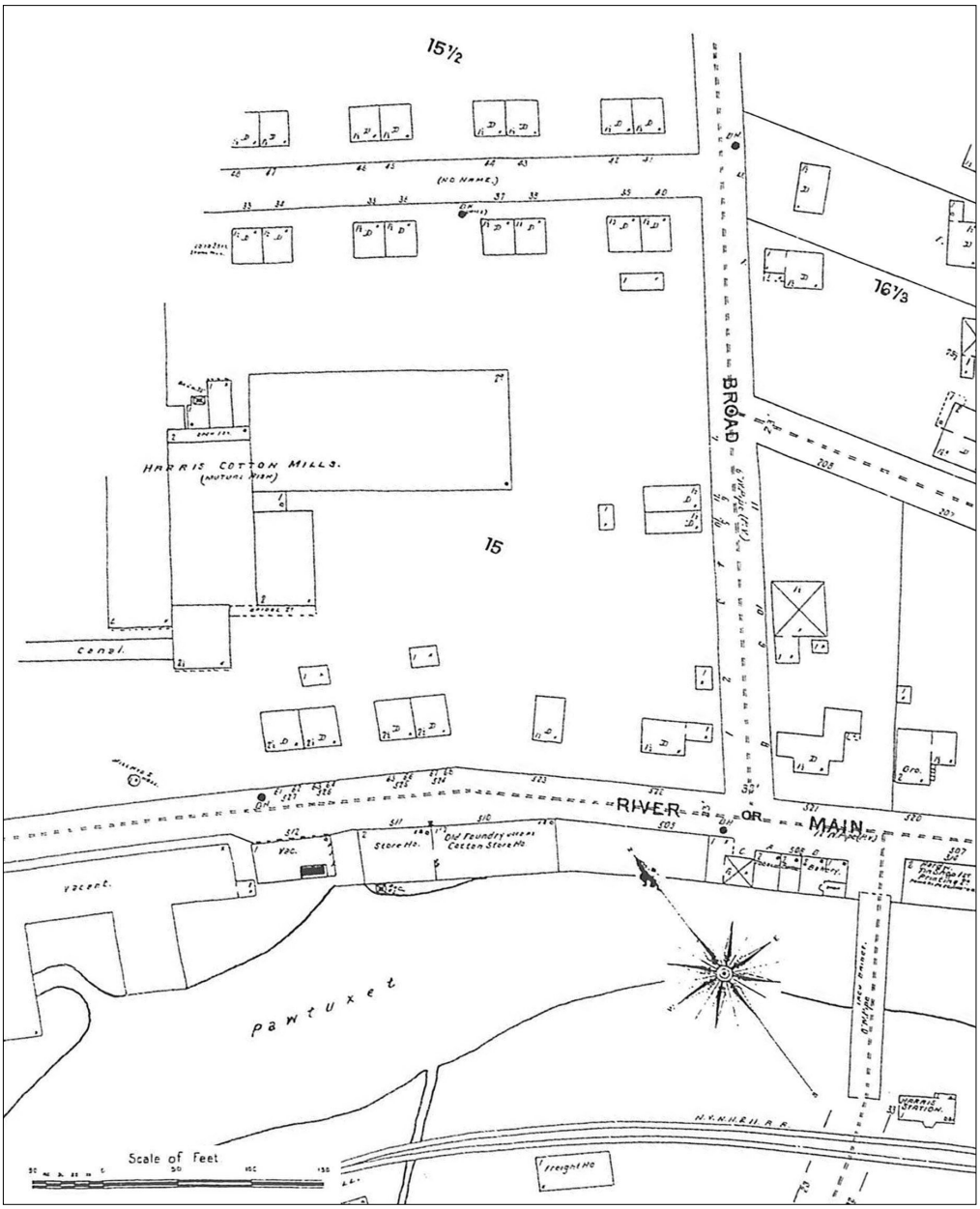
1903 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Harris Mill



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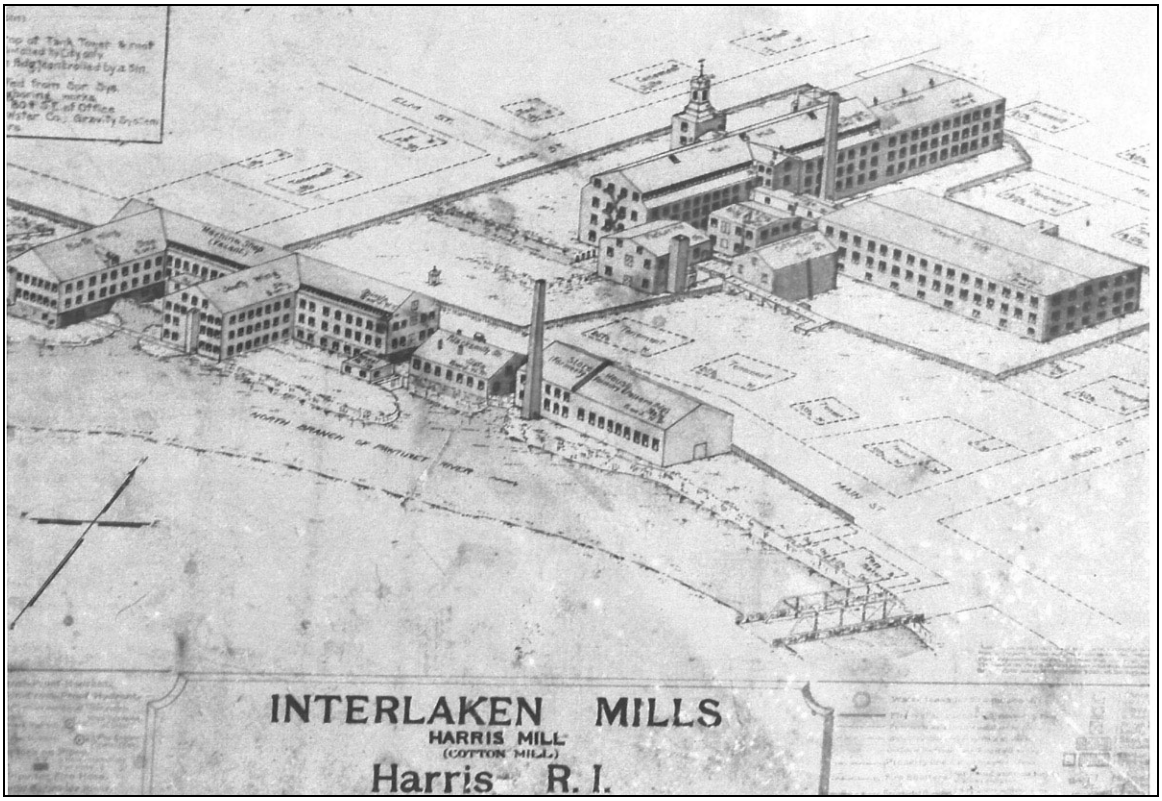
1905 Associated Mutual Insurance Company Detail of Harris Mill looking northeast



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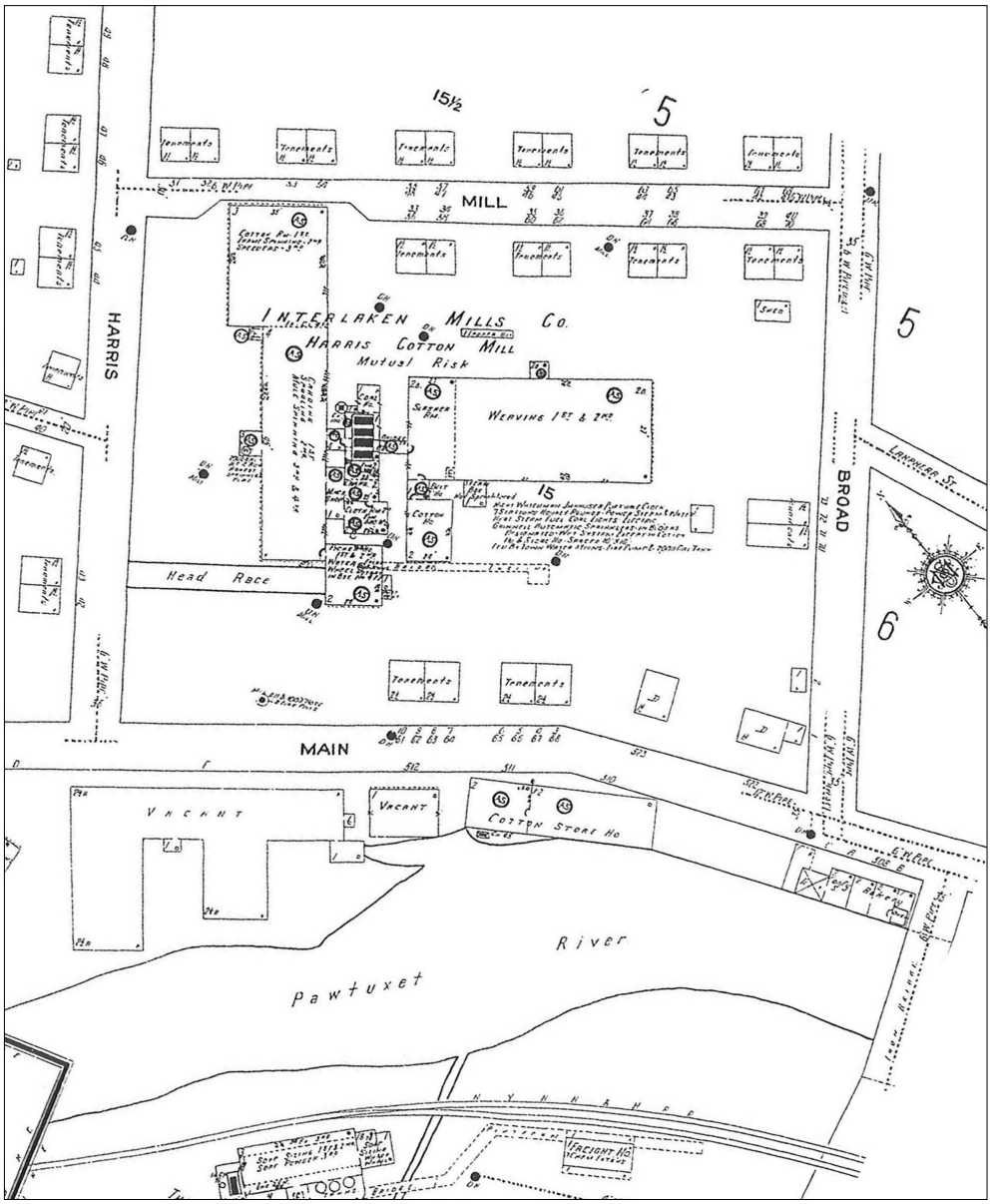
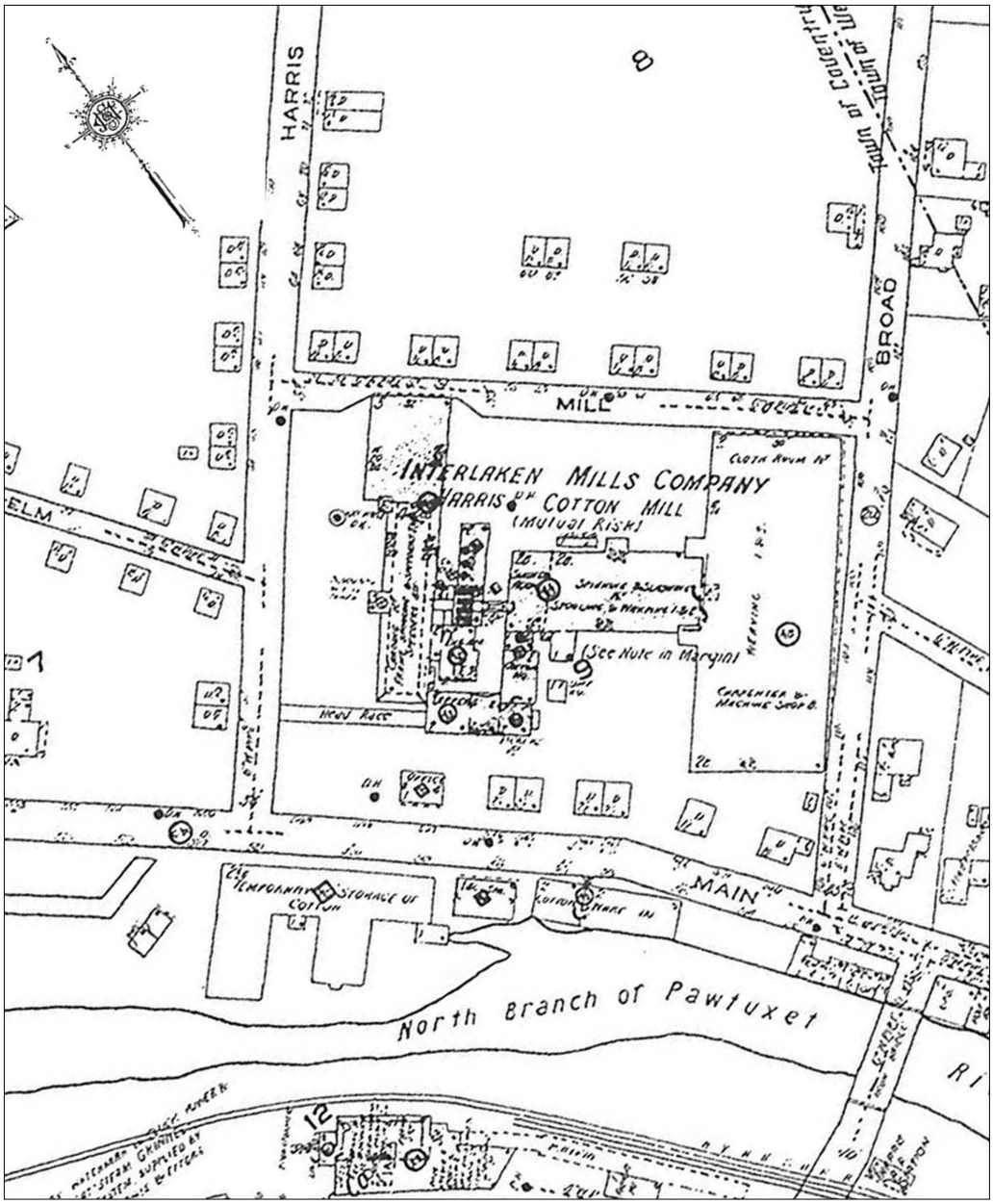
1911 Sanborn Insurance Map of Harris Mill



1922 Sanborn Insurance Map of Harris Mill



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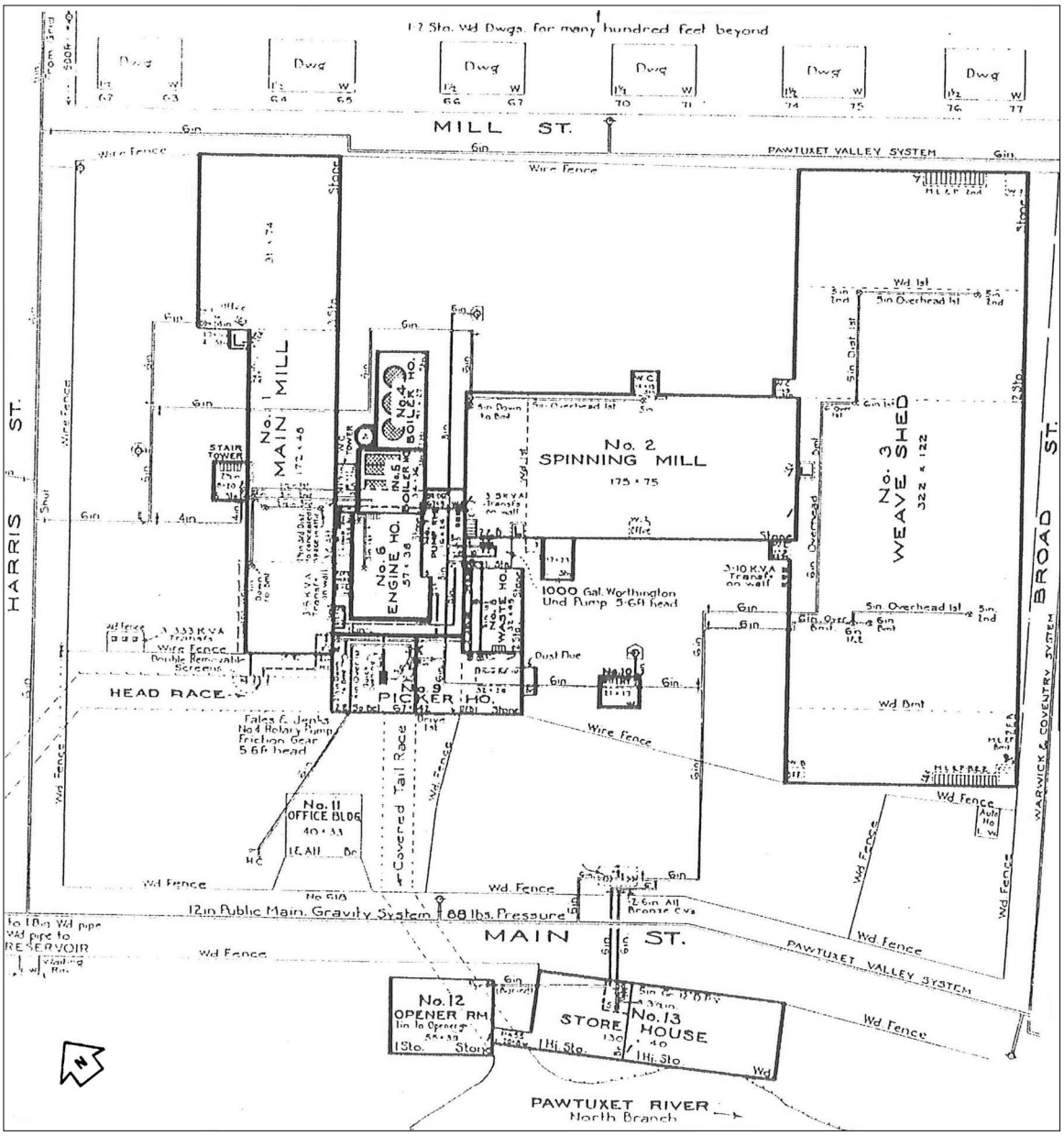
Circa 1942 Factory Mutual Insurance Map of Harris Mill



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(END)

Boundary Description

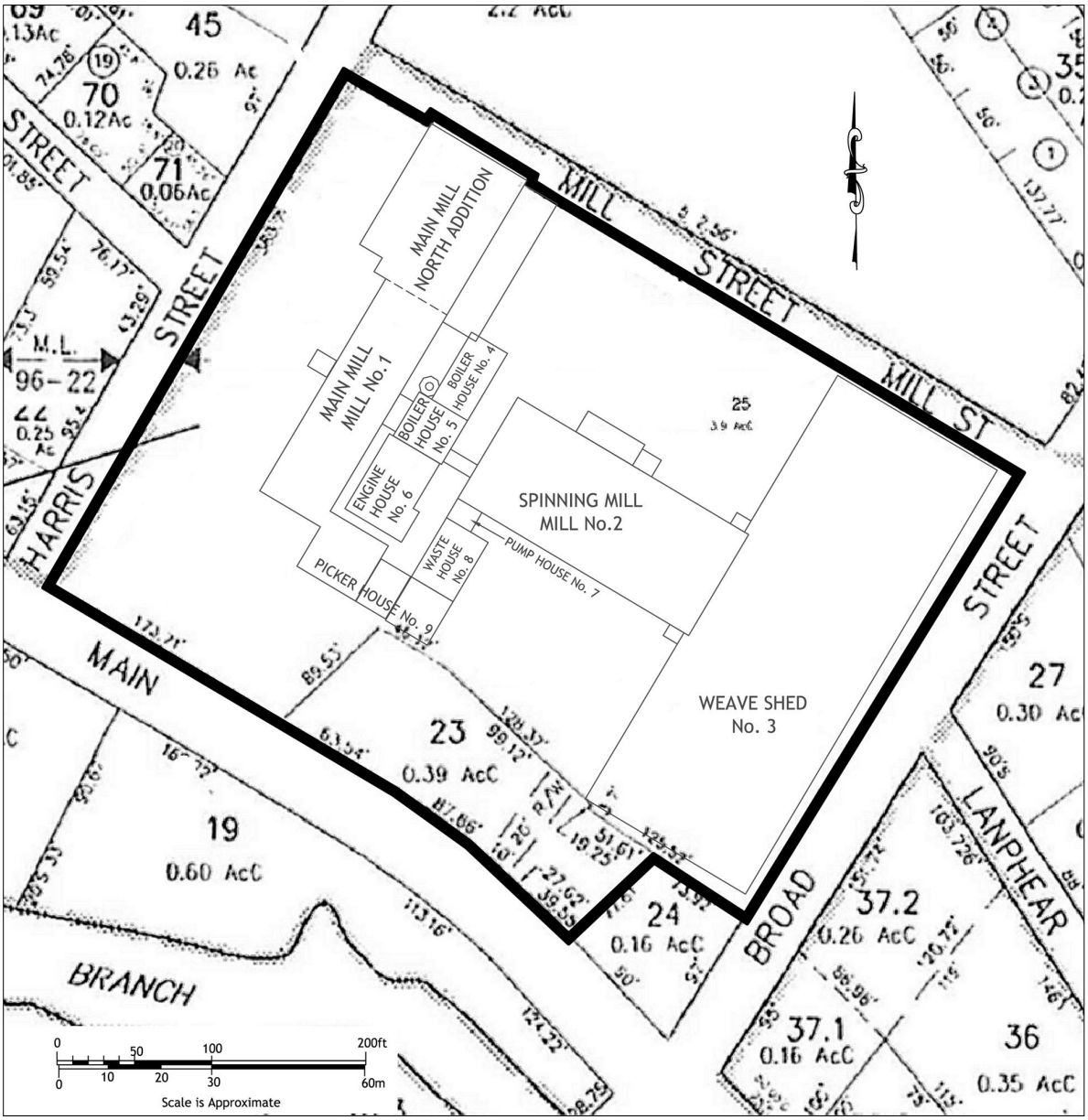
The property boundaries encompass all of Town of Coventry Tax Map 96, Lots 23 and 25, two parcels totaling 4.29 acres within Coventry, Rhode Island.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the full extent of contiguous historic architectural and structural resources associated with the activity in the property during its period of significance. The boundaries follow legally recorded property lines and roads.

(continued)

Town of Coventry Tax Map 96



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828-6668
OFFICE
U-HAUL
RENTALS

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401-823-0228

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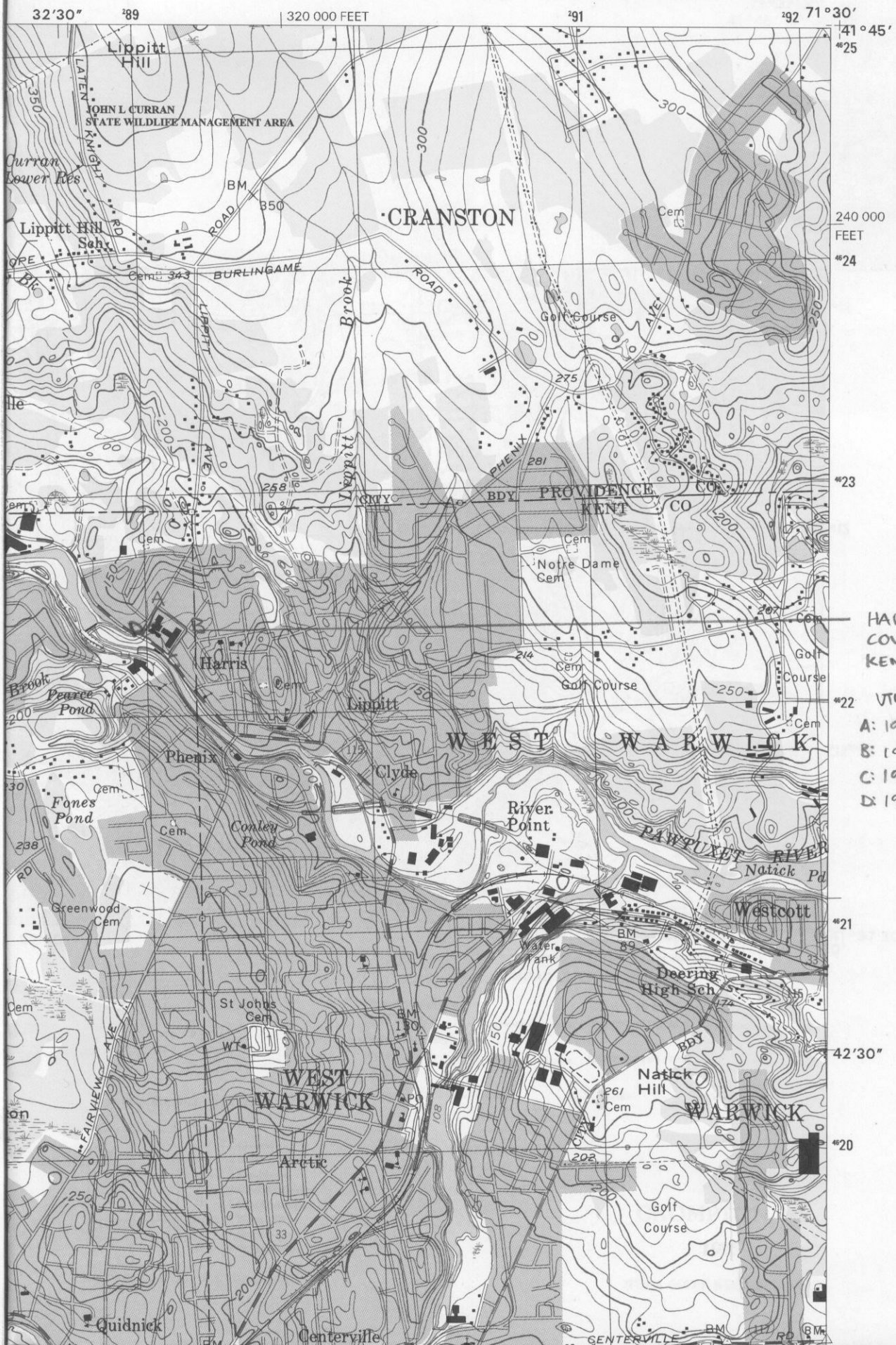
WH

CROMPTON QUADRANGLE
RHODE ISLAND
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



HARRIS MILL
COVENTRY
KENT COUNTY, RI

UTM REFERENCES:

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