

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 Centreville Mill

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 3 Bridal Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city or town West Warwick \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state Rhode Island code RI county Kent code 003 zip code 02893-2901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Frederick C. Williamson Sr. 9 March 2005  
Signature of certifying official/Title Frederick C. Williamson, State Historic Preservation Officer 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 this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- 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)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		building
		sites
4	2	structures
		objects
5	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

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)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING EXTRACTION:

Manufacturing Facility

Industrial Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Granite

walls STONE: Granite

roof ASPHALT

other STUCCO

Narrative Description

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

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 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)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1861-1954

Significant Dates

1861-Earliest extant building (4A) built

1871-Building 1 built by Laphams

1903-B.B & R. Knight purchase mill

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- \_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
\_ previously listed in the National Register
\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
\_ Other State agency
\_ Federal agency
\_ Local government
\_ University
X Other

Name of repository: R.I. Historical Society, Providence Public Library, Pawtuxet Valley Preservation & Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**

**UTM References See continuation sheet.**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

A. 19	290205	4619383	C. 19	290312	4618997
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
B. 19	290337	4619383	D. 19	290124	4618987
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

\_ 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 A. Kierstead and Ileana Matos

organization PAI date December 2004

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

city or town Pawtucket state RI 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Centreville Mill II LLC

street & number P.O. Box 9402 telephone (401) 615-0228

city or town Providence state RI zip code 02940

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### DESCRIPTION

#### Location-Setting

The Centreville Mill is located at 3 Bridal Avenue in the village of Centreville, a mixed industrial, commercial, and residential area in southern West Warwick, Rhode Island. The 12.7-acre mill parcel is located largely on the east bank of the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River, a heavily industrialized waterway that supplied power and process water to numerous industrial enterprises along its route from its headwaters in the Flat River Reservoir in Coventry, Rhode Island to its confluence with the North Branch at the village of Riverpoint, and to Pontiac Mills in Warwick. The Mill and associated structures are located on the east side of the river, with the exception of one structure, the Dam, which extends west from the southwest corner of the Mill across the river to the west bank. The land on the east side of the river is flat with a slight slope toward the river. The property is surrounded by residential properties on Duke Avenue to the east, a playground and automobile salvage operation on Bridal Avenue to the south, the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River to the west, and a wooded area to the north.

#### Site Layout

The property includes one contributing building, the Mill, and four contributing structures, the Dam, Headgate, Headrace, and Tailrace, all associated with the historical development of the property during its period of significance (1861–1954). The property includes two small noncontributing structures, the Footbridge, and the Road Bridge. The property is dominated by the Mill, which consists of several connected single- and multi-story parged rubblestone walled buildings that occupy a roughly T-shaped footprint. The Mill includes one major modern component, a long, narrow, one-story concrete block addition on Bridal Avenue.

Vehicular access to the property is via a curb cut on the north side of Bridal Avenue that leads to a large paved parking area on the east side of the Mill. The waterpower Headrace, a watered trench with vertical granite block walls, begins at the Headgate structure at the east side of the Dam at the southwest corner of the property. It extends northeast under the Footbridge, and turns north and proceeds to the turbine chamber under Building 1. The Tailrace, a similar structure, emerges from the other side of Building 1 and extends north before rejoining the river opposite the north end of the Mill. A road at the north end of the parking lot leads to the west side of the Mill and crosses over the Tailrace on the steel and timber Road Bridge.

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The Mill is partially occupied by several commercial and light industrial concerns, including a lace-making operation. The interior of the Mill has been stripped of historic textile machinery, and much of the associated mechanical drive systems. Some remaining physical plant and power generation equipment is located in Building 4 and includes new and old steam boilers, electrical switchgear, and two vertical-shaft turbines and associated belt drive power transmission gears and shafting.

An associated building, a small 1896 storehouse, is located south of the property, across Bridal Avenue. It is a heavily altered one-story rubblestone building with modified doorway masonry, replacement windows and stucco wall surfacing. This building, which is in poor condition, and has been significantly altered, is located outside the Centreville Mill parcel and is not included in this nomination.

### General Building Description

The component buildings of the Mill share a common and regular vocabulary of construction materials and architectural features established in the initial design of the earliest building in 1861 by Pawtuxet Valley mill builder Horace Foster, and continued through the last phase of construction completed under B.B. & R. Knight Co. in 1909.<sup>a</sup> Walls are of mortared, rubblestone granite and shale construction with a layer of mortar parging. Regularly spaced, diamond-shaped, cast-iron beam anchors mark the location of each interior beam at the floor line. Corners are constructed with quarry faced granite block quoins. The south (Bridal Avenue) elevations of the stair towers on Building 1 and Building 4 are constructed of rectangular, quarry-faced, random ashlar granite blocks. The interior structure is fire-resistive with heavy post-and-beam framing and multiple layer wood plank floors. The subtly pitched gable "flat" mill roofs end flush with the brick cornices on Buildings 1, 4, 4A, and 13, and have overhanging wood cornices with plank soffits and fascia, exposed beveled rafter tails, and a simple wood crown molding at the gutter line on Buildings 2 and 3. The cornices consist of several courses of corbeled brick, with corbeled machicolations on Buildings 1 and 4A. Fenestration is regular, with tall rectangular window openings with bush-hammered granite lintels and sills containing a mix of original double-hung wood sash and replacement units. Shorter rectangular or square windows appear in scattered locations. The foundations, where exposed, are built of granite rubblestone. With the exceptions of Building 4A and part of the west elevation of the Building 4

<sup>a</sup> The buildings and their components are referred to in this document by numbers that were assigned by previous owners. These designations appear on the site map that accompanies this form.

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boiler room, all buildings are at normal (90 degree) angles to one another. Overall building footprint measurements appearing in the following descriptions are taken from West Warwick assessors' maps for the property.

### Mill (1861-1909)

The Mill consists of the following attached buildings: Building 1, Building 2, Building 3, Building 4, Building 4A, and Building 13. The buildings are described below in chronological order of their construction.

#### Building 4A (1861)

Building 4A is located at the extreme southwest corner of the Mill, at a 45-degree angle to adjacent Building 4 to the northeast. It is the only building that is not constructed on a normal north-south axis like the other attached buildings. The building is built against the northwest wall of the Headrace, so that the basement is only exposed on the southwest and northwest elevations. The northeast elevation is not visible as it is party to Building 4 to the north. Building 4A is a rectangular, four-story, seven-bay, 68-foot northeast-southwest by three-bay, 33-foot northwest-southeast building. The building has a flat, built-up roof with a subtle longitudinal gable drainage pitch. The southwest and southeast elevations, which are visible from Bridal Avenue, have brick cornices with corbeled machicolations, and the other two elevations have simple multiple course corbeled brick cornices. The walls are built of mortared rubblestone granite and shale with a layer of mortar parging, with corners constructed with granite block quoins.

The primary (Bridal Avenue) entrance to Building 4A is located in the northeast end of the southeast elevation. It consists of a paneled steel replacement door under a corrugated metal awning reached by a short flight of concrete steps (see description for Footbridge below). A basement side entrance is located in the southwest elevation and consists of paneled wood double doors in a rectangular granite block surround. A basement rear entrance is located on the northwest elevation at its intersection with Building 4 and consists of a vertical plank door.

Fenestration is regular, with the window openings on the two upper floors taller than the windows on the two lower floors. The window openings on the upper two floors contain a mix of original twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood-sash units; replacement windows consisting of two fixed panes below a blank panel, and blank wood panels. The window openings on the

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two lower floors contain a mix of original six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash units and replacement single-pane, double-hung units.

A 15-by-9-foot elevator tower is located near the center of the northwest elevation. The sides are blank with the exception of brick-hooded, segmental-arch, basement window openings on the northeast and northwest elevations. A brick-walled elevator motor house extends one story above the roofline, and contains wide window openings on all four sides.

Building 4A's interior structure is of fire resistive post-and-beam construction, with floors consisting of thick wood plank decking with a thinner wood plank wearing surface nailed on top of it. The floor spaces are divided into three longitudinal bays by two parallel rows of posts. The interior of the stairwell on the southeast side of the building retains its original tongue-in-groove plank walls, and turned wood newell posts and finials. Building 4A is in good condition, and is currently vacant.

### Building 4 (1861 et seq.)

Building 4 is located immediately northeast of Building 4A, with which it shares its beveled southwest wall. Building 4 is complex in plan, consisting of two primary rectangular sections, a four-story loft to the south and a two-story boiler room slightly offset to the north, connected by a series of smaller, one-, three-, and four-story, rectangular blocks arranged in a reverse-L-shaped configuration in the space north of the loft section, east of the boiler room section, and west of the west wall of adjacent Building 1. A small one-story addition extends north from the north leg of this group.

The loft section to the south is built against the northwest wall of the Headrace, so that the basement is only exposed on the west elevation. It is a rectangular, four-story, 70-foot east-west by 40-foot north-south building. It has a flat, built-up roof with a subtle longitudinal gable drainage pitch. The parts of the south and east elevations visible from Bridal Avenue have a brick cornice with corbeled machicolations, and the exposed parts of the west and north elevations have a simple multiple course corbeled brick cornice. The walls are of mortared rubblestone granite and shale construction with a layer of mortar parging, with corners constructed with granite block quoins.

The primary (Bridal Avenue) entrance is located at the base of the stair tower on the south elevation. It consists of wood paneled double doors reached by a short flight of concrete steps

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(see description for Footbridge below). A raised loading entrance is located at the center of the west elevation and consists of paneled double wood doors set into a brick-lined Roman arch surround. Fenestration is regular with the exception of the pair of top floor windows on the east and west elevations, which are smaller than the three bays of windows on the floors below. The window openings contain a mix of original twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood-sash units; replacement windows consisting of two fixed lights below a blank panel; and blank wood panels.

A 14-by-11-foot, one-by-one-bay, combined stair and hoist tower is located on the south elevation where it meets the angled southeast elevation of Building 4A. It is a five-story masonry tower with a shallow-pitch, hipped, asphalt-shingled roof, and a corbelled, machicolated, brick cornice. The west, north, and east sides of the tower are parged rubblestone, while the south (Bridal Avenue) elevation is constructed of exposed, quarry-faced, random ashlar, granite blocks. All four sides of the top level are exposed and contain a brick-trimmed Roman arch window opening with a blank wood panel. The lower levels of the east side contain original, twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The south elevation is a multistory hoist bay with deeply recessed, granite block-trimmed hoist door entrances containing paneled wood doors at each floor. The loft section's interior structure is of fire-resistive post-and-beam construction, with floors consisting of thick wood plank decking with a thinner wood plank wearing surface nailed on top of it. The floor spaces are divided into three longitudinal bays by two parallel rows of posts. The interior of the stairwell in the stair tower retains its original tongue-in-groove plank walls, and turned wood newell posts and finials. The loft section of Building 4 is in good condition and is currently vacant.

Immediately north of the loft section are two attached blocks. Set back to the east from the northwest corner of the loft is a 16-foot north-south by 13-foot east-west section with an asphalt-shingled shed roof and parged rubblestone walls. The exposed west elevation contains a single personnel door with two overhead window openings filled with wood panels. Immediately east and attached to Building 1 on its east side is a four-story, three-bay, 45-foot east-west, by one-bay, 16 ft north-south section that is identical in materials, construction, and fenestration to the loft section to the south. Immediately north, against the west side of Building 1, is a three-story, 15 foot wide, rectangular section that is identical in materials, construction, and fenestration to the sections to the south. Immediately north, also attached to the west side of Building 1, is a 38-foot, two-bay north-south, by 18-foot, two-bay east-west section that is identical in materials, construction, and fenestration to the sections to the south. In plan, these four sections north of the loft section form a reverse L-shaped configuration flanking the attached boiler room section to the northwest. The interior structure of these sections of Building 4 are of fire-resistive post-

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and-beam construction, with floors consisting of thick wood plank decking with a thinner wood plank wearing surface nailed on top of it. These building sections are in good condition.

The boiler room section is a rectangular, two-story, 49-foot, five-bay east-west by 42-foot, four-bay north-south building. In plan, it has a slight bevel in the north half of the west elevation. It has a shallow-pitch, asphalt-shingled roof with vertical plank sheathing over the gable end. The walls are parged rubblestone with granite block quoins and have a simple multiple course corbeled brick cornice. A square, tapering, brick chimney, 10 feet wide on each side at the base, rises from the east side of the roof and ends approximately one story above the roofline of Building 1 to the east. A narrow, guy wire-supported steel pipe stack for the modern boiler rises from the center of the north roof plane. The primary entrance is located at the south side of the west elevation and consists of a wide, brick-lined Roman arch with modern plank infill and a plywood personnel door with a replacement, fixed, multiple-pane, wood-sash transom. An identical brick arch is located around the southwest corner on the south elevation. It retains its original, fixed, multiple-pane, wood-sash transom, and the doorway below has been blocked by a small, shed-roofed, plank-sided shed. A secondary entrance is located on the north elevation and consists of a wide, brick-lined, segmental arch with a smaller, modern wood door set into concrete block infill. The boiler room floor is constructed of poured concrete. The boiler room contains a single, horizontal firetube boiler in a massive steel-framed brick setting occupying the east part of the room. This unit is no longer in service and has been supplanted by a smaller oil-fired boiler on the floor west. The boiler room is in good condition and still functional, providing steam heat to the mill buildings.

A small, one-story, original, historic addition with an asphalt-shingled shed roof extends north from the four-story block east of the boiler room. The walls are of mortared rubblestone construction with a layer of mortar parging, with corners constructed with granite block quoins, and a simple, multiple-course, corbeled brick cornice. The entrances, a personnel doorway on the west elevation and a vehicle entry on the north elevation, have both been filled in with concrete blocks, as have the flanking window openings, although the brick surrounds and granite lintels and sills survive. This building originally served as the coal bin for the adjacent boiler house, and more recently housed the boiler house fuel oil tank.

### Building 1 (1873, first floor south addition 1965)

Building 1 is located on Bridal Avenue at the south end of the Mill. It is the largest and most visually prominent component of the Mill. It is a rectangular, five-story, 286-foot, nineteen-bay

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east-west by 70-foot, four-bay north-south, building. Building 1 has a flat, built-up roof with a subtle longitudinal gable drainage pitch, topped by a full-length box monitor with multiple-pane, wood-sash glazing on its vertical sides. The cornice is brick with corbeled machicolations on all elevations. The walls are of mortared rubblestone granite and shale construction with a layer of mortar parging, with corners constructed with granite block quoins. The foundations, where exposed, are built of parged granite rubblestone. Building 2 extends to the north from the center of the north elevation of Building 1 and divides that elevation into east and west sections. Because the land slopes gradually to the north, the ground floor is partially exposed on the east side and fully exposed on the north side, and the basement is exposed on the west section of the north elevation.

The primary (Bridal Avenue) entrance to Building 1 is located at the center of the south addition, in line with the stair tower (see below). A rear entrance is located near the center of the west section of the north elevation and consists of vertical wood-plank double doors in a brick, segmental-arch surround. Building 1's fenestration is regular, with tall, rectangular window openings with granite lintels and sills. The top floor windows are shorter than those on the lower floors. Most window openings on the north, east, south, and north section of the north elevations contain replacement windows consisting of two vertical panes, with some completely covered with wood panels. On the west section of the north elevation, several original twelve-over-eight, double-hung, wood-sash windows remain. The basement window openings on the east elevation are square, set deeply into the thick foundation, and contain replacement windows covered with wood panels. The west elevation of Building 1 is obscured as it is attached to the east side of Building 4. The south elevation includes bolted structural steel fire escapes located toward east and west ends. A notable feature of the masonry work is the tailrace arch, located on the west end of the west section of the north elevation. It is a four-bay wide, segmental arch with quarry-faced granite arch ring blocks.

The stair tower is a 22-by-22-foot, one-by-one-bay, five-story, masonry tower located in the center of the south elevation. It has a shallow-pitch, hipped, asphalt-shingled roof, and a corbeled machicolated brick cornice. The west, north, and east sides are parged rubblestone, while the south (Bridal Avenue) elevation is constructed of exposed, quarry-faced, random ashlar, granite blocks. All four sides of the top level contain a granite-trimmed oriel window opening with a blank wood panel insert. The lower levels of the east side contain original twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood-sash windows, and the west elevation is blank below the oriel window. The south elevation is a multistory hoist bay with deeply recessed, granite block

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trimmed hoist door entrances containing paneled wood doors at each floor level. A carved granite block between the two upper doorways bears the date "1871."

The bulk of the ground floor of the south (Bridal Avenue) elevation is obscured by the first floor south addition, a one-story structure with a flat, built-up roof, concrete block walls, and a concrete slab foundation. The west end of this addition begins at the east wall of the Headrace, and the building extends east to a point just beyond the east end of Building 1. The long south elevation of the addition contains several entrances. The west end includes a sunken truck ramp with a loading dock containing two metal roll doors. A third roll door is located at ground level immediately east of the ramp. The primary (Bridal Avenue) entrance to the addition and Building 1 is located at the center of the south elevation, opposite the stair tower, and consists of a brick-faced section containing a metal-framed, plate-glass doorway flanked by triple-pane, fixed-sash windows. The south elevation contains 10, unevenly spaced, square, triple-pane, metal-sash windows. The west elevation is windowless, and the east elevation contains two, small, square openings containing ventilation louvers, and a steel personnel door. The short section of north wall at the east end of the building contains a paneled wood overhead garage door.

Building 1's interior structure is of fire-resistive, post-and-beam construction, with floors consisting of thick wood plank decking with a thinner wood plank wearing surface nailed on top of it. The floor spaces are divided into three longitudinal bays by two parallel rows of posts. The interior incorporates an unusual variety of detailed woodwork including shallow pediment hoods over the window and door openings throughout, and wall moldings at chair rail height and half way up the windows. Other details include paneled wood doors, and floor beams boxed in with tongue-and-groove planking. The interior of the stair tower retains its original tongue-in-groove plank walls, and turned wood newell posts and finials.

The basement level of the west end of Building 1 contains a 25-foot-by-35-foot granite block-walled waterpower turbine chamber located against the south foundation wall. The chamber still contains a pair of vertical-shaft turbines and belt drive mechanisms, including the 90-degree bevel gears, horizontal main shaft, flywheel, and main belt-drive wheel. The room immediately to the north contains the original main electrical switch panel, made of large slabs of black electrical-grade slate.

Building 1 is in good condition, and is partially occupied by light industries.

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### Building 2 (1909)

Building 2 is located north of the center of Building 1, and is connected to it by a short, 16-foot long north-south by 26-foot wide, three-bay long, hallway connector. Building 2 is a rectangular, 34-foot, five-bay north-south by 40-foot, four-bay east-west building. The connector and Building 2 are five stories high, with flat, built-up roofs with a subtle longitudinal gable drainage pitch, overhanging wood cornices with plank soffits and fascia, exposed beveled rafter tails, and simple wood crown molding at the gutter line. The walls are of mortared rubblestone granite and shale construction with a layer of mortar parging, topped by a multiple-row, corbeled brick cornice. Corners are constructed with granite block quoins. Because the land slopes west to the river, the basement level is exposed on the west side of Building 2 and the connector. The foundations, where exposed, are built of granite rubblestone.

Primary entrances for Building 2 consist of modern steel double doors and a personnel door on a loading dock on the east elevation. The modern loading dock consists of a ground-level, three-bay, concrete platform at the bottom of a sunken truck ramp, with a concrete pedestrian ramp with a welded-pipe railing on the south side. The dock is sheltered by a modern steel-frame awning with a corrugated metal shed roof. The sole entrance for the connector is located on the west elevation and consists of a small wood personnel door with a segmental-arch brick surround.

Building 2's fenestration is regular, with tall rectangular window openings with granite lintels and sills containing replacement windows consisting of two fixed lights below a blank panel. All window openings on the east elevation contain these units. On the west elevation only one vertical bay contains these windows and the rest of the openings are blocked with plain modern panels. On the connector, both the east and west sides contain a vertical row of large rectangular windows in the south bay, with the two north bays containing vertical rows of shorter windows. On the east elevation all windows contain replacement sash, and on the west elevation the large openings contain a mix of replacement and original twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The smaller windows on the west side contain original, six-light, wood-sash windows.

Building 2 serves as an oversize, combined elevator and stair tower for Building 1 and Building 2. The freight elevator is located in the northwest corner and the staircase is located in the opposite, southeast corner, with an open floor space between them. Large, sliding, metal-clad fire doors protect the doorways from the connector to Building 1 to the south and to Building 3 to the north. The interior structure is of fire-resistive, post-and-beam construction, with floors

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consisting of thick wood plank decking with a thinner wood plank wearing surface nailed on top of it. Building 2 is in good condition, retains a high degree of its original fabric, and is still in use.

### Building 3 (1909)

Building 3 is located north of, and is connected to, Building 2. It is a rectangular, four-story, 104-foot, twelve-bay north-south by 76-foot, nine-bay east-west building. Building 3 has a flat, built-up roof with a subtle longitudinal gable drainage pitch, an overhanging wood cornice with plank soffits and fascia, exposed beveled rafter tails, and simple wood crown molding at the gutter line. The walls are of mortared rubblestone granite and shale construction with a layer of mortar parging, topped by a multiple-row, corbeled brick cornice. Corners are constructed with granite block quoins. Because the land slopes west to the river, the basement level is partially exposed on the east side of Building 3 and fully exposed on the west side. The foundations, where exposed, are built of parged granite rubblestone.

The primary entrance for Building 3 is located at the south end of the east elevation and consists of a single, paneled, wood personnel door with six lights in its upper surface, set into a deep recess atop a short flight of concrete steps with metal pipe railings. A hand-painted sign above the door reads "The Bay Mill Woolens and Worsteds." A window near the north end of the east elevation has been modified into a doorway for an overhead passageway (removed) to a small adjacent storage building that is no longer extant. The doorway consists of a segmental-arch brick surround with paneled wood double doors. The remains of the passageway protrude from the facade and consist of the stubs of two parallel steel I-beams containing a fragment of concrete floor slab. A bolted structural steel fire escape is located on the west side of the south elevation, serving steel doors set into concrete block-filled former window openings.

Building 3's fenestration is regular, with tall rectangular window openings with granite lintels and sills containing replacement windows consisting of a single-hung configuration with two fixed lights below a blank panel. All window openings on the west, north, east, and east section of the south elevations contain these units with the exception of a few random basement windows that are blocked off with plank panels or contain original multiple-pane, double-hung, wood-sash units. All windows on the west section of the south elevation are blocked off. The interior structure is of fire-resistive, post-and-beam construction, with floors consisting of thick wood plank decking with a thinner wood plank wearing surface nailed on top of it. The floor

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spaces are divided into three longitudinal bays by two parallel rows of posts. Building 3 is in good condition and is in partial use.

### Building 13 (1909)

Building 13 is located at the north end of the Mill, north of Building 3. It is a rectangular, 80-foot north-south by 40-foot east-west, short, three-story, building with a flat, built-up roof with a subtle longitudinal gable drainage pitch and modern metal coping. The walls are parged granite rubblestone with granite block quoins, topped by a multiple-row, corbeled brick cornice.

The primary entrance is located at the south end of the east elevation and consists of a brick-lined segmental-arch opening with double metal doors. The center of the west elevation incorporates a vertical hoist bay with a brick-lined segmental-arch opening with double wood doors on the ground level, and rectangular double steel fire doors between brick piers on the second and third levels, all sheltered by a shallow triangular roof projection above a projecting block-and-tackle hoist beam. Fenestration consists of rows of small, square window openings with segmental-arch brick lintels and smooth granite sills. The east elevation incorporates a horizontal row of windows high on the ground floor and another row above, below the brick corbel. The west elevation incorporates three horizontal rows of windows, with the lowest row located high on the ground floor, with two closely-spaced rows above, with the top row touching the corbel. Most of the windows on the east elevation and all of the windows on the west elevation are blocked off with wood panels. No original sash survives. The interior structure is of fire-resistive, post-and-beam construction, with floors consisting of thick wood plank decking with a thinner wood plank wearing surface nailed on top of it. Building 13 is attached to Building 3 to the south by a short, two-story, steel-frame, covered passageway with a flat, built-up roof, corbeled brick cornice, and parged mortar sides. Each level is lit by a small, multiple-pane, fixed-sash window. A bolted structural steel staircase leading to the second level is located on the east side. Building 13 is in good condition, and is currently in use.

### Dam (1885)

The Dam (Centreville Pond Dam, RI Dam No. 149) holds back the waters of the Pawtuxet River to form the 14-acre Centerville Mill Pond. The Dam is a 150-foot-long, masonry, gravity-type structure with a pronounced upstream (concave) "horseshoe" curve and massive, mortared, quarry-faced, granite block abutments. The overall structure from the bottom of its foundation to

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the crest is 23 feet high, with approximately 16 feet of the structure above the water on the downstream face. The Dam is still functional.

### Headgate (1881)

The Headgate is a rectangular, mortared, quarry-faced granite block structure located approximately 15 feet upstream from the east end of the Dam, at the upstream end of the Headrace. The west end of the Headgate is built into the massive mortared granite block east abutment of the Dam. The Headgate is essentially a massive masonry wall containing four, large, rectangular gate apertures that were operated to regulate the flow of water through the raceway for optimum waterpower turbine operation and to stop the water flow for maintenance and emergencies. The top surface of the Headgate supports a row of original cast-iron, rack-and-pinion gear slide gate valve controls, one of which has been replaced with a modern unit. The Headgate was reconstructed in the early 1880s in association with the reconstruction of the Dam. The Headgate is in good condition, although the original slide gate mechanisms have deteriorated. The gates currently allow water to pass into the Headrace, but the original units do not appear to be operable.

### Headrace (1871)

The Headrace is a 30-foot-wide, approximately 175-foot-long, mortared, quarry-faced granite block-lined trench that channels the water of the Pawtuxet River from the Centreville Mill Pond to the Mill's power turbines. The Headrace begins at the Headgate approximately 15 feet upstream of the Dam, and extends for 175 feet, passing along the southeast elevation of Building 4A, and turning north to pass under the west end of Building 1. The headrace carries water into the 25-foot-by-35-foot, granite block turbine chamber under Building 1, where it flows through the two vertical shaft turbines and out into the tailrace. The Headrace is part of an 1871 reconfiguration of the Centreville Mill's waterpower infrastructure built to provide power to then-new Building 1. The Headrace is in good condition and still carries water, although the turbines no longer function.

### Tailrace (1871)

The Tailrace is a 30-foot-wide, approximately 200-foot-long, mortared, quarry-faced granite block-lined trench that begins at a broad, granite block, segmental-arch outfall at the west end of the north elevation of Building 1, passes under the Road Bridge, and extends 200 feet north

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where the water rejoins the Pawtuxet River downstream of the Dam. The Tailrace is part of an 1871 reconfiguration of the Centreville Mill's waterpower infrastructure built to provide power to then-new Building 1. The Tailrace is in good condition and still carries water.

### Footbridge (since 1954)

One noncontributing Footbridge is located at the southwest corner of the property, and crosses the Headrace to connect Bridal Avenue with the southeast, ground floor entrance to Building 4A. It is an approximately 35-foot-long, 6-foot-wide structure consisting of a reinforced concrete slab deck supported by concrete abutments, supporting a concrete slab deck protected by a threaded gas pipe railing with spherical, cast-iron joint knuckles. The northwest end of the bridge incorporates a short flight of concrete and steel steps leading up to the primary entrance to Building 4A and down to the bottom doorway in Building 4A's front (southeast) stair tower. The bridge and steps are in good condition and still functional. The structure appears less than 50 years old based on appearance and method of construction.

### Road Bridge (since 1954)

One noncontributing Road Bridge crosses the Raceway immediately north of the west end of the Mill Building 1. It is an approximately 30-foot-long, one-lane, vehicle bridge consisting of several parallel steel I-beam stringers supported by stone abutments and a single row of cylindrical steel columns in the center of the Raceway, carrying a deck consisting of transverse thick wood planks with longitudinal plank wheelways, protected by a threaded gas pipe railing with spherical cast iron joint knuckles. The bridge is in good condition and still in use. The structure appears less than 50 years old based on appearance and method of construction.

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### Photographic Information

Photographer: Matthew A. Kierstead  
Date of Photographs: November 2004

Address: Matthew A. Kierstead  
PAL  
210 Lonsdale Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

### Index to Photographs:

1. View looking northwest across Bridal Avenue showing from left to right: Building 4A, Building 4 stair tower and Building 4, Building 1 first floor south addition, and Building 1 and stair tower.
2. View looking southwest showing from left to right, Building 1, Building 2, Building 3, and a portion of Building 13.
3. View looking southeast across the Pawtuxet River showing from left to right: a portion of Building 2, Building 1, Building 4 boiler room and chimney, and a remaining portion of Building 4.
4. View looking northeast along Bridal Avenue showing from left to right: Building 1 and stair tower with first floor south addition in background, and storehouse (outside of nomination boundary) in right foreground.
5. View looking northeast showing from left to right: Building 13, connector to Building 3, and a portion of Building 3.
6. View looking southeast across Pawtuxet River showing from left to right: a portion of Building 4A and the Dam.

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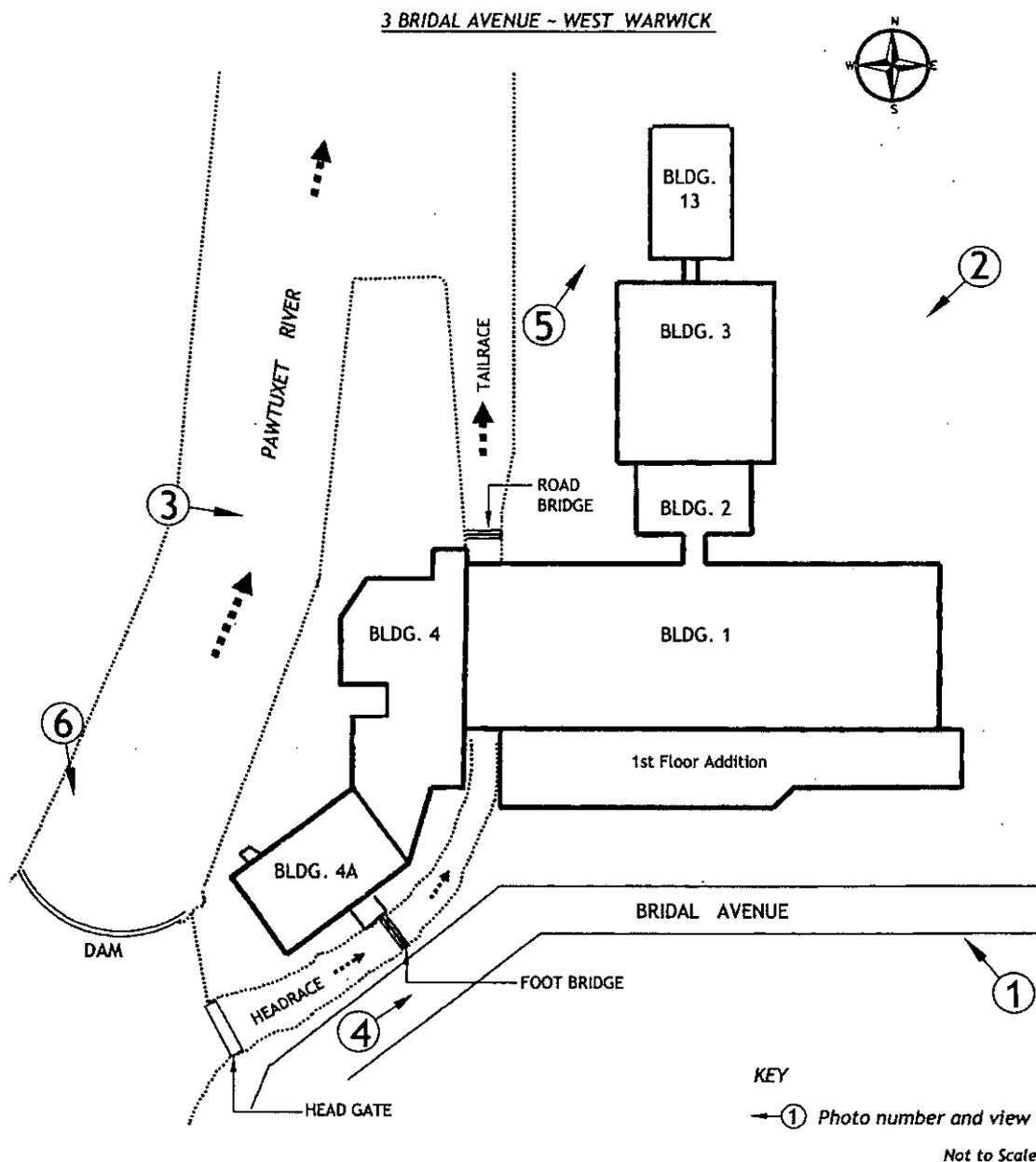
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## Mill Plan and Photograph Key Map



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### SIGNIFICANCE

Centreville Mill is significant as an intact representative physical expression of the industrial history and architecture of West Warwick and the Pawtuxet River valley, one of Rhode Island's most heavily industrialized areas. Centreville Mill includes one contributing building and four contributing structures associated with the construction, development, and operation of the mill, a cotton textile production facility. Centreville Mill is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state and local level under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the growth, consolidation, and decline of the West Warwick and Pawtuxet River valley textile mill industry. It is eligible under Criterion C as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century textile mill architecture and engineering in Rhode Island. The period of significance begins in 1861, when the first extant mill buildings were erected, and ends in 1954, the 50-year National Register eligibility cutoff date, a time span that includes the construction dates of all contributing resources.

#### *Early Development of the Centreville Mill Privilege*

The area later known as Centreville was the site of the Col. Job Greene Farm during the late eighteenth century. The farm included a gristmill at the privilege now occupied by the Centreville Mill. Spurred by Samuel Slater's cotton yarn spinning experiment on the Blackstone River at Pawtucket in 1791, local entrepreneurs purchased waterpower privileges and built spinning mills throughout Rhode Island. In 1794, Job Greene and several partners erected a cotton yarn-spinning mill at Centreville, on the west bank of the river, opposite what is now the Centreville Mill property. This was the first Arkwright spinning mill in Warwick, and the second in Rhode Island. The enterprise was unsuccessful and by 1801 all interest in the mill had been purchased by Providence entrepreneurs William Almy and Obadiah Brown, who had been partners with Slater in Pawtucket. In 1807 Almy and Brown formed the Warwick Manufacturing Company, and built the "Green Mill" on the east bank at the Centreville privilege. The company later constructed a cotton mill in the west bank where the gristmill had been. In 1821 the mills on both sides of the river were united under the Warwick Manufacturing Company. This period saw introduction of wool manufacturing as well as cotton weaving (Cole 1889:964-966; Fuller 1875:189-196; Greene 1886:415-416).

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*Benedict and Enos Lapham*

In 1850–1851, William D. Davis purchased the cotton and woolen mills, machinery, and waterpower rights on both sides of the river. In 1852 Davis sold the “Green Mill” and property on the east (Centreville Mill) side of the river to Benedict Lapham (Cole 1889:964–966; Fuller 1875:196; Greene 1886:415–416). From this time on, the mills and operations on the east and west banks of the river were under separate corporate and property ownership.

Enos and Benedict Lapham were born in Burrillville, Rhode Island, in the 1820s. In their late teens and early twenties the brothers purchased and operated their own factory in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. After purchasing the Centreville Mill, they made major incremental investments in expansion over the next two decades. They ran 3,000 spindles and made cotton cloth at the “Green Mill” until 1861, when they built a large stone mill (Building 4A), which they subsequently expanded over the next few years (Building 4), employing approximately 85 workers. In 1871 the Laphams moved the “Green Mill” to the north end of the property and converted it to a storehouse. In the same year they began construction of a large stone mill, 286 feet long by 70 feet wide, east of the 1861 mill buildings (Building 1). Improvements to the waterpower infrastructure, including a new Headrace and Tailrace, and improvements to the Dam, were made about this time. The new mill contained 31,000 spindles, 700 broad looms, and employed about 350 operatives. It had two vertical and two horizontal turbines with combined output of 750 hp, and a 600-hp, single-cylinder condensing Greene steam engine. The mill consumed 3,000 bales of cotton and produced about 9 million yards of cloth annually. The mill produced a range of cotton cloths, including heavy cotton cloth for windows shades and curtains (Grieve and Fernald 1891:150; Hall 1901:170).

To house their workers, the Laphams built a small village of approximately 100 houses that included a small farm and store. The village of Centreville grew around the mill and the Laphams encouraged the employment and settlement of a substantial French Canadian population. Enos Lapham became a prominent figure in local and state politics. He served for many years on the Warwick Town Council, was a state senator in 1886, and elected lieutenant governor 1888–1889 (Grieve and Fernald 1891:150; Harpin 1961:236, 1976:180–181).

Benedict Lapham died in 1883 and Enos Lapham died in 1894. The Centreville Mill estate passed into the control of John B. Allen for five years, and then in 1901 it was transferred to Benedict Lapham’s grandson, Robert B. Treat (*Gleaner* 7 July 1899; Hall 1901:169).

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### *The B.B. & R Knight Company*

In 1903 Robert B. Treat sold the Centreville Mill to the B.B. & R. Knight Company, which was at that time one of the largest textile manufacturers in the world. The purchase was emblematic of the consolidation of the U.S. textile industry as a whole, and the growth of B.B. & R. Knight in particular. Owned by Benjamin Brayton Knight (b.1813), Robert Knight (b. 1826), and Stephen Knight (b.1818), all of Cranston, Rhode Island, B.B. & R. Knight gained control of Pontiac Mill in 1851, and purchased Natick Mill from the Sprague textile concerns in 1882. By 1885, when they acquired Royal Mill from the Greene Manufacturing Company, they controlled 17 mills in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. By 1889, the company was operating 369,520 spindles, more than any other U.S. company, and made 17,000 miles of their trademark "Fruit of the Loom" fabric per year. The Knights also owned Lippitt Mill. The company came to dominate textile manufacturing in the Pawtuxet River valley. Their last major textile property acquisition, made in 1903, was the Centreville Mill. Knight dedicated Centreville Mill to weaving buckram, a stiff, heavily sized cotton or linen fabric used for garment linings, book covers, and construction. Between 1906 and 1909, B.B. & R. Knight increased production fourfold, and added Building 2, Building 3, and Building 13 to the complex (Anon. n.d.; Connors 1997:12; Lamb 1916:301-309; Macaulay n.d.).

Post-World War I prosperity in the regional textile industry only lasted until the early 1920s, when New England's mills began to suffer from a variety of ills. Much of the blame was placed on competition from Southern U.S. mills, which had the advantages of lower wages, better hours of labor, lower freight rates, cheaper electricity, and lower taxes. New England mills engaged in overproduction in an effort to compete with Southern mills, which included speed-ups and stretch-outs to compensate for declining profits (Young 1928:14, 19). The decline of the textile industry came early to West Warwick, with significant wage cuts and labor unrest beginning in 1920. B.B. & R. Knight sensed the coming problems and sold all their New England textile mill holdings to Frank K. Rupprecht of the Consolidated Textile Co., of New York on September 17, 1920 for \$20 million. The sale was timely, for in 1922 a massive strike over wages began at Knight's former Royal Mill property downstream from Centreville. This event marked the emergence of Rhode Island's immigrant population as a force in mainstream politics and the Democratic Party's rise to power in state government (Connors 1997:9, 13). The Centreville Mill closed in the wake of the Great Depression. Ownership of the property was technically associated with the Knights until 1927, the last year the Knight Finance Corporation was listed as owner (West Warwick Tax Book 1927:60).

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### *Mid-Twentieth-Century Operations*

Centreville Mill subsequently hosted several textile concerns operating in different parts of the mill, a typical transition for large textile and industrial buildings during the mid- to late twentieth century. In 1939, the Bay Mill Company, a manufacturer of woolen and worsted apparel founded by Sven Oltedale in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, moved their operations to the first floor of the Centreville Mill. Bay Mill ultimately occupied 40,000 square feet at Centreville. In 1941, Centreville Mill contained Bay Mill, as well as the Gaunt Worsted Mills, Inc., Mount Hope Plush Co., Elastic Fabrics, Inc., and Standard Garment Co. Gaunt Worsted made wool gabardine for U.S. military uniforms in the second floor of Building 1 during World War II, and Standard Garment was engaged in manufacturing of womens' slips and undergarments from approximately 1935 to 1945. In 1946, the Centreville Mill property was owned by Gaunt Worsted Mills, and in 1965 by Gaunt Textiles. Richard Oltedale purchased Bay Mills in 1956. Bay Mill greatly curtailed operations in 1990, and their weaving room closed in 1995 (RIHPHC n.d.; St. Jean 2004; West Warwick Tax Book 1946:55; 1956:n.p.). Centreville Mill now contains several light industrial tenants, including a small lace-making operation.

The Centreville Mill's 1939–1995 Bay Mill and Gaunt Worsted woolen and worsted production phase reflects trends in New England woolen manufacturing history. The Rhode Island worsted industry was generally steady through the 1930s, with 66 factories producing worsted yarns or cloth in 1930 (Carroll 1936:866–868). In 1940, 20 percent of U.S. worsted workers were in Rhode Island, and one-third of all U.S. worsted production in 1935 came from the state (Providence Community Research Center 1940:14). After a profitable period during World War II, the industry suffered from a postwar fabric glut and an inability to recapture the civilian market. The textile industry overall suffered from competition from synthetic fabrics, old buildings and machinery, high overhead, lack of flexibility, high costs, and poor, old-style, absentee management. In 1951 the textile industry went into its worst slump in a decade. Between 1948 and 1958, 44 woolen and worsted mills in Rhode Island closed. The Rhode Island textile industry lost 40,000 jobs between 1929 and 1954 (Kulick and Bonham 1978:23–25).

Despite this situation, in 1953, Rhode Island remained a leading textile producing state in terms of total employment and value added products. Fifteen percent of the nations woolen industry was still concentrated there, with the largest percentage of employment in the worsted category. Most large plants were fully integrated, taking in mostly Australian wool and making finished cloth that was sold directly to the cutting trade with selling offices in New York City (Tanner

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1953:125–134). A 1928 woolen industry report noted that smaller, closely owned companies were enjoying more profitability than the larger, more widely spread ones, and that the chief advantage for the smaller producers was flexibility to adapt machinery for new style lines or specialty goods. The report stated that it was a tribute to New England woolen management that they had been able to hold or improve their relative position despite the struggles in the textile industry in general (Young 1928:27). Bay Mill's Centreville operations are an example of successful Rhode Island worsted operation that, like Worcester Textile Co.'s worsted plant at Greystone Mill in North Providence, managed to hold on to their business until the end of the twentieth century (Kierstead 2003).

In 1947 the 1807 "Green Mill" located at the northeast corner of the property housed the American Welding Co. (RIHPHC survey form). The building was demolished in the early 1980s.

### *Architecture*

Centreville Mill is a representative example of a mid- to late-nineteenth-century New England textile mill. Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, and 13 are examples of the nineteenth-century tradition of long, narrow, multistory "industrial loft," a specialized type of building often associated with textile manufacturing, consisting of two or more stories in a long narrow configuration. This shape was originally developed to satisfy the combined needs for interior light and power transmission via lineshafting. Useable floor space was maximized by concentrating vertical circulation in exterior towers. These buildings 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. Earlier examples were built with gable roofs, and many 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).

Building 1, Building 4, and Building 4A, as originally constructed, had timber-framed gable roofs and elaborate wood cupolas on top of their stair towers. The main part of Building 1 had a moderate-pitch gable roof with short attic windows, and the stair tower had a cube-shaped upper story with triple-arched windows topped by a steeply-pitched, pyramidal roof with hooded segmental-arched dormers and a metal weathervane. Building 4 and Building 4A had full-

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length, glazed, gable-roofed clerestory monitors, and the stair tower on Building 4 was topped by a truncated, hipped roof with hooded segmental-arched dormers. Like most area textile mills with similar roofs and towers, these gables and tower extensions were removed in the late nineteenth century to conform to fire insurance regulations, and in the case of Building 1's attic, where the former attic windows were raised in height, to create additional, better-lit production space.

The boiler room, part of Building 4, is an early example of another industrial building form to evolve during the nineteenth century. Although it does not exhibit the strong characteristics common to later examples, it does incorporate some aspects of the type. It is divided into separate rooms for boilers and steam engines to keep dust off the reciprocating machinery. Heavy timber trusses provide a clear-span interior over the boilers. The building has a tall chimney to provide draft for the boiler fireboxes and to carry away waste gases. Typical of older industrial chimneys it is square in plan, a shape that exposed it more to wind pressure and was less efficient in terms of interior pressure resistance than later round ones (Bradley 1999:49-52).

The Centreville Mill is a representative example of the nineteenth-century masonry wall mill construction found throughout Rhode Island and adjacent sections of the neighboring states. This mode of construction is notably prevalent in the Pawtuxet River valley, where it dominates over brick construction more typically associated with mid- to late-nineteenth-century New England industrial architecture. This 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. All of these rocks cleave in a more or less tabular fashion and are more or less suitable for building flush surface gravity walls. 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, and, subsequently, increasingly parallel cleavage lines, making it ideal for splitting into rectilinear, tabular blocks for construction. Use of these local building stones that varied in their geometry 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

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completely smooth, and, in some cases, carefully scored to imitate finely jointed regularly coursed stone blocks, such as at Phenix Mill. 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.

There is some confusion regarding the attribution for the design and source of materials for Building 1 at Centreville Mill. The architectural design for the building and/or the supervision of its construction is variously attributed to the Lapham brothers, and "mill doctor" David Whitman (Grieve and Fernald 1891:150; Harpin 1961:51). Builder and stone quarry operator Horace Foster is also indicated as responsible for construction (Nebiker 1987:52). The source of the stone for the building has been attributed to a ledge on or near the property, or the Foster Ledge Quarry in Coventry (Fuller 1875:197; Lasky 1978:24). Horace Foster operated the Foster Ledge or Nipmuc quarries, opened in 1862 in Coventry, Rhode Island, near the railroad line that followed the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River and then extended west into Connecticut. Foster supplied stone for the Sprague family mill concerns, and is known to have been involved in construction of Pawtuxet Valley mills including Crompton, Harris, and Quidnick; the Arctic Mill Store; the State Farm and State Prison foundations in Cranston; the Tiogue Reservoir and Dam; and numerous railroad bridge abutments (D'Amato 1992:61, 66; Lasky 1978:24).

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Kierstead, Matthew A.

2003 *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for The Greystone Mill.* On file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI

(continued)

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Macaulay, Ruth

n.d. "A Short History of the B.B. & R. Knight Company," manuscript on file at Slater Mill National Historic Site, Pawtucket, RI.

Providence Community Research Center

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Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

n.d. *Centreville Mill Historic Property Data Sheet*. On File at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

Interviews

St. Jean, Cecilia

2004 Cecilia St. Jean. Pawtuxet Valley Preservation and Historical Society, interview with Matthew A. Kierstead, West Warwick, RI, 5 November.

Maps

Sanborn Map Co,

1922 *Map of West Warwick, RI*. Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY.

1946 *Map of West Warwick, RI*. Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY.

Everts & Richards

1895 *Atlas of Rhode Island Natick & Crompton, Town of Warwick, Vol. II, Southern Rhode Island*. Philadelphia, PA.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Boundary Description:

The property boundaries encompass all of Plat Map 15, Lot 51, a 12.15-acre parcel within West Warwick, Rhode Island, and include the adjoining dam at the southwest corner of the mill buildings.

#### Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include the full extent of contiguous historic and structural resources associated with the activity in the property during its period of significance. The boundaries follow legally recorded property lines, roads, and natural watercourses as described in West Warwick Deed Book 1094, page 68.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior  
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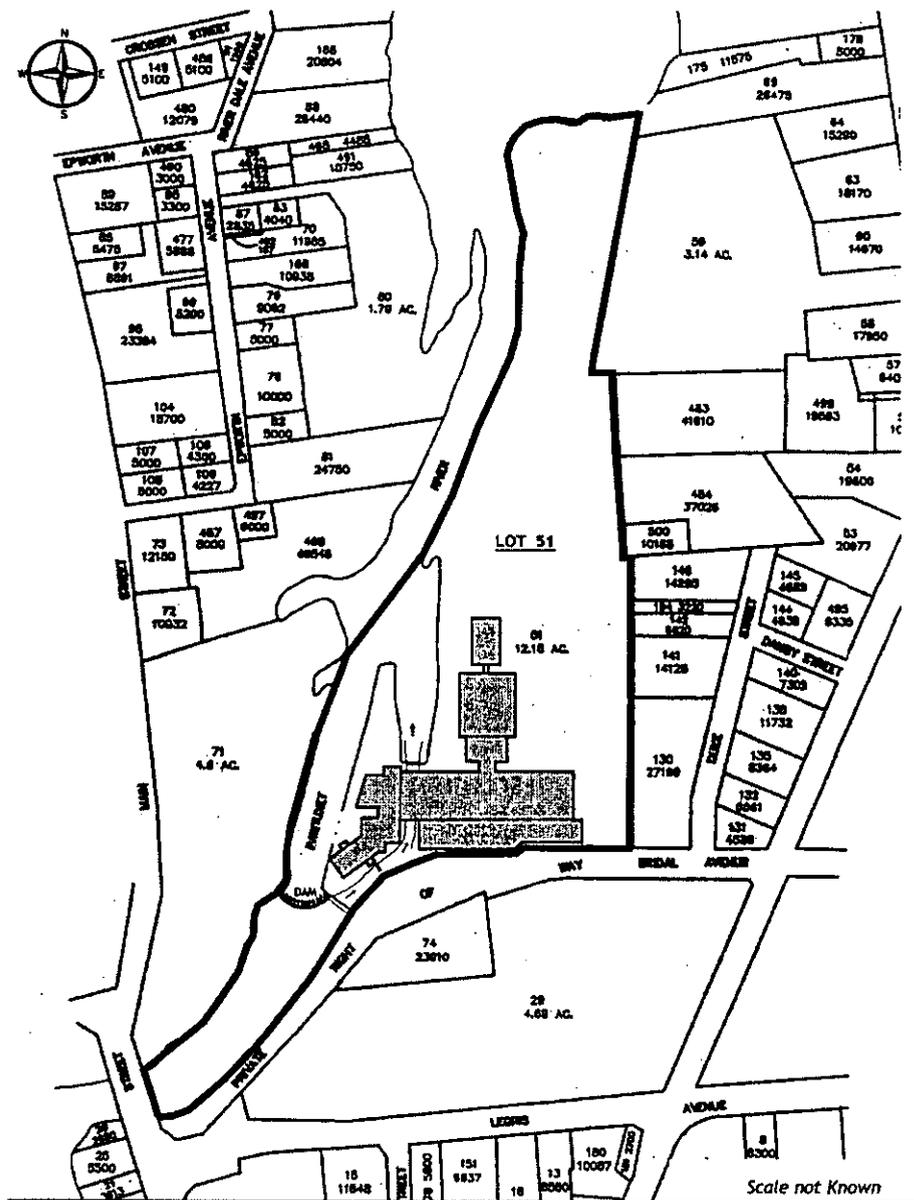
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## West Warwick Assessor's Map 15



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CENTREVILLE MILL  
WEST WARWICK, KENT COUNTY  
RHODE ISLAND 1



CENTREVILLE MILL  
WEST WARWICK, KENT COUNTY  
RHODE ISLAND 2



CENTREVILLE MILL  
WEST WABWICK - KENT COUNTY  
RHODE ISLAND 3



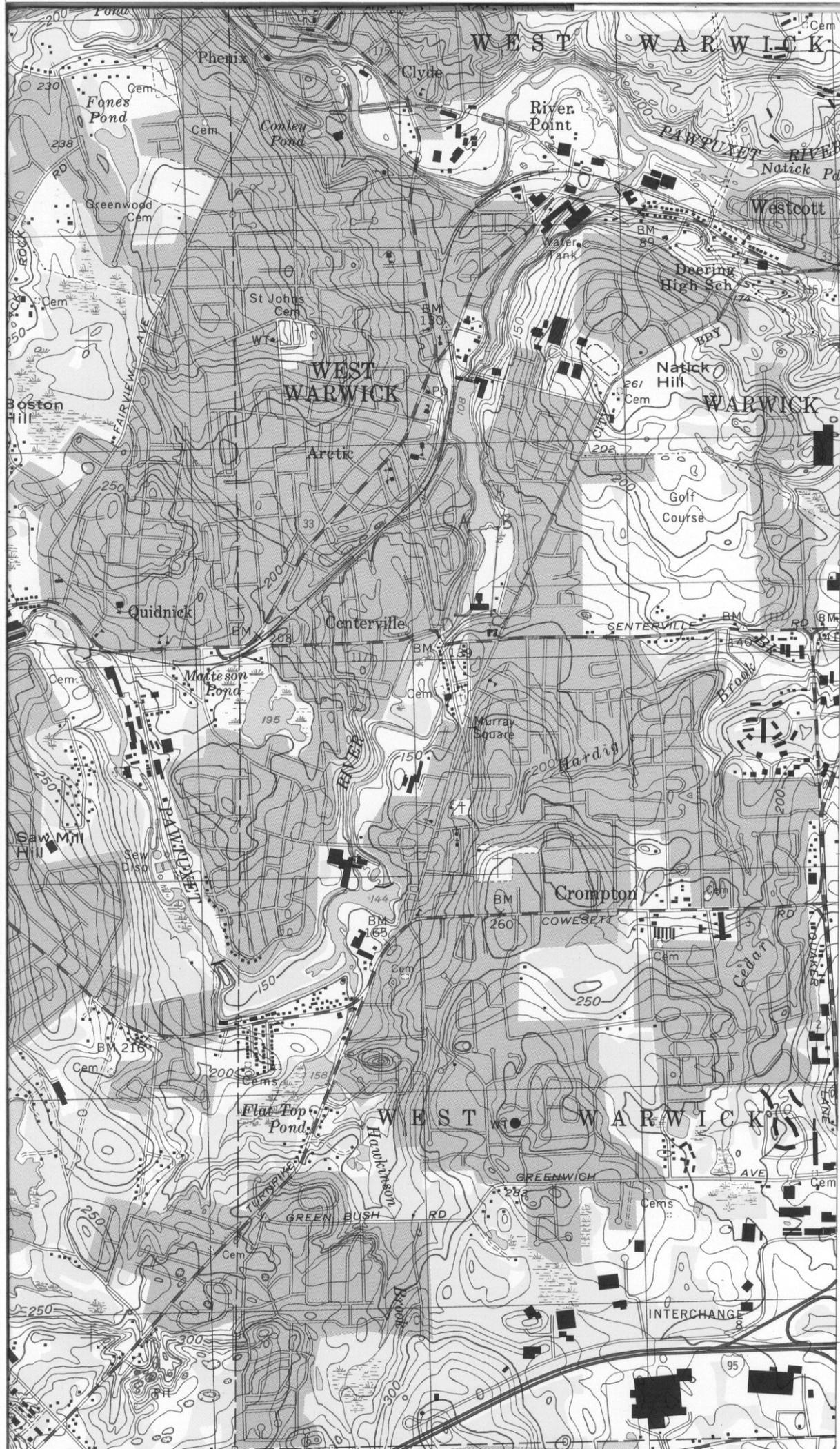
CENTREVILLE MILL  
WEST WARWICK - KENT COUNTY  
RHODE ISLAND 4



CENTREVILLE MILL  
WEST WARWICK-RHODE ISLAND  
5



CENTRE VILLE MILL  
WEST WARWICK-KENT COUNTY  
RHODE ISLAND  
b



42°21'  
 42'30"  
 42°20'  
 41°19'  
 41°18'  
 41°17'  
 41°16'

CENTREVILLE MILL  
 WEST WARWICK  
 KENT COUNTY, RI

① UTM REFERENCES:  
 A: 19.290205. 4619383  
 B: 19.290337. 4619383  
 C: 19.290312. 4618997  
 D: 19.290124. 4618987