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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Lymansville Company Mill

other names/site number Lymansville Mill

2. Location

street & number 184 Woonasquatucket Avenue [ ] not for publication

city or town North Providence [ ] vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Providence code 007 zip code 02911

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

__ **national** _X_ **statewide** __**local**

Edward Sanderson 11/1/2012

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

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

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	2	buildings
		district
		site
2		structure
		object
9	2	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE
walls: BRICK, GLASS, SYNTHETICS, WOOD, ASBESTOS SHINGLE
roof: ASPHALT, SYNTHETICS
other:

Summary Paragraph

The Lymansville Company Mill is a complex of connected worsted manufacturing and finishing buildings sited on a ten-acre lot on a bend in the Woonasquatucket River in the southwest corner of North Providence, Rhode Island. The complex comprises seven major buildings, predominantly brick, ranging in height from one to three stories all built by the Lymansville Company. Four buildings constructed between 1884 and 1887 serve as the core around which are arrayed a number of additions and new buildings erected through the mid-twentieth century. The complex is located on the east bank of the river on the site of a cotton factory established by Judge Daniel Lyman in 1807.[i] The Lymansville Company Mill complex includes elements of the water power system that was in operation until ca. 1942. The concrete and masonry Lymansville Dam still impounds a substantial pond on the river. Portions of the headrace and tailrace next to the mill complex are intact, though dry, while the other sections have been filled. The river bounds the mill property on the south and west; Woonasquatucket Avenue which is the main street of the adjoining village of Lymansville is the major boundary on the north and east. The original core of Lymansville was multi-family housing built by the Lyman Company in the 19th century. A number of these houses remain, along with many late 19th and early 20th century privately-built houses on streets north and east of the mill complex including Sack Street and Lyman Avenue.[ii]

Narrative Description

The Lymansville Company Mill was designed and built under the supervision of A. Albert Sack (1843-1925) for the manufacture and finishing of worsted yarn and cloth. The earliest construction in 1884-5 comprised: Mill No. 1, a three-story brick building for the production of worsted yarn; a brick Boiler and Engine House (Building No. 2) located along the headrace and attached to Mill No. 1; and a single-story frame Weave House (Building No. 3). A two-story brick Finishing Building (Mill No. 4), sited perpendicular to Mill No. 1, was built in 1887 and expanded soon after. The company also more than doubled the size of Mill No. 1 in this 1887 expansion. By 1901 the company added a small, two-story wing off Mill No. 1 used for company offices and a single-story, frame Dye House (demolished in 1951), and doubled the size of the Weave House. Between 1921 and 1937 the company added another north extension to Mill No. 1. Several mid-20th-century building campaigns added a single-story Factory Building (No. 7) attached to the rear wall of Mill No. 1 and a concrete block Dye House built in 1951. The Lymansville Company plant was closed in 1957. Since that time, the plant has been subdivided for various light industrial uses such as jewelry manufacture.

The mill is largely surrounded by asphalt paving, except for the grassy area on the site of the tailrace in front of Mill No.4 and a grassy border with mature evergreen trees that runs along Woonasquatucket Avenue. Scrub vegetation covers the property where it abuts the river.

Seven contributing buildings and two contributing structures are inventoried below. Buildings are numbered according to date of construction.

---

[i] The siting of Daniel Lyman's original 1807 cotton mill was such that the waterpower raceway extended in a southwesterly direction from a gatehouse on the Woonasquatucket River, entering a wheelhouse perpendicularly at the rear of the main mill and flowing through an open tailrace to rejoin the river about 300 feet downstream. Although most of the original mill complex was demolished for the construction of the present plant, the general alignment of the main building of the Lyman plant and its physical relationship to the raceway and river was replicated in the 1884-5 construction. See the 1882 Hopkins Plat Map of Providence for a plan of the Lyman Cotton Manufacturing Company plant that was demolished in 1884.

[ii] Two company-built houses that survive: are161-163 and 173 Woonasquatucket Avenue.

Contributing Buildings

Mill No. 1
Spinning and Carding Building (1884 et seq., contributing)
184 Woonasquatucket Avenue

A three-story, rectangular brick pier and spandrel building with a shallow-pitched gable roof and granite foundation. As built in 1884, this building's original dimensions were 82' x 77' overall. In 1887 the building was extended on the north end with a 100' x 112' addition that more than doubled the size to overall dimensions of 192' x 100' (see *Additional Information*, Figures 1 and 2). Between 1921 and ca. 1937 it was extended at full height on the north elevation by 50' using in-kind materials, rendering the current 22 x 9 bay configuration and 100' x 250' overall dimensions. The roof overhang is supported by shaped rafter ends. The framing is standard slow-burning mill construction with timber columns and floor beams supporting double-layer plank flooring in the 1884-1887 sections of the building. *C*-section steel elements have been sistered to original beams in much of the building. In the 20th-century additions, the framing consists of steel *I*-beams and round columns.

Windows have segmental arch openings; sills are concrete on the first and second floors, and wood on the third. The windows were originally equipped with paired double-hung wood sash separated by a wooden mullion. First floor windows had a 9/18 pane configuration; second floor windows were 9/15; third floor windows were 9/12. After 1957 the original windows were removed and, on the first two floors, the wood sills were replaced with concrete and aluminum transoms were installed in place of the wooden transoms. The windows are now fitted (typically) with multi-light, aluminum frame windows. Many upper-story windows have been blocked down with wood framing and plywood sheathing; vinyl windows with two horizontal lights have been installed in the reduced opening.

As originally built in 1884 a brick, four-story tower, attached to Mill No. 1 near its junction with the Weave House, was completely exposed, with the main entrance to the plant on its east elevation (see *Additional Information*, Figure 1). When Mill No. 4 was built three years later, the two lower floors of the tower were absorbed into the new building (see *Additional Information*, Figure 6). This tower has a 20' by 30' plan. The cornice is frame with simple brick corbeling below. Original paired 9/12 double-hung windows on the front elevation have been removed and replaced with plywood-sheathed wood framing fitted with modern vinyl windows. Upper tower windows are narrow 4-light, wooden frame; these appear to be original. Below these upper windows on the north tower elevation is inscribed: *Lymansville Co. 1885*. The original, shallow pyramidal roof was removed by the mid-20th century; the tower roof is now flat. In addition to the surviving staircase, parapet railing and landings, the fourth floor of the tower housed a 3,700-gallon water tank (no longer extant).

A second brick stair-tower was added to the east elevation of Mill No.1 as part of the northern extension built between 1921 and ca. 1937. A four-story structure, two bays wide and one deep, with a shallow-pitched roof with projecting rafter ends, it has low segmental-arch windows and contains a steel staircase. A third tower, a flat-roofed plain brick freight elevator tower occupies one bay of the east elevation to the west of the office wing.

This building served the following historical functions: first floor, wool combing and dressing; second floor, wool spinning and carding; third floor, yarn spooling. Company offices were located in this building from 1884 to ca. 1900. The raceway for the plant's hydraulic system passed through the basement of the building. A wheel pit in the basement housed two turbines. A massive, brick-arched opening on the east wall returned water to the

tailrace. When first built in 1884, what is now the southernmost part of this basement housed some wet finishing and drying operations (later moved to Mill No. 4).

With the cessation of waterpower generation, the headrace was filled in and between 1942 and 1956, the Lymansville Company constructed a 3-story, 24' x 48' infill addition above the former headrace. This brick and concrete structure has a shallow-pitched shed roof, and interior framing of steel *I*-beams and cylindrical iron columns supporting a heavy plank floor. There is a continuous band of steel industrial sash windows along the west elevation on the two upper floors. The ground floor provides a concrete loading dock.

Building No. 2
Boiler/Engine House (1884, ca. 1890 et seq., contributing)

This brick structure alongside the former headrace on the west elevation of Mill No. 1 incorporates a complex structural history that includes original construction and three campaigns of enlargement. As originally built, the Boiler/Engine House was a deep, predominantly single-story structure, 64' x 40', with a shallow-pitched gable roof. It was divided into three rooms: a 26' x 40' room containing two boilers; a 21' x 38' room housing a 100 HP compound condensing steam engine; and a 19' x 38' machine shop. A second story room over the Engine Room housed a picker. A square-section chimney abutted the building's north wall.

It is likely that Sack anticipated an expansion of the steam capacity of the mill even as the Boiler/Engine House was being built. By 1887 he increased the number of boilers to four, an increase in steam capacity necessitated by an overall expansion of the mill that included more than doubling the size of Mill No. 1 and the construction of the Finishing Building (Mill. No. 4). Despite these improvements, the footprint of the original Boiler/Engine House was not changed at the time.

In 1905 Sack made a 25' x 40' westerly expansion of the boiler house to accommodate a fifth boiler to provide the additional capacity necessitated by an expansion of Mill No. 4. At that time he also added a chamber for fire pumps. Between 1905 and 1921 this building was expanded to the south 22' by the full length of the building, roofed by way of an extension of the south slope of the original gable. In the 20th century a small, brick, single-story Blower Room was added to this extension at its junction with the original Engine House. By 1921 a 46' x 20' coal house was added to the west elevation. The current shed-roofed, concrete block addition of relatively recent construction in this location replaced this original structure.

Window openings in the exposed part of the original building are segmental arched, in keeping with the rest of the early construction. These openings have been filled with aluminum inserts. In the south extension there are three rectangular window openings with concrete sills: two are plywood filled; a third has a steel frame industrial sash window likely original to this addition. A large segmental- arched doorway on the west elevation provides access to the fire pump room. This doorway has been partially filled with brick and decorative concrete block to accommodate a modern steel door. The current 130' tapering cylindrical tile chimney, built by the American Chimney Corporation (NY), dates to post-1918.[iii]

[iii] A surviving steel cleanout door at the base of the chimney is inscribed with the company name. This corporation was formed in 1918.

Building No. 3
Weave House (1884 et seq., contributing)
184 Woonasquatucket Avenue

The Weave House as built in 1884 was a single-story brick, 80' x 135', shallow gable roofed structure with a frame south wall to accommodate anticipated expansion. A central frame clerestory monitor provided additional light to the interior. The north elevation of this building, originally exposed, became an interior wall with the construction of Mill No. 2 in 1887. By 1890 the building was enlarged on the south to create a 122' x 135'footprint.[iv] A second clerestory roof monitor was added as well. Some once-exterior walls are still visible within the building. Much of the present-day exposed elevations are sheathed in either plywood or vinyl. Frame construction of the south wall bounded by brick piers at either end suggests that the Lymansville Company considered, but never executed, further southward expansion of this building. The two monitors feature continuous bands of wood-frame sash windows that are currently plywood-covered. All windows on this building are either plywood-covered or of modern construction. A non-contributing one-story, shed-roofed, concrete block, 80' x 20' addition to the west wall of this building dates to between 1956 and 1965.

Mill No. 4
Finishing Building (1887, ca. 1890, et seq., contributing)
184 Woonasquatucket Avenue

A brick pier and spandrel building, 22 bays long and 8 bays wide on the east end, but narrower on the west end where it abuts Building No.3. This building has two upper stories and a basement that is fully exposed on the west end due to the natural downward slope of the property west of Mill No. 1 (see *Additional Information*, Figure 5). This building is the product of three campaigns carried out between 1887 and ca. 1920. Original overall dimensions were 144'x 50'. By 1890 the building had been expanded five bays along its length to the current dimension of 220'. Between 1905 and 1921 the rear (south) wall was moved out 20'. These additions created the present-day overall dimensions of 220' x 70'.

The roof is a shallow-pitched gable; the east elevation exhibits evidence of the change in roofline effected in the early 20th-century southerly expansion. The foundation is granite. The westernmost bay (closest to the stair tower) provides a modern glass and metal doorway on the ground floor; this is the main entrance to Mill No. 4. Above this entrance on the second floor is a former freight door opening, now plywood-filled.

Framing is slow-burning mill construction: chamfered timber columns support a floor system of heavy timber beams and heavy plank flooring. Original paired, double-hung, wood-frame windows were set in segmental arch openings: basement level windows were 6/6; ground floor windows were 9/12; second-story windows were 9/9. These have been replaced with aluminum sash in the same manner as those of Mill No. 1.

The building historically housed worsted finishing on the first floor, sorting on the second floor, and washing and scouring in the basement. A depression along the north elevation of this building is the intact but dry section of the tailrace that remains (see *Hydraulic Features* below).

[iv] Davison's *Textile Blue Book* notes the use of 70 looms in 1899. Two years later this number had increased to 100 and, by 1905, to 120.

Building No. 5
Office Building (between 1895 and 1901, contributing)
184 Woonasquatucket Avenue

A two-story, brick, flat-roofed building on a granite ashlar and wetlaid rubble foundation attached to the east elevation of Mill No. 1. This building replaced the original first floor offices housed within Mill No. 1 since 1884. The building has an irregular trapezoidal plan with a narrow angled front that conforms to the alignment of Woonasquatucket Avenue. Overall dimensions are 32' x 50'. Windows are mid-20th-century aluminum inserts set in original segmental arch openings. Sills are quarry-faced granite. Granite steps lead to a segmental arch door opening that is now partially bricked-in. A modern aluminum and glass doorway is set in this opening. An area of brick infill and a change in the granite masonry below indicate that a current south elevation window opening was once a doorway. The interior is clear span. Original beadboard ceilings are visible above modern suspended ceilings. A late-20th century wood and steel staircase leads to the upper floor.

Building No. 6
Dye House (1951, contributing)
184 Woonasquatucket Avenue

A 1- and 2-story, concrete block structure with a shallow gable roof built in 1951 to replace an earlier frame Dye House. Interior framing is steel *I*-beams and posts with a concrete floor. There are two flat-roofed concrete block additions along the south wall, the first of which (between 1951 and 1956) required an angled corner because of its proximity to the Woonasquatucket River. This addition provided a loading dock on its north elevation adjacent to Mill No. 4. Although predominantly single-story, a frame second story structure occupies about 30' of the south elevation of this. On this raised story, there is a continuous band of eight, four-light windows. A modern, steel door enframed by glass block provides entry to this second story space. The second south addition (ca. 1965) is a concrete block structure that housed a generator room and fuel oil tank. The dyehouse has been determined by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to be contaminated with hazardous materials.

Building 7
Factory Building (between 1937 and 1956, contributing)
184 Woonasquatucket Avenue

Between 1937 and 1956, the Lymansville Company built a low, 48' x 164', flat-roofed, one-story, brick, poured concrete and concrete block building attached to the west wall of Mill No. 1. There are four freight doors on the north and a continuous band of rectangular, 9-light, steel-frame windows on the west elevation, now plywood-covered. Low, brick parapet walls cap the north and south elevations. Framing is comprised of steel *I*–beams and one row of round section steel columns. Although historical insurance maps simply label this building a "Factory Building," it appears to have been used for storage and shipping. The floor is concrete. Four metal skylights were removed after 1965.

Contributing Structures:

Bridge/Filter House
(1951, contributing)

Spanning the former tailrace, this is a complex structure, the dominant visual feature of which is a concrete bridge deck resting on steel girders. The bridge provides access to Mill No. 4 and the stairtower from the entry drive. This is the only surviving bridge of the three that once spanned the plant's raceways.[v] The bridge provides a 14'-wide passage and is 20' in length. The railing, comprised of 3" and 4" iron pipe, appears to date to the construction of this bridge in early-mid 20th century. Access to the bridge is currently restricted to pedestrian use; two large concrete blocks prevent vehicle access.

Ca.1900 photographs of this area of the plant show a frame bridge resting on and integral with a frame building below (see *Additional Information*, Figure 6). Further research may reveal the precise function or evolution of this building. It is labeled a "Store House" on the 1921 Sanborn Map Company map. It is likely that the Store House and the frame bridge were removed for the construction of the current bridge and Filter House in conjunction with the construction of the 1951 Dye House.

The north abutment of the bridge is a predominantly concrete structure incorporating some wetlaid rubble masonry presumably from an earlier abutment. The south abutment is a concrete structure that incorporates the flat-roofed 50' x 15' concrete filter house. It is attached to the north wall of Mill No. 4 and the east wall of Mill No. 1. It was constructed in 1951 to filter water for the newly-built Dye House (Building No. 6). Three roughly 12"- diameter vertical iron pipes exit the north face of the structure to join a common horizontal pipe. This structure contains a 25,000 gallon water tank. Parts of this structure have frame shed roofs; other parts have concrete roofs. A frame roof section closest to the stairtower is failing.

Hydraulic Features
(1809 et seq. to 1939, contributing)

Although the Lymansville Mill ceased the use of waterpower around 1942, several artifacts of this system remain. These resources, treated collectively as a single Contributing Structure, are described below.

General. The 1809 Lyman Cotton Manufacturing Company water privilege,[vi] providing a fall of 10', was acquired in 1884 by the Lymansville Company and adapted to address the power requirements of the new plant. Mill No. 1 (1884 et seq.) was sited similarly to the earlier mill so that the headrace ran a short straight course from a control gate on the east bank of the pond (removed in the mid-20th century) to the Wheel House in the basement of Mill No. 1. The tailrace, after exiting through the arched opening in the mill's east elevation, ran a similarly straight route c. 600' to empty back into the river downstream. The water power system also included a head gate (parts of which survive) on the west side of the mill that controlled the water's flow into the mill and

[v] This and one other bridge spanned the tailrace in the vicinity of Mill No. 4; a third bridge spanned the headrace in the vicinity of the Boiler/Engine House.
[vi] This water privilege, as described in William Bagnall's *The Textile Industries of the United States* (p. 545) was established by Daniel Lyman through three land purchases along the Woonasquatucket River in 1809. The 1835 Lockwood and Cushing *Map of The City of Providence and the Town of North Providence* shows a sizable impoundment extending almost to Allendale, the next upstream water privilege.

two Perfection Turbines[vii] that produced 120 HP. By 1890 the plant operated fully on waterpower for four months of the year, supplementing this with steam power for the remaining eight months. After the water power system was abandoned c. 1942, the races were filled; a portion of the tailrace survives in the present-day depression extending east from the tailrace arch along the north elevation of Mill No. 4.

Lymansville Dam (RIDEM Dam No. 134). The current dam dates to a reconstruction and improvement carried out in 1936 by the Lymansville Company. This concrete and masonry structure was designed by civil engineer O. Perry Sarle and built by the Tucker Construction Company. The spillway is 105'long

Headrace. At the upper end of the headrace some minor masonry remains indicate the location of the gates that regulated water flow from the pond, but the gates are no longer extant. Most of the headrace was filled in by 1950, though a 3'-high, concrete retaining wall enclosing the filled raceway beside and parallel to the north elevation of the Boiler/Engine House. This enclosure is roughly 20' wide, and 60'long. At its eastern end there is a steel sluice gate that regulated flow of water to the turbines in the Wheel House in the basement of Mill No. 1. An inspection of this basement has yielded no surface remains of the Wheel House or turbines; there may, however, be sub-surface remains, including turbines.

Tailrace. All that remains of this raceway is a roughly 200'-long depression that extends from the tailrace arch in the east elevation of Mill No. 1 along the north elevation of Mill No. 4. A150'-long concrete retaining wall forms the north edge of the depression.

Non-contributing building:

Garage (before 1921). A roughly 25'-square, shed-roofed structure on a concrete slab. Sheathing is ship-lap (novelty) board siding. There are two west elevation garage doors no longer in use; one is plywood-covered and the other is a metal overhead door.

Guard House (after 1965) A roughly 8' square vinyl-sided shed with a concrete foundation across the entrance drive from the Office Wing.

[vii] These turbines, developed in Dublin, Ireland, by Cadle and Ridgeway were noted for their efficiency, simplicity of operation, and stable operation in periods of low as well as high water. See: *The Manufacturer and Inventor* (20 April 1891): 23.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1884-1957

Significant Dates

1884, 1887, ca. 1900, 1939, 1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

A. Albert Sack, others

O. Perry Sarle (Lymansville Dam)

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance represents the period of active occupation by the Lymansville Company.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Lymansville Company Mill complex is the physical expression of more than seventy years of woolen worsted spinning, weaving, and finishing in North Providence, Rhode Island. It is significant on the state level under National Register **Criterion A** for its association with worsted manufacture in the late 19th- and early 20th-century, when Rhode Island was a leader in that branch of the textile industry. The mill was designed and operated by A. Albert Sack (1843-1925), who learned the woolen and worsted trades in his native Germany, worked his way through the ranks of several New England textile firms, and established himself as a successful worsted entrepreneur in the late 1870s. Constructed by the newly-formed Lymansville Company in 1884 and expanded and improved over the following two decades, the Lymansville Company Mill exemplifies the rise of Rhode Island's woolen and worsted industry to a preeminent status in the state's dominant textile economy. The later history of the company, which closed in 1957, also illustrates the worsted industry's decline following the end of Word War II.

The Lymansville Company Mill is significant on the state level under **Criterion C** as a fine example of late 19th- and early 20th-century architecture of the New England woolen and worsted industry. Representative of the scale and siting of Rhode Island woolen and worsted mills of the era, this plant represents the characteristic design, structural, and functional features that typified mills erected for the manufacture of worsted yarn and cloth during the industry's period of prominence in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Rhode Island Worsted Manufacture

Worsted yarn manufacture differs from that of ordinary wool in that the wool fibers are sorted either by length (the English or Bradford system) or by fineness (the French or Continental system) and then combed before spinning. Worsted yarns are smoother and lighter than regular wool and produce higher quality cloth. The worsted industry had its beginnings in England and was established in the United States by the 1830s. One of the earliest of these American mills was the Valley Worsted Mill established by James Giles in Providence in 1842. The popularity of worsted cloth in the United States rose significantly after its promotion at the Paris Exposition of 1867 and the Centennial Exhibition, held in Philadelphia in 1876.

By 1870, there were 11 worsted mills in Rhode Island, most of which had been established after the Civil War. By the close of the 19th-century, the state's worsted industry had surpassed its long-dominant cotton industry with 51 establishments and 14, 896 employees. Rhode Island was the third ranking state for the production of worsted goods and Providence contained the largest concentration of worsted production in the country. By the late 19th century, worsted manufacture had surpassed both cotton and wool production in Rhode Island. The majority of Providence's worsted mills were clustered in the Woonasquatucket River valley in Olneyville, a short distance downstream from Lymansville. The majority of the Rhode Island mills, including the Lymansville Company, employed the English system, though Woonsocket became a center of French worsted production beginning in the 1890s.

After reaching a peak in the early 20th century, Rhode Island's worsted industry contracted during the second decade of the 20th century. The demand for worsted cloth for military uniforms stimulated the industry during World War I, but the wartime boom was followed by a prolonged period of decline for the New England textile

industry as a whole. Conditions worsened with the Great Depression; and as manufacturers cut production and wages, mill operatives protested. Rhode Islanders joined in local strikes and the Great Textile Strike in 1934, which involved four hundred thousand textile workers on strike for 22 days throughout the country. These demonstrations of labor militancy convinced many textile manufacturers to close their mills or leave New England for the American South (and subsequently, overseas). Worsteds, as a finer good, fared better than cottons and coarse woolens during the depression years, and Rhode Island worsted production once again benefited from a wartime boom with the onset of World War II. This activity could not be sustained and in the decade following the war's end, the major worsted mills in Rhode Island closed, leaving only small niche producers.[viii]

A. Albert Sack and the Lymansville Company

Auguste Albert Sack was born in Hansfelde,[ix] Germany, in 1843. As a young man he completed four years of professional schooling that included training in the worsted and woolen trades.[x] In 1867 at the age of twenty-five he emigrated to the United States. His first employment in this country was as a designer for the Edward Harris Woolen Company in Woonsocket. By the early 1870s he had served in the same capacity at the Everett Mills (Lawrence, MA), and the Bates Mills (Lewiston, ME). His first supervisory position was with the Boston commission house, Leland, Allen and Bates, where he oversaw the woolen mills owned by this company.

He relocated to North Providence in 1873 to become superintendent of the worsted operation run by Owen and Clark in the Geneva Mill, which they leased from Charles Heaton and Martin Cowing. Sack remained with Owen and Clark until he purchased the Geneva Mill from Heaton and Cowing in 1879.[xi] He managed the operation of the Geneva Worsted Mill until 1884 at which time he and partners George L. Davis[xii] and John A. Brown purchased the Lymansville Mill estate, which included a substantial mill privilege and a modest-sized mill village on the Woonasquatucket River. [xiii] This privilege and cotton mill had been in the Lyman family since 1809 until it was sold to textile entrepreneurs F.R. and H.C. White[xiv] in 1877. Sack and his partners, who incorporated as the Lymansville Company[xv] in early 1884, purchased the plant and 40 acres of land from the Whites.

[viii] Gary Kulik, *Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic and Industrial Sites:* pp. 21-25.

[ix] Other sources list Sack's birthplace as Posen, a German city considerably to the south and near the border with the present-day Czech Republic.

[x] This training also included finance and banking.

[xi] The Geneva Worsted Mill was purchased by a partnership that included Sack and S.B. and Morris Ullman.

[xii] Davis (1844-1921) was a partner in Davis and Furber, a well-established manufacturer of textile machinery in North Andover, MA. Sack married Davis's sister Alice in 1879.

[xiii] Most of this early mill complex was demolished in order to build the complex that is the subject of this document. The original Lyman Mill (1809 et seq.) is historically important for its early employment of power looms as developed by William Gilmore (and improved by David Wilkinson) in 1817. For a thorough examination of the introduction of the power loom to the Rhode Island cotton industry, see *Proceedings of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry* for the year 1864: pps. 59-92.

[xiv] According to the 1880 Federal Census, the White operation at Lymansville employed 47 operatives in the production of cotton warp. A 12' fall on the Woonasquatucket River powered 42" and 52" turbines producing 80 HP.

[xv] "An Act to Incorporate the Lymansville Company." Private Acts of the Rhode Island General Assembly, May Session 1884, p. 37.

In 1884, Sack supervised the construction of a modern worsted plant that included a brick, three-story, pier and spandrel, 80' x 80' main building with an external stair tower (Mill No. 1). This building housed the combing and drawing operations on the first floor as well as the company offices. The second floor had the carding operations and the third floor, spinning. The building was sited so that its headrace entered the mill perpendicularly on the west elevation where it powered two turbines producing 100 horsepower in the basement wheelhouse. The tailrace exited through an arch on the east elevation and returned water to the river about 600' east of the building.

Sack chose not to finish the north wall of Mill No. 1 in brick, but, rather, to use wood framing and clapboard to facilitate expansion in the near future. Attached to the south elevation of Mill No. 1 was a 135' x 80', single-story Weave House (Building No. 3) housing approximately 30 looms. Similar to the construction of Mill No. 1, this building had three brick sides and a frame south wall to allow easier expansion. The final building of the original plant was a 40' x 65' Boiler/Engine House (Building No. 2) sited parallel to the headrace and attached to Mill No. 1. The mill was in operation by November 1884. In 1885, the first full year of operation, the company produced 170,000 pounds of yarn and 150,000 yards of cloth. By 1901, employing some 400 operatives, this annual product had increased to 1,200,000 pounds of yarn and one million yards of cloth valued at more than $1,000,000.[xvi]

Within a few years of setting up operations, Sack had established salesrooms in New York and seven other cities to sell worsted goods direct to the garment manufacturers, rather than through agents. Late 19th-century sources described the Lymansville Company as "…the only establishment in the country that sells and delivers goods direct from the factory to the consumer." [xvii]

Early Labor Strife at Lymansville

The successful operation of the Lymansville Company Mill and similar textile enterprises depended on a wide range of factors, both external, such as the markets for raw materials and finished products, and internal, such as technical operations and management of labor. Relations between management and operatives were an increasingly important aspect of manufacturing in the late 19th century and, similar to other mills in the region, the Lymansville Company experienced periods of conflict in the workplace.

Shortly after the commencement of work at Lymansville, a January 21, 1886 strike shut down the plant, a labor action that developed under the strong influence, if not the direction, of the Knights of Labor. [xviii] Although not a formal arm of the Knights of Labor, weavers and loom fixers at the plant, under the leadership of weaver and

[xvi] Bayles, *History of Providence County* (Vol. II, 1891), pps. 189-91 and Hall, *Biographical History of the Manufacturers and Businessmen of Rhode Island* (1901), p. 182.
[xvii] Ibid.
[xviii] This early labor organization, formed in Philadelphia in 1869, experienced a dramatic national growth to 700,000 members by the early 1880s and this influence extended to Rhode Island, particularly the state's textile mills. By 1886 the state Knights of Labor organization, with a strong base of support in the woolen and worsted mills of Olneyville, boasted some 12,000 members. Knights of Labor agitation figured prominently in a number of high-profile textile strikes of the period (such as those in Manville and Geneva). The dramatic rise and decline of this organization is well-documented in Paul Buhle, "The Knights of Labor in Rhode Island," *Radical History Review* (Spring 1978): 39. During this period labor and capital both sought support in collective organizations; textile mill owners formed the Slater Club to provide mutual aid against labor agitation. This group represented 90% of textile manufacturers.

Knights of Labor member George Lee, established a committee to address a number of shop grievances. The weavers desired a permanent committee responsible for presenting grievances to and negotiating resolutions with owner Sack. The committee sought to address what a reporter for the *Morning Star*, a Providence pro-labor newspaper, called a pattern of "shabby treatment" [xix] by the plant's overseers.

Prominent among the grievances was the company management's system of hand-measuring of finished worsted cloth and assessment of wages or fines based on the amount and quality of cloth produced. Of particular concern to the strikers were fines deemed arbitrary and punitive, often amounting to a significant portion of wages and, in many cases, being no fault of the weaver.[xx] The weavers, who were paid by length of cloth woven rather than by the hour, maintained that overseers (commonly called "perchers") had been ordered by management to cheat the weavers in the measurement of woven cloth and demanded that a machine system of measurement be installed. Subsequent re-measurement of woven cloth in the presence of the three aggrieved weavers and the Weave House supervisor established that the weavers had, in fact, produced more cloth than the amount assessed by management.

Despite a shutdown of five weeks, Sack made no concessions, threatening at one point to close the plant permanently. Even when the weavers dropped their demand for the committee, calling instead for a raise of 1½ cents "on all patterns of goods of more than eighty picks," Sack refused, offering only to reopen the doors of the mill to some of the weavers, increasing work gradually as demand required.[xxi]

The original demand and ultimate failure of the Knights of Labor to institutionalize a workers' committee at Lymansville and the company's success in simply waiting out the strike exemplify on a local level the rise and decline of the movement. After the summer of 1886 the Knights of Labor experienced a dramatic decline, both nationally and locally. By 1900 national membership numbered about 20,000.

A local development that may have been at least partially in response to this labor difficulty was Albert Sack's recruitment of German immigrants to work in his mill. US Census records show that from only ten individuals of German birth in North Providence in 1880 the number grew to forty-five by 1900, with the majority of them textile workers. Though Germans never became a dominant proportion of the 400 to 600 person workforce, they became a distinctive part of village character through features such as a German band. Sack also laid out new

---

[xix] *Morning Star* (23 January 1886). See full citation in the *Unpublished Material* section of the Bibliography.

[xx] The most celebrated of grievances associated with the Lymansville Company's system of fines involved a weaver named Frank Shaw, against whom fines of $88.25 were deducted from wages earned between April and November 1885. This, described by a reporter for *The People*, the organ of the Knights of Labor in Rhode Island, as "unbearable," forced Shaw to leave the employ of the company and seek work elsewhere. *The People* published a lengthy article during the strike describing in detail the responsibilities of the weaver in loom tending and cloth imperfections identified by management as cause for fines. See "The Shaw Fining Case: A Complete History of the Affair from the Beginning," *The People* (20 February 1886), p. 1.

[xxi] This strike is addressed in a series of pro-labor articles that appeared in the Providence *Morning Star* in January and February 1886. These articles are found in the Labor News Clippings collection in the University of Rhode Island Library's Special Collections. Molloy, Scott, "Labor news clippings, 22 scrapbooks, 1867-1902" (1993). *Special Collections Publications.* Paper 3. http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/sc_pubs/3

streets in the village and encouraged residents to construct private housing rather live in company built tenements.[xxii]

Another labor action occurred at Lymansville in 1916, which was settled to the benefit of the strikers. On Friday, January 28 of that year 400 of the plant's 600 workers struck the plant demanding an end to a pay system in which the company held any individual earnings over even dollar amounts until that balance accumulated to a full dollar. The workers demanded full payment each week, a policy called the "envelope system." The workers also demanded a 5% increase in wages over the 5% the company offered. The company responded by shutting down the plant. Unlike the events of the mid-1880s, Sack conceded four days later to the institution of the envelope system of pay and an effective pay raise of 8%.

This successful strike typified a more durable and politically significant rise in labor agitation, membership, and conflict throughout the state that would contribute in no small measure to an upending in the 1930s of the old political structure that had relied on textile wealth and its control of Rhode Island state government. The state election of 1936 saw a dramatic shift of power to Democrats representing the newly-enfranchised, largely ethnic, Catholic working class of the state.[xxiii]

Lymansville in the Twentieth Century

Company founder A. Albert Sack died in April 1925. An obituary in the *Providence Journal* noted that a man who "came here with nothing," rose through the ranks of New England woolen and worsted manufacturers to establish himself as an industry and civic leader.[xxiv] After his death, the company was sold to Fred S. Peck (1868-1947) of Barrington, RI. Peck was a prominent figure in Rhode Island as a political leader of the Republican Party and as a capitalist involved in a variety of enterprises, including his family's wool business, Asa Peck & Co. [xxv] The Lymansville Company continued in operation under Peck's direction through the years of the Great Depression and much of World War II. It is noteworthy that the Lymansville Company maintained a workforce of 500 operatives during these very difficult years for the worsted trade.[xxvi]

In 1944 Peck sold the Lymansville plant to Mack Kahn, owner of several textile mills operating under the name Kanmak Mills, which included the Amoskeag Mill (Manchester, NH) and the Kanmak Mill (Kulpmont, PA). By 1950, Kahn had carried out a thorough modernization program for the nearly 60-year-old mill, replacing 90% of the mill machinery. Kahn's main contribution to the physical evolution of the plant was the construction of a new, 10,000 sq. ft. Dye House (Building No. 6) in 1951. This $2 million investment increased Lymansville's piece dyeing capacity to 2000 units per week.[xxvii] Interviewed at the time, Kahn spoke of the transformation

[xxii] Bayles, pp. 190-191; *Historic and Architectural Resources of North Providence* (Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission), p. 34.
[xxiii] This transformation and its relation to labor action within the state's textile industry is described in Paul Buhle's "Italian-American Radicals and Labor in Rhode Island." *Radical History Review* 17 (Spring 1978), pp. 121-51.
[xxiv] "A. Albert Sack, 82, Prominent Mill Man, Dies." *Providence Journal* (22 April 1925), p. 1.
[xxv] Peck's life as a textile manufacturer, civic leader, bibliophile and builder of Belton Court in Barrington is discussed at length in the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for Belton Court, on file, RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence.
[xxvi] The 1936 edition of *Davison's Textile Blue Book* lists 120 broadlooms, 14 worsted cards, 11 worsted combs and 500 operatives.
[xxvii] Ibid.

"…of an aging mill into a modern, integrated operation able to meet the competition of mills anywhere in the world." Kahn asserted that this integration—from raw wool to finished product— permitted his mills to operate on a narrower profit margin at each stage of production than non-integrated mills. (However, integration was not new at the Lymansville mill, which had been established as an integrated plant by A. Albert Sack.)[xxviii]

Kahn's investment at Lymansville was a calculated risk, as the New England woolen and worsted industry was continuing to decline in the face of several trends. One trend was the development of new blended wool and synthetic cloth which was cheaper to make and supplanting worsteds in the marketplace. Another was the development of the worsted industry in the South in the late 1940s. The New England worsted companies now faced the same problem of competition from modern facilities run with cheaper labor that the cotton industry had experienced a generation earlier. The situation was also exacerbated by a generally weak consumer economy.[xxix]

While there were initial signs that Kahn's strategy was working, as employment at the plant rose from 415 operatives in 1950 to 650 in 1954, the Lymansville Company experienced serious financial difficulties and was idled and put up for sale in the early summer of 1956. The plant's 650 operatives lost their jobs. Whatever the immediate cause of the mill's closing, Kahn lost his bet on the future of worsted production at Lymansville, and his investments in new production at the mill came to naught. Kanmak, unable to secure a buyer willing to operate Lymansville as a worsted mill, decided in March 1957 to sell the plant's new equipment piecemeal. The former textile plant was purchased in late 1957 by the Ronci Realty Company and leased to a variety of tenants, most of which were involved in costume jewelry and related manufacture. [xxx] Ronci held the property until its purchase by Theta Properties in 1987.[xxxi] But for the occupation of Mill No. 4 by jewelry manufacturer Fernando Originals, the plant is now vacant. The owners are planning the rehabilitation of the plant for residential use.

Architectural Significance

The Lymansville Company plant features the representative architectural characteristics of Rhode Island worsted mills of the late 19th and early-20th centuries. These include the forms, materials, construction and arrangement of the mill buildings. The core buildings are brick, multi-story structures with shallow pitched gable roofs and pier and spandrel walls that accommodate regular rows of tall windows with segmental-arched heads.(Although the original multi-pane wooden sash have been replaced, the pattern of tall paired windows flanking a central mullion in each opening is intact.) Exterior ornament is very minimal, confined to the corbelled cornice on the stairtower and carved rafter ends. The interior framing is heavy timber or mill construction which features heavy wooden beams and columns supporting solid plank floors, all designed to be fire-resistive. The external stair towers provide additional fire protection by housing the vertical circulation outside of the main interior spaces. The interiors are typically open plan, with parallel rows of columns, painted brick walls, and metal-sheathed fire doors separating the passageways between sections.

[xxviii] "Lymansville Mill Starts Dye House." *Providence Journal* (26 September 1951),p. 13.
[xxix] See William F. Hartford, *Where's Our Responsibility? Unions and Economic Change in the New England Textile Industry, 1870-1960* (1996), pp. 120-123; 152.
[xxx] Quitclaim deed, 53:251 Lymansville Company to Ronci Realty Company, October 15, 1957.
[xxxi] North Providence Deed Book 168, p.1158.

The plant layout consists of individual buildings that share physical connections while retaining large amounts of unobstructed window space. The building forms vary as to their functions with the tall narrow mill form housing the carding, combing and spinning departments and low broad forms used for the Weave Shed and the Dyehouse. In the latter two buildings with their larger footprints, additional natural lighting was provided by overhead monitor windows (though these have been removed from the Dyehouse). The Lymansville Company plant also exhibits evidence of adaptation and later additions. These include additions to Mill No.1 that use steel framing rather than wood and the reconstruction of the Dyehouse using concrete block and steel. Notably, the Dyehouse and other concrete block additions made in the 1950s reflect a break from the red brick that characterized this and other Rhode Island textile mills from the mid-19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Articles:

"A. Albert Sack, 82, Prominent Mill Man, Dies." *Providence Journal* (22 April 1925): 1.

"Collapse of a Strike." *Providence Journal* (18 February 1886): 8.

"Frederick S. Peck Dies in 79th Year." *Providence Journal* (21 January 1947): 1.

"Frederick S. Peck Honored at Dinner." *Providence Journal* (17 December 1943): 11.

"Lymansville Company Gives Up Mill." *Providence Journal* (27 March 1957): 30.

"Lymansville Mill Makes Concessions." *Providence Sunday Journal* (30 January 1916): 6.

"Lymansville Firm Starts Dye House." *Providence Journal* (26 September 1951): 13.

"Mack Kahn Buys Lymansville Mill." *Providence Journal* (28 December 1944): 22.

"North Providence Has Trouble Finding Buyer for Mill." *Providence Journal* (20 February 1957): 19.

"Report of the Committee on Manufactures. Document No. 4."
Transactions of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry
Providence: Knowles, Anthony and Co., 1865.

"Rhode Island Woolen Mills of the Present Day." *Board of Trade Journal* 23 (December 1901): 285.

"The Lymansville Strike." *Morning Star* (18 February 1886).

"The Lymansville Strike: The True Story of this Difficulty Told in Detail." *The People* (30 January 1886): 1.

"The Other Side: What Mr. Sack Has to Say About the Strike." *Morning Star* (23 January 1886).

"The Shaw Fining Case." *The People* (20 February 1886): 1.

"Weavers Quit Work." *Providence Journal* (23 January 1886): 8.

"Woolen Manufacturing in Rhode Island." *Board of Trade Journal* 23 (December 1901): 280.

Books:

Bagnall, William R. *The Textile Industries of the United States.* Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1893.

Bayles, Richard M. *History of Providence County, Rhode Island*. New York: W.W. Preston, 1891.

Buhle, Paul. "The Knights of Labor in Rhode Island." *Radical History Review* (Spring 1978).

Buhle, Paul, Scott Molloy and Gail Sansbury, eds. *A History of Rhode Island Working People.* Providence, RI: Regine Printing Co., 1983.

Davis, William T., Ed. *The New England States.* Boston: D.H. Hurd and Co., 1897.

Grieve, Robert. *An Illustrated History of Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Vicinity* Pawtucket, RI: Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle, 1897.

Hall, Joseph D., Ed. *Biographical History of the Manufacturers and Business Men of Rhode Island* Providence: J.D. Hall and Co., 1901.

Hartford, William F. *Where's Our Responsibility? Unions and Economic Change in the New England Textile Industry, 1870-1960* . Amherst, MA: University of MA Press, 1996.

The Blue Book Textile Directory. New York: Davison Publishing Co., 1895-1957.

Unpublished material:

Labor News Clippings. University of Rhode Island Library Special Collections
Molloy, Scott, "Labor News Clippings, 22 Scrapbooks, 1867-1902" (1993)
Special Collections Publications. Paper 3. http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/sc_pubs/3

Government Publications:

19th Annual Report of the Commissioner of Industrial Statistics. Providence: E.L. Freeman and Sons, 1906.

Kulik, Gary and Julia C. Bonham. *Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites.* Washington: HAER, 1978.

North Providence Tax Books (1903-1936).

Report of the Commissioner of Labor for Years 1916-1919. Providence: E.L. Freeman, 1921.

R.I. Historical Preservation Commission. *Preservation Report P-NP-1: Historic and Architectural resources of North Providence, Rhode Island,* 1978.

Maps consulted:

1884 Barlow's Insurance Survey No. 8241. *Lymansville Company.*

1887 Barlow's Insurance Survey, Supplement to Survey No. 8241. *Lymansville Company.*

1887 Samuel B. Cushing, C.E. *Plat of the Lymansville Company's Estate in North Providence, R.I.*
Plat Card No. 40, on file, North Providence City Clerk's Office.

1895 Everts and Richards. *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County.*

1921, 1956 Sanborn Map Company. *Insurance Maps of North Providence*.

1936 O. Perry Sarle. *Lymansville Company Plan of Dam*
On file, RI Department of Environmental Management, Office of Compliance and Inspection
Folder for RIDEM Dam No. 134.

1937 W. L. Anthony, Eng. *Lymansville Company*
Plat Card No. 139, on file, North Providence City Clerk's Office.

1965 New England Insurance Rating Association. *Ronci Realty Company, Inc.* (drawing EIB-163)
On file, Tax Assessor's Office, North Providence Town Hall.

N.D. N. A. *F. Ronci Industrial Park*
On file, Tax Assessor's Office, North Providence Town Hall.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	19	294500	4634000	3	19	294300	4634600
2	19	294660	4634860	4	19	294280	4634940

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundaries of the Lymansville Company Mill are contiguous with those of North Providence Assessor's Map 10, Lot 91 also including the western end of the dam, which is a portion of Johnston Assessor's Plat 34, Lot 234. See *Additional Information*, Figure 9.

Boundary Justification
These boundaries represent the land historically associated with the Lymansville Mill from 1884 to the present.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward Connors
organization Edward Connors and Associates date August 2012
street & number 39 Dyer Avenue telephone
city or town Riverside state RI zip code 02915
e-mail nconnors@cox.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Lymansville Company Mill

City or Vicinity: North Providence

County: Providence **State:** Rhode Island

Photographer: Edward Connors, Richard Greenwood (8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)

Date Photographed: January, September, October 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Exterior:

Number 1 of 18: Mill No. 1, stairtower and Mill No. 4, view south (September 2012)

Number 2 of 18: Building 5 and Mill No. 1, view west (October 2012)

Number 3 of 18: Mill No. 1 and Building 7, view southeast (October 2012)

Number 4 of 18: View to Boiler House and chimney along Mill No. 1 and Building 7, view southeast (September 2012)

Number 5 of 18: Boiler House, view southeast (October 2012)

Number 6 of 18: Weave Shed, view northeast (September 2012)

Number 7 of 18: Dye House, view northeast (September 2012)

Number 8 of 18: Mill No. 4 (north elevation) and tailrace area, view west (September 2012)

Number 9 of 18: View to bridge and stairtower, view south (September 2012)

Number 10 of 18: Mill No. 4 (east elevation), view west (October 2012)

Number 11 of 18: Lymansville Dam, view southwest (September 2012)

Interior:

Number 12 of 18: Timber framing, Mill No. 1, view westerly (September 2012)

Number 13 of 18: Timber framing detail, Mill No. 4 (October 2012)

Number 14 of 18: Boiler Room interior (January 2012)

Number 15 of 18: Weave Shed interior framing and clerestory monitor, view northeasterly (September 2012)

Number 16 of 18: Dye House, view southerly (September 2012)

Number 17 of 18: Original Stairtower, Mill No.1, third floor landing and freight door, view northeasterly (September 2012)

Number 18 of 18: Early 20th century, Stairtower, Mill No.1, view northerly (September 2012)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Additional Information

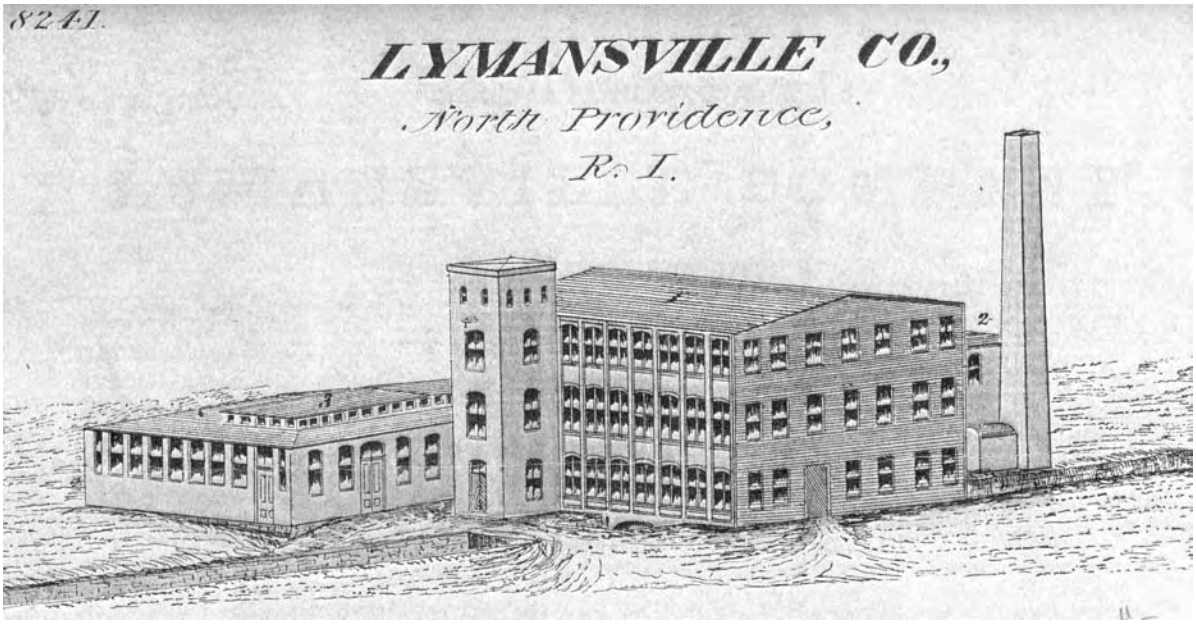


Figure 1

Illustration of Lymansville Company Mill from Barlow's Insurance Survey No. 8241 depicting original mill as built in 1884 (before construction of Mill No. 4). (l-r) first Weave House (south wall, not visible in this view, was wood frame to allow for expansion), fully exposed staircase before the lower two stories of its east elevation were incorporated into floor plan of Mill No. 4, first form of Mill No. 1 (note frame north end of building to allow for expansion), and partial view of Boiler House with original square-section chimney.

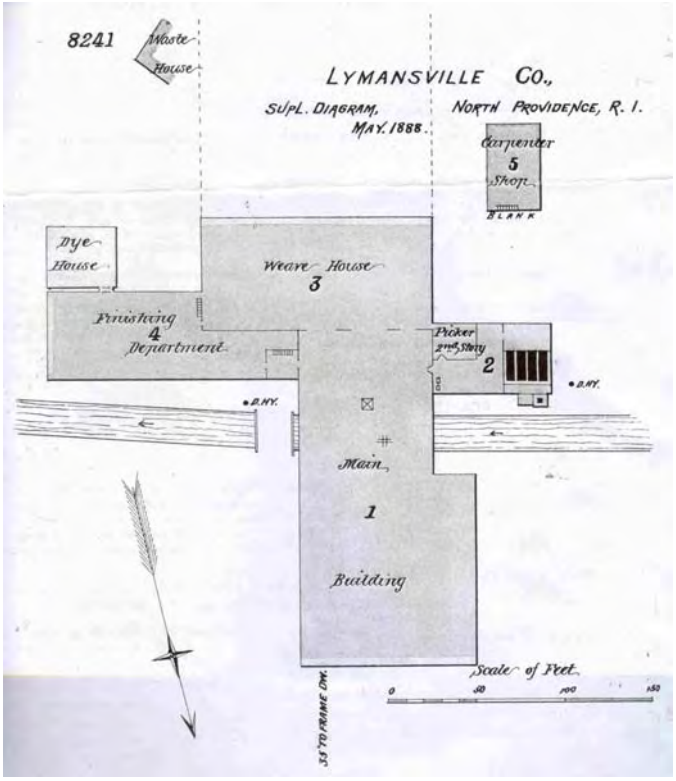


Figure 2

Plan of Lymansville Company Mill from Barlow's Insurance Survey No. 8241 Supplement (1887)
This plan shows the greatly enlarged Mill No. 1, the increase to four boilers in the Boiler/Engine House (2), the Weave House (3) with dotted lines indicating planned expansion, and the stairtower integrated with Mill No.4.

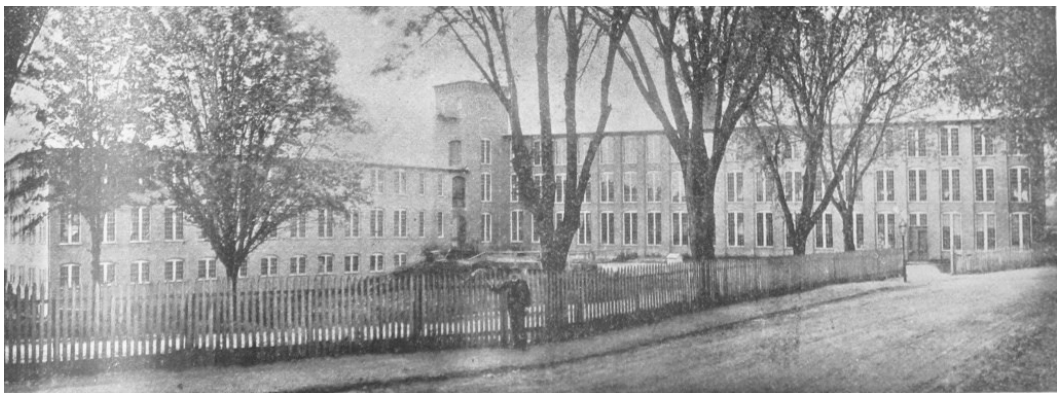


Figure 3

Lymansville Company Mill (1890)

From *Board of Trade Journal* (October-November 1890)
Showing (l-r) the 15-bay form of Mill No. 4 as built in 1887.
To the right is Mill No. 1 as expanded in 1887.

Figure 4

Lymansville Company Mill (1901)
From J.D. Hall, *Biographical History of the Manufacturers and Businessmen of Rhode Island..*
Showing (l-r) Mill No. 4 as expanded ca. 1890 and Mill No. 1 with attached Office Building (5).

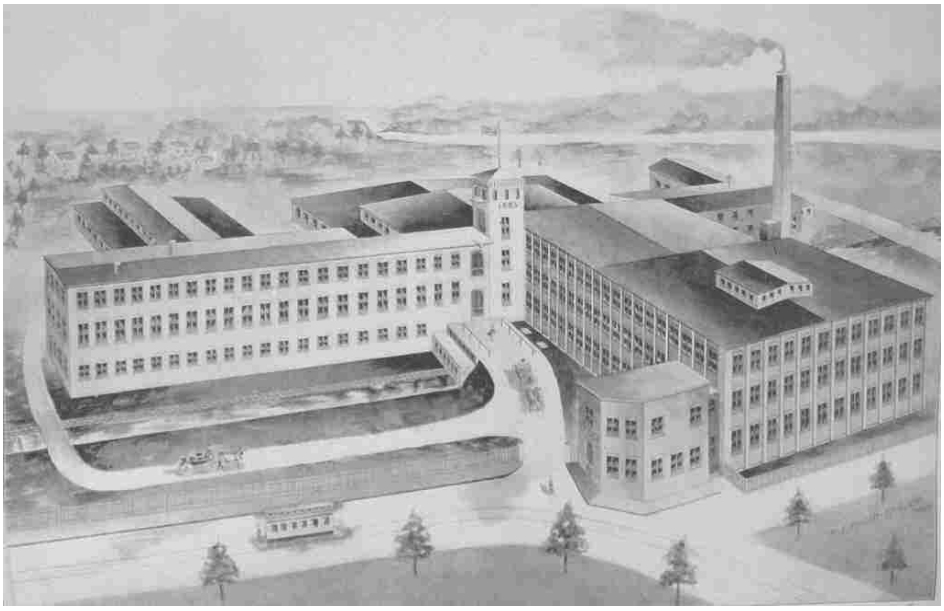


Figure 5

Lymansville Company Mill (1905)
Engraving from *19th Annual Report of the Commissioner of Industrial Statistics* (1905)
Showing (l-r) Mill No. 4 with first Dye House behind,
expanded Weave House behind stairtower, Mill No. 1 with small monitor roof,
Office Building, and expanded Boiler/Engine House.
The small building shown partially in the upper right was the only building
retained from the earlier Lyman Cotton Manufacturing Co. plant.
It was repaired by the Lymansville Co. after 1884, used as a storehouse and demolished after 1978.
Note incorporation of building (over tailrace) into the bridge at the base of the stairtower.

Figure 6

Lymansville Company Mill (1909, RI State Archives photo)
(l-r) Mill No. 4, stairtower, Store House over tailrace, and Mill No. 1.

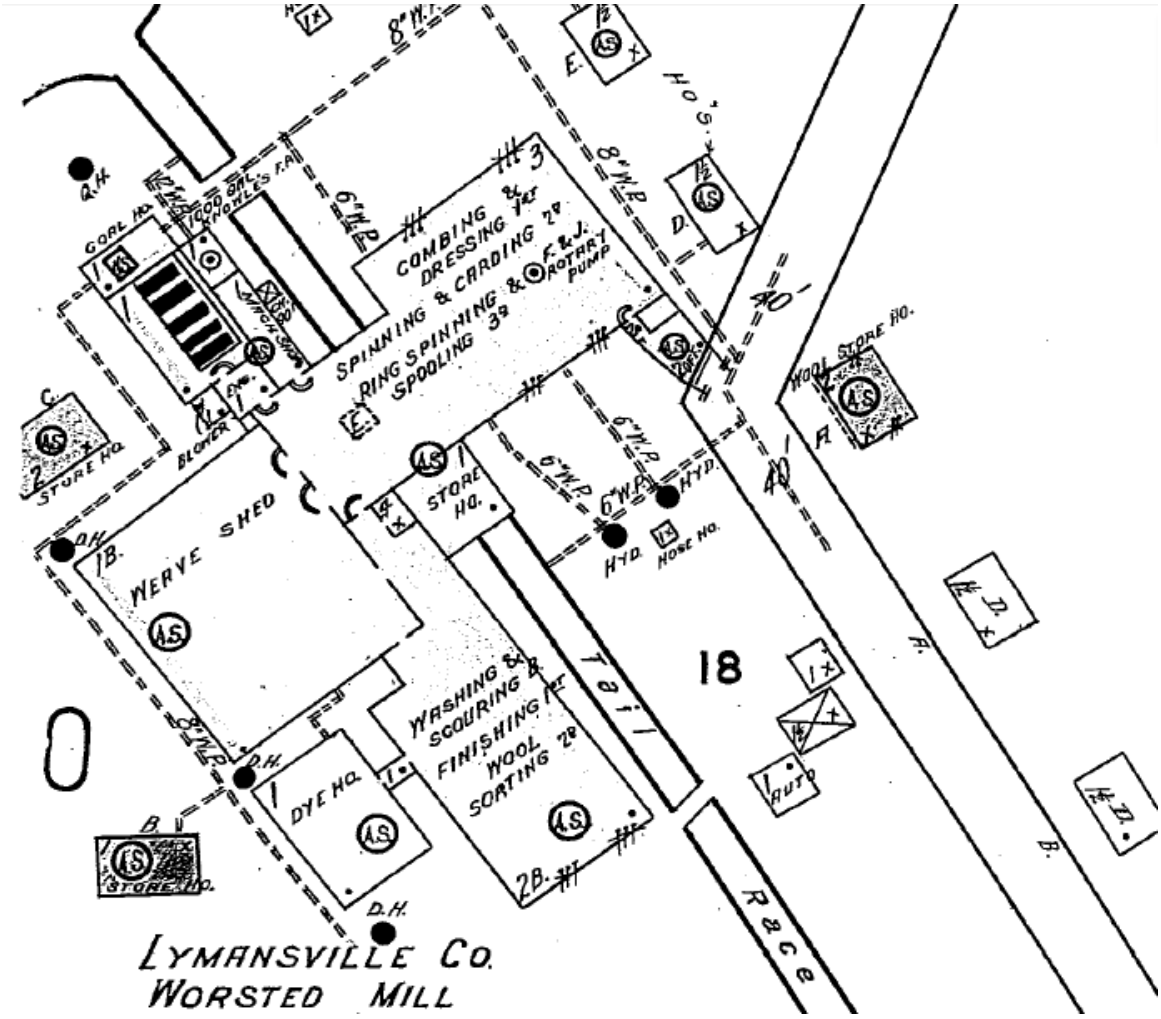


Figure 7

Detail from 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing expansion of Boiler/Engine House to accommodate 5 boilers, first Dye House, south extension of Mill No. 4, Store House (Filter House) below bridge over tailrace, and company housing north of Mill No. 1 along Woonasquatucket Avenue.

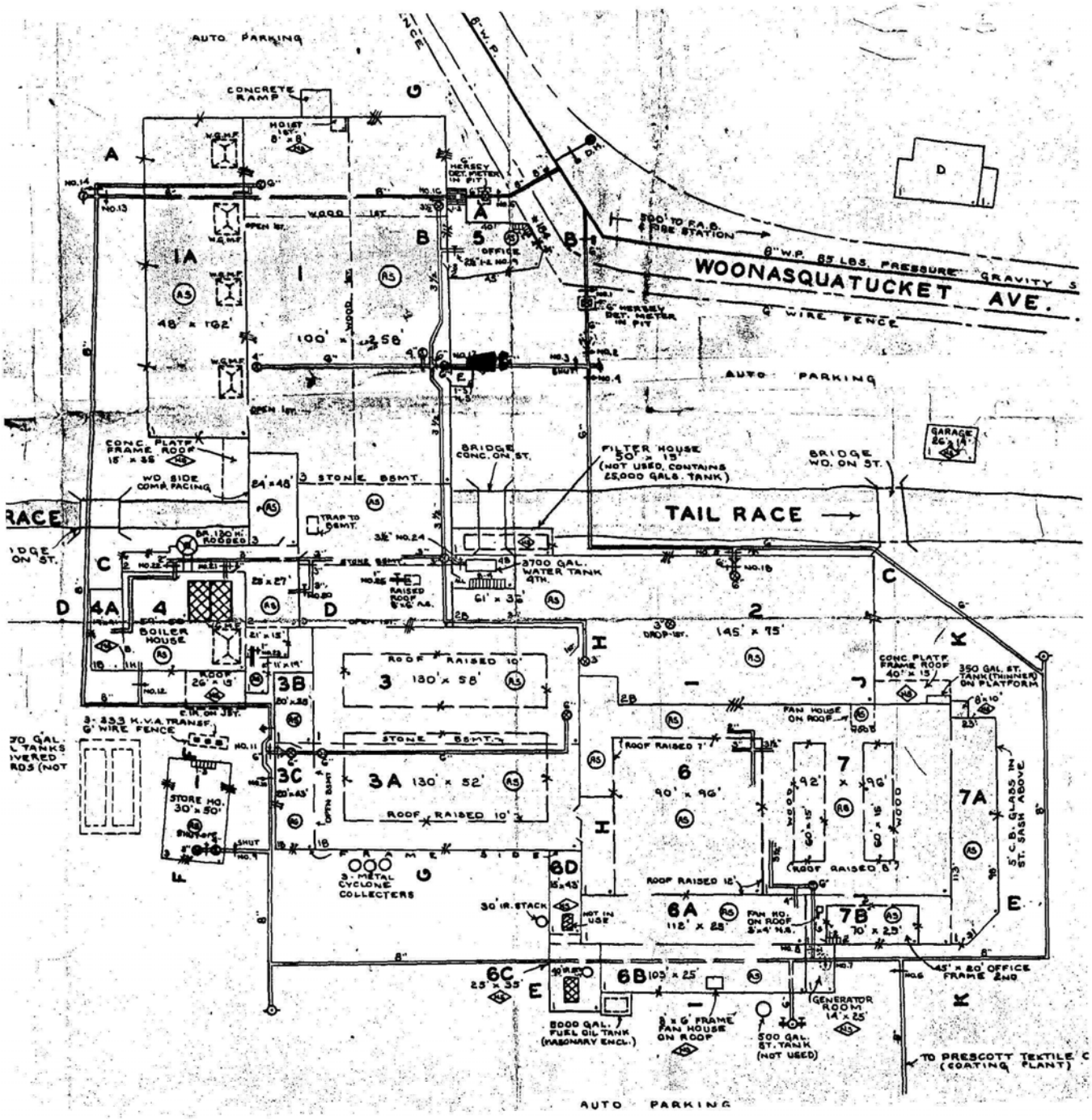


Figure 8

Ronci Realty Company, Inc. (1965)

Detail from New England Insurance Rating Association drawing EIB-163 showing current conditions. During this period the plant was utilized for multiple, light industrial tenancy.

Note: The basis for this map appears to be an earlier Factory Mutual drawing as yet unlocated.

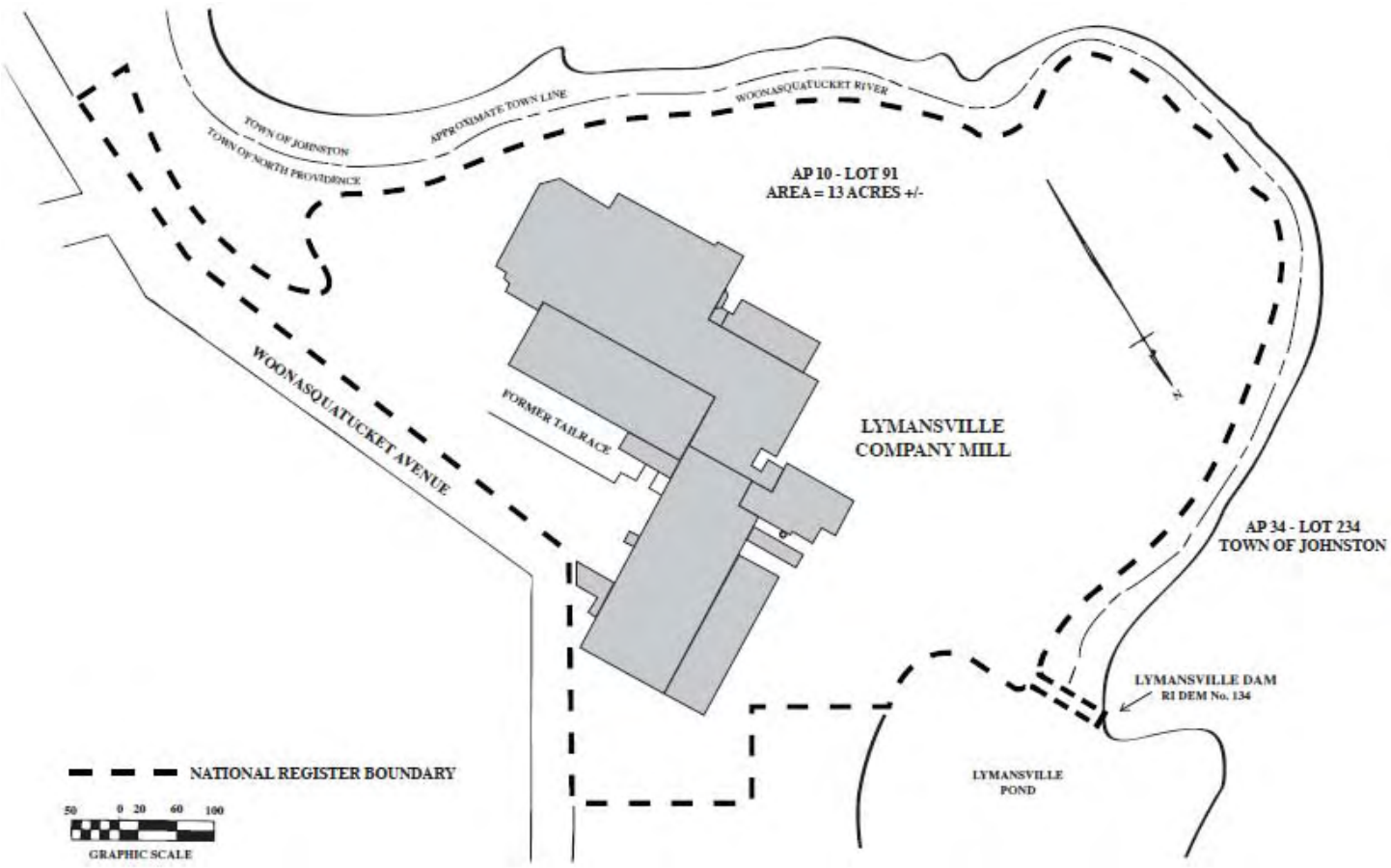
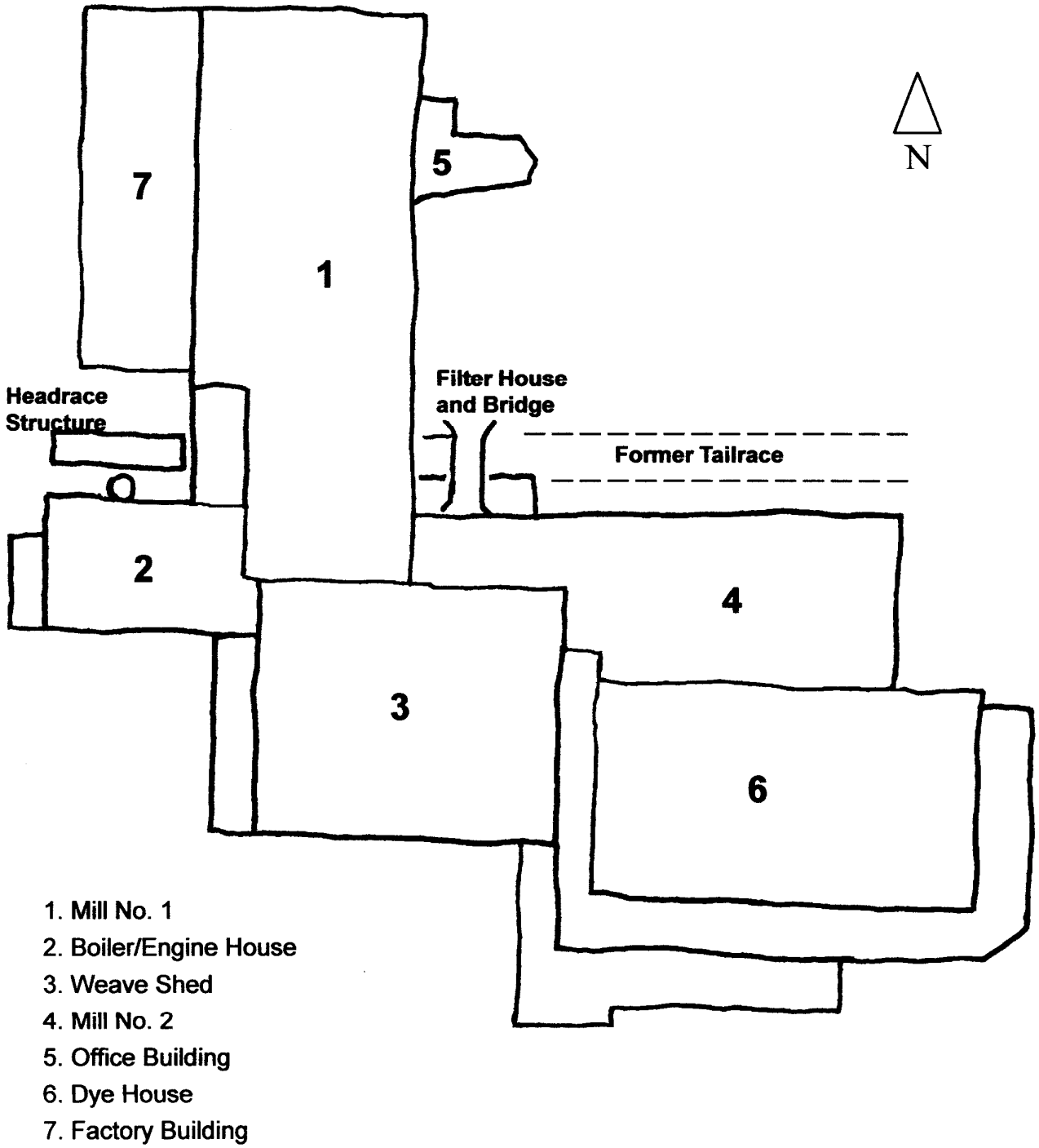


Figure 9

National Register boundaries of Lymansville Company Mill

Sketch Plan
Lymansville Company Mill
184 Woonasquatucket Avenue
North Providence, RI



Approximate scale: 1" = 70'

PRIME SPACE
AVAILABLE
500/10,000 SQFT
Call 401 378 4661

3

LYCHAMSVILLE CO.
1895
Fernando's