

PH0509159

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1977

DATE ENTERED

APR 26 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Valley Falls Mill, office, + Bath House see nom. 11.1. 78

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1363 Broad Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Central Falls

VICINITY OF

#1

Rep. Fernand St. Germain

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Rhode Island 02863

CODE

44

COUNTY

Providence

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Irwin Manekofsky

STREET & NUMBER

Box 163

CITY, TOWN

Central Falls

VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Central Falls City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

580 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Central Falls

STATE

Rhode Island 02863

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Preservation Report, P-CF-1 Central Falls,
Rhode Island

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

150 Benefit Street

Providence,

STATE

Rhode Island

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Valley Falls Mill occupies a long, narrow site parallel to the Blackstone River and east of Broad Street, in the Central Falls section of the village of Valley Falls. The village, divided by the Blackstone River, now lies partly in Central Falls and partly in Cumberland. A major fall of the Blackstone occurs at this point and has been used for power since the early nineteenth century. Just north of the falls is a bridge carrying Broad Street -- a major north-south state highway. The river has been bridged here since the early nineteenth century. The mill site includes three structures dating from the mid-nineteenth century -- a large brick mill, a smaller stone mill, and a small boiler house. In addition, much of the water power system remains, including a hewn-stone dam (1853), which provided fourteen feet of head (the difference in elevation between the water in reserve and the river's surface below the dam), the gate and its house, and portions of a once-extensive canal system. (See sketch map)

The Valley Falls Mill (1849) is a long, narrow, rectangular building, four stories tall with a rubble foundation and a hip roof (whose east end is in serious disrepair). To meet the requirements of fire resistance, the mill was constructed with load-bearing brick walls and heavy timber columns, 12" by 12", spaced about 8' apart and arranged in two rows about 12' apart on the second and third floors; on the first floor the columns are arranged in a single central row and are supplemented by two rows of iron posts. The fourth floor of the mill is designed without posts -- the roof is supported by king post trusses with diagonal struts and vertical tie rods. The floors of the mill are constructed of several layers; the bottom layer consists of heavy wood planks, 12" wide. The flooring is said to be about 6" thick and to consist of several layers of planking sandwiched between thin layers of cement, which may have been added later for additional fire protection.

The mill is 156 feet by 44 feet, twenty bays long, with rectangular, double-hung, multi-paned windows (8/8 on the first and second stories, 12/8 on the third and fourth), and flush granite sills and lintels. The choice of brick for the mill's walls was an unusual one; in the 1840s and 50s, most Rhode Island textile mills were built of stone.

The mass of the building is interrupted at the center of its south elevation by a five-level, projecting, Italianate tower. The freight doors on the front of the tower are flanked by narrow, round-headed windows in the belfry (which once housed a bell cast in 1836 by George Howard of Boston), there is an oculus on each

See continuation sheet 1

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side and, above, a trio of roundheaded windows of graduated size. The tower is capped by a helm roof with wide eaves and a central finial. The original wind vane in the shape of a jagged arrow no longer exists.

Joined to the mill by a wooden passageway (now seriously deteriorated) is a smaller, three-story, gable-roofed rubble mill (1860s), with granite sills, lintels, and corner quoins, lying between the river and the east end of the main mill. Adjacent to this smaller mill (and connected to it and the main mill by wooden passageways) is a shed-roofed boiler house (1860s), also of rubble, with a brick stack on its west side. The boiler house at one time supplied steam for mills on the opposite side of the Blackstone, via a pipeline under the river.

The main power trench, whose walls are built of rubble, enters the mill site just below the Broad Street bridge and, as it passed the present mill, was originally divided into two branches, one flowing under the 1849 mill, the other under a later mill (which no longer stands) before rejoining the Blackstone. The second branch has been filled in. A gable-roofed, wood frame gatehouse is built over the trench adjacent to the bridge; it rests on a series of round stone arches and still contains the gate which regulated the flow of water into the trench.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1849, 1860s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Valley Falls Mill is a major industrial building, located on a key site in the tiny but heavily-industrialized city of Central Falls. Its significance lies in its architectural quality, its history as an early and continuing element in the industrial life of Central Falls, its location on a major fall of the Blackstone River, and its presence as the most important remaining element of a large industrial complex built by the Chace family of Rhode Island.

Though not incorporated until 1895, the city of Central Falls is largely the product of mid-nineteenth century development. The most important factor in this development was the presence of the Blackstone River which makes up over one half of the city's boundary. As the river flows southward through Valley Falls Pond toward Narragansett Bay, it passes between steep banks and over two falls -- the Valley Falls and the middle (or central) falls, the source of the city's name. These waterfalls provided power for industry, and it was industrialization which sparked the development of two manufacturing villages -- Valley Falls and Central Falls -- in the first half of the nineteenth century, and which fired their rapid growth into a densely developed urban center later in the century.

The Wilkinson family, known in the late eighteenth century for their mechanical and inventive enterprise, were the first known to have used the water power of the Valley Falls. Oziel Wilkinson had operated a furnace in Smithfield, R. I., but in the 1780s he moved his family and business to Pawtucket where, with his five sons, he became the principal ironworker of the regions. Oziel was succeeded by his son David who, with his brothers Abraham and Isaac, acquired land on both sides of the Blackstone at Valley Falls in 1812. In the same year, the Valley Falls Turnpike (now Broad Street), built by Isaac Wilkinson, was opened, allowing for an easier flow of goods and materials from the area to its major markets. Their mill, built in 1823, was later dismantled.

See continuation sheet 2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Curley, Thomas J. "Friends and Neighbors: Diamond Jubilee Souvenir." Central Falls, Rhode Island, 1970.
 Grieve, Robert. History of Pawtucket, Central Falls and Vicinity. Pawtucket: 1897.

See continuation sheet 4

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.8 acres ^{mm-2} 2-14-78

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	3101830	4641080	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Plat 3, lots 37, 178A, 181, and that portion of lot 178-B formed by a line from High Street (68.80' from lot 37) running 108.5' at N 45° -37' -31" W to lot 181.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Pamela Kennedy, Historical Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE

July, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

150 Benefit Street

TELEPHONE

401-277-2678

CITY OR TOWN

Providence

STATE

Rhode Island

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Frederick C. Williamson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 27, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Gregory Smith

DATE

4/26/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Catherine Cole

DATE

3-16-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Extensive development of the Valley Falls area, however, dates from the arrival of the Chace family, leading industrialists in the Blackstone Valley. Samuel B. and Harvey Chace, sons of Fall River mill owner Oliver Chace, built the present mill in 1849; in their choice of site, they were no doubt influenced not only by the availability of water power, but also by the completion the same year of the Providence & Worcester Railroad, which passes by the mill on its east side. The mill was designed for the manufacture of a variety of cotton products and was the site of the first use of the American-made, Sharp & Roberts, self-actor, mule spinning frames. The long-mules, installed on the top floor of the mill, were designed by James Brown of Pawtucket, a noted machinist. In 1853, the Chaces built a new stone dam and gatehouse at the Valley Falls. This new dam replaced two earlier wooden dams upstream.

In 1853, the Chaces incorporated as the Valley Falls Company; they later owned and operated mills on both sides of the Blackstone here and at Albion. Over the next five decades, several additional buildings were constructed near the mill, expanding it into a major mill complex. These included a stone picker house and two additional brick mills, each almost equal in size to the 1849 mill. Later owners added other small buildings and a complex similar in size grew up on the opposite side of the river as well.

The expansion of the Chaces' mill was instrumental in the development of the village of Valley Falls which in the mid-nineteenth century grew up around their enterprise on both sides of the river. The company was the major employer in the village and one of the largest in Central Falls. In 1860, for example, when the average textile mill in Central Falls employed 106 workers, 280 were employed at the Valley Falls Mill (150 men and 130 women) and 800,000 pounds of raw cotton were consumed in the production of yarns and fabric. The presence of so large a mill led to a concentration of population (largely Irish in the 1850s and 1860s, later French Canadians), trade, and building activity in the vicinity.

The original village is today divided by a city boundary (so that half of it is in the city of Central Falls and half in the town of Cumberland) and it is now virtually indistinguishable from the rest of Central Falls, and little evidence of its origins as a

See continuation sheet 3

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manufacturing village centered on its mill remains. Samuel Chace's first house on the Cumberland side still stands, but the house in which he and his wife Elizabeth Buffum Chace (the noted abolitionist and feminist) lived on the Central Falls side has been demolished. Only five workers and foremens' houses (on nearby Division Street) built by the company still stand. They are not included in this nomination because they have been extensively modified. Of the great mill complex built on both sides of the river, the 1849 mill is the most important remaining component; fires destroyed the adjacent mills on the Central Falls side and, in the 1930's, the mills on the Cumberland side were razed. Thus, the Valley Falls Mill is one of the few remaining elements of a once-vast mill complex.

Though historically only a remnant, the mill itself is visually still a whole. Impressive in its solidity, size, and scale, its symmetrical and regular facade set behind a tall projecting tower, the Valley Falls Mill is a landmark in the city; its distinctive tower can be seen from much of the surrounding area. One of the largest and handsomest mills in region, it enjoys the advantages of an unusually attractive site on the river.

Long vacant, the Valley Falls Mill will be converted into a major housing complex this fall, a recycling effort which has the full support of the municipal administration. Its original power system will be restored and used to provide heat and hot water.

As a handsome example of textile mill architecture, as an important reminder of the role of industry in the growth of the area, as the remaining core of a once-extensive industrial complex, and as a notable example of the opportunities available for the preservation and re-use of older buildings, it deserves the protection and recognition of entry on the National Register.

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Haley, John William. The Lower Blackstone Valley: The Story
of Pawtucket, Central Falls, Lincoln, and Cumberland.

Pawtucket: 1936

HAER Inventory Card RI 19.301840.4641040 Pawt., January, 1977.

Steere, Thomas. History of the Town of Smithfield from its
Organization in 1730-1, to its Division in 1871.

Van Slyck, J. New England Manufacturers and Manufactories.
Boston: 1879.

Property Valley Falls mill

State R.I.

Working Number 11.22.77.1971

Providence

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

accreage

CONTROL

OK 11.28.77

HISTORIAN

be converted to a housing complex
this fall. See phone report on what is an acreage except

Shoffy
2-8-78

Call for acreage - Mill soon to be recycled into housing.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept

With acreage

Bravman
1.12.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

One of the only 19th century Brick textile mills in R.I. - Site included in HAER inventory

HAER

Inventory X
Review 2/21/78

Accept

Donald C. Jackson

see above and statement 8

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Leborich
4/14/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Signature
4/24/78

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 6.6.78

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 26 1978

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Valley Falls Mill

Central Falls, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger

Providence County

July, 1977

Negative at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Valley Falls Mill: Southern facade

Photograph #1 85

NOV 22 1977

APR 26 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Valley Falls Mill

Central Falls, Rhode Island

Providence County

Photographer: Warren Jagger

July, 1977

Negative at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Valley Falls Mill: Interior, fourth floor

Photograph #2 85

NOV 22 1977

APR 26 1978

Mikula and Garvey
Realty
728-7722

NOW REALISTIC
NEXT TO WEST

195



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Valley Falls Mill

Central Falls, Rhode Island

Providence County

Photographer: Warren Jagger

July, 1977

Negative at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Gatehouse from southeast

Photograph #3 95

NOV 22 1977

APR 26 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Valley Falls Mill

Central Falls, Rhode Island

Providence County

Photographer: Warren Jagger

July, 1977

Negative at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Picker house, southern facade, and Valley Falls Mill, north east
corner

Photographer #4 85

NOV 22 1977

APR 26 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Valley Falls Mill

Central Falls, Rhode Island

Providence County

Photographer: Warren Jagger

July, 1977

Negative at Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Main power trench from west; Valley Falls Mill on right; boiler
house and picker house on left

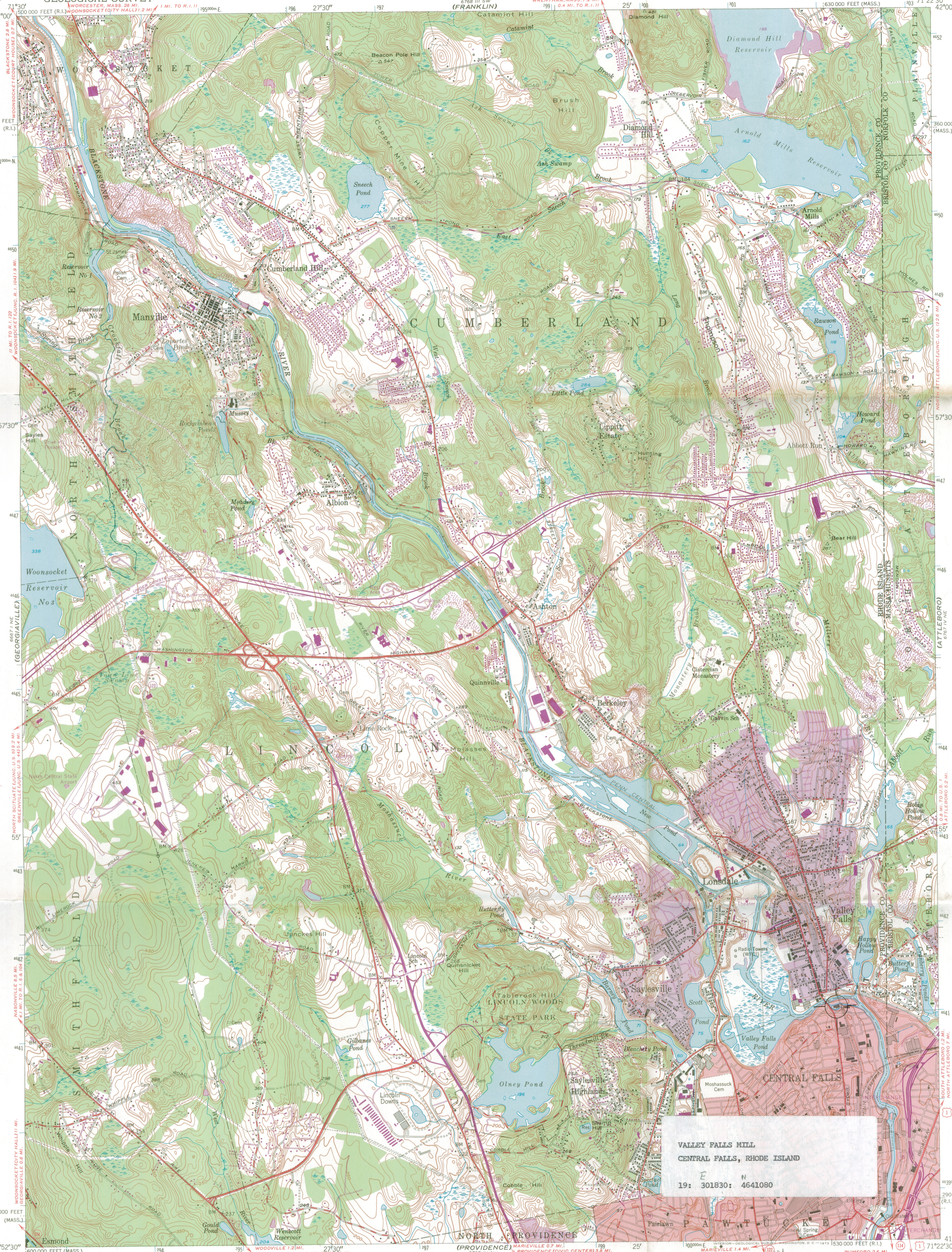
Photograph #5 95

NOV 22 1977

APR 26 1978

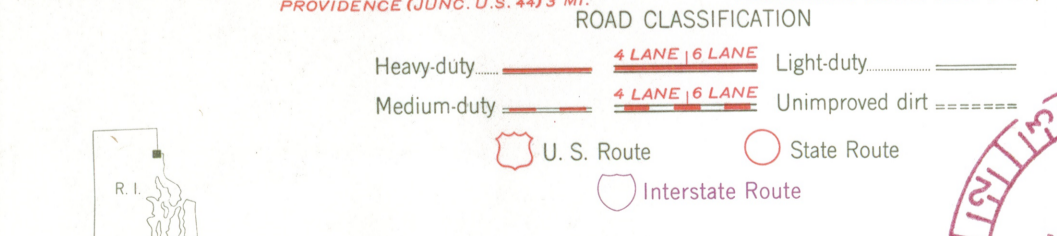
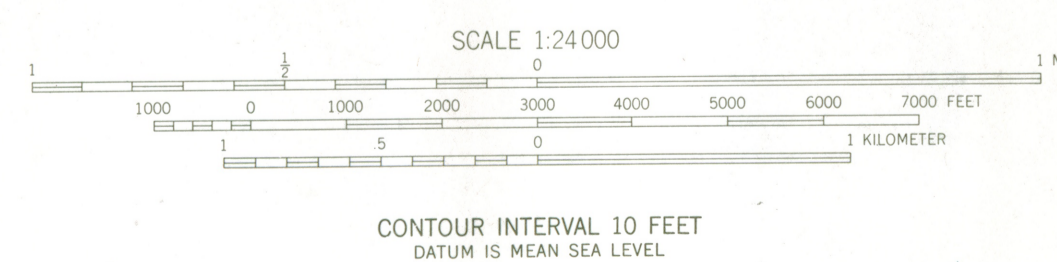
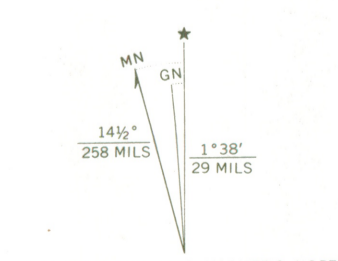
BLACKSTONE
668° 15' E

WRENTHAM
688° 15' SE



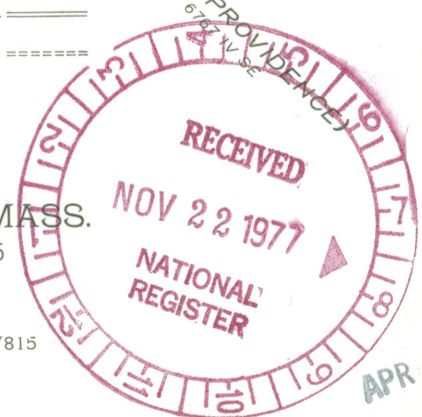
VALLEY FALLS MILL
CENTRAL FALLS, RHODE ISLAND
E N
19: 301830: 4641080

Control by USGS, USC&GS, Mass. Dept. of Public Works,
and R. I. Board of Public Roads
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
Surveyed in 1937-1938. Revised in 1949
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Rhode Island coordinate system
and Massachusetts coordinate system (Mainland)
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1970. This information not
field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

PAWTUCKET, R. I.-MASS.
N4152.5-W7122.5/7.5
1949
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6767 IV NW-SERIES V815



VILLAGE GREEN ASSOCIATES, INC.
LAND SURVEYING, ENGINEERING, RIGHT SERVICES
11 NORTH RD., PEACE DALE, RHODE ISLAND 02883

DATE 13
2 - 14 - 78

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL AM
PM

LL TO: FROM (Name)

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Susan Dynes

SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Valley Fall Mill

DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

- Has to check acreage
- There will also be a new owner - whose name she will send in mail.

New owners - need to be ratified - are quite ~~am~~ happy about nomination.

Blackstone Falls Associates
c/o Geldardin, Bruner, & Cott Inc.
543 a Green St.
Cambridge, - Mass. 02139

- will be writing to make 30 day comment

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Dynes

DATE

4-14-78

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL TO; FROM (Name)

Susan

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

401 - 277 - ~~285~~²⁶⁷⁸

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Valley Falls

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

are all resources mentioned at last of #8 included ?

all resources mentioned in last paragraph of #1 are indeed included

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Sheffy

TITLE

OFFICE

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE RHODE ISLAND

Date Entered APR 26 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Kingston Railroad Station	West Kingston Washington County
<u>Valley Falls Mill</u>	Central Falls Providence County

Also Notified

Hon. Claiborne Pell
Hon. John H. Chafee
Hon. Edward P. Beard
Hon. Fernand J. St Germain

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson
Director, Rhode Island Department
of Community Affairs
150 Washington Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

NR Mott 5/1/78

Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

August 23, 1978

Mr. Ed Machado
Environmental Quality Officer
Department of Housing and
Urban Development
15 New Chardon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear Mr. Machado:

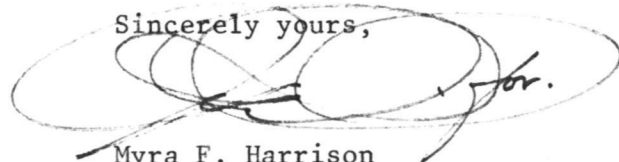
We have been informed that a project to convert a mill building into housing units, an undertaking assisted by Section 8 funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, may have an effect on the Valley Falls Mill, Central Falls, Rhode Island, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Please investigate this matter to determine whether the nature of the effect requires that you obtain the comments of the Council in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320). Steps to determine this responsibility are set forth in Section 800.4 of the Council's "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

The Council requests that you report the results of your investigation to this office at the earliest opportunity. If you have further questions or require assistance, please call Ms. Sharon S. Conway at 202-254-3967.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. F. Harrison", is written over a large, loopy scribble. The signature is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Myra F. Harrison
Assistant Director
Office of Review and
Compliance

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Valley Falls Mill
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: APR 26 1978
 ④ county code: 07

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 1363 Broad St.
 city / town: Central Falls
 vicinity of:
 state: RI
 county: Providence
 ⑥ NPS REGION: NA

⑦ OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL
 ⑩ FUNDED? YES NO
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 1st
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: NO
 ⑮ ACREAGE: LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed
 unexcavated
 altered original site
 unaltered moved
 reconstructed unknown
 excavated
 ⑰ features:
 INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1
 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4
 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2
 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-5
 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-6
 NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE YES NO
 ⑳ SAVED? YES
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1
 AGRICULTURE-3
 ARCHITECTURE-4
 ART-5
 ENGINEERING-11
 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15
 POLITICS/GOVT.-21
 RECREATION-28
 RELIGION-22
 SCIENCE-23
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24
 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30
 TRANSPORTATION-25
 COMMERCE-6
 ENTERTAINMENT-26
 LAW-16
 LITERATURE-17
 MILITARY-18
 MUSIC-19
 PHILOSOPHY-20
 EXPLORATION-12
 HEALTH-27
 INDUSTRY-13
 INVENTION-14
 CONSERVATION-8
 COMMUNICATIONS-7
 ECONOMICS-9
 EDUCATION-10
 OTHER (SPECIFY)
 ㉒ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉓ functions
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
 CURRENTLY:
 ㉔ dates of initial construction:
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉖ architectural style(s):
 ㉗ architect:
 ㉘ master builder:
 ㉙ engineer:

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉛ interior decorator:
 ㉜ artist:
 ㉝ artisan:
 ㉞ builder/contractor:

㉟ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	APR 6 1979

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

CONTINUATION SHEET 33

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 33

1. Name: Valley Falls Mill (see also: Amendment, continuation sheet 34)
2. Location: 1363 Broad Street
Central Falls, RI *030, 160, (Elderly housing w/p)*
see p. 48 of Section 8
3. Owner: Blackstone Falls Associates
c/o Gelardin/Bruner/Cott, Inc.
534a Green Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
4. Description: This mill site includes three structures dating from the mid-19th century -- a large brick mill, a smaller stone mill, and a small boiler house. In addition, much of the water power system remains, including a hewn-stone dam (1853), which provided 14 feet of head, the gate, and its house; and portions of a once-extensive canal system.

The Valley Falls Mill (1849) is 156 by 44 feet, 20 bays long; built of red brick and trimmed with granite, the mill is 4 stories tall and has a hip roof. The floors are supported by heavy timber columns; the fourth floor of the mill has no posts -- its roof is supported by king post trusses. At the center of the south elevation is a five-level, projecting Italianate tower.

Joined to the mill by a passageway is a smaller, 3-story, gable-roofed rubble mill (1860s). Adjacent to this smaller mill is a shed-roofed boiler house (1860s).

5. Dates: 1849, 1860s.
6. Significance: The Valley Falls Mill is a major industrial building, located on a key site. The water power of the Valley Falls was first used by the Wilkinson family, noted for their mechanical genius, in 1812. The present mill was constructed by Samuel and Harvey B. Chace; it was designed for the manufacture of cotton products and was the site of the first use of American-made, Sharp and Roberts self-actor mules.

The Chaces (incorporated as the Valley Falls Company) operated mills on both sides of Blackstone and in other towns. The Valley Falls Mill encouraged the growth of a substantial village here at the falls, though it is now

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CONTINUATION SHEET 34 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 34

virtually indistinguishable from the rest of Central Falls. Apart from its historic interest, the mill is an architectural landmark, its distinctive tower visible in much of the city.

7. Acreage: 2.8 acres
8. Plat 3, lots 37, 178a, 181, and that portion of lot 178B formed by a line from High Street (68.80' from lot 37) running 108.5' at 45 -37'3"W to lot 81.
9. UTM Reference: 19. 301830 4641080
10. Entered on the National Register, September 27, 1977.
1. Valley Falls Mill Complex Amendment: Office and Bath House
2. Location: 1359 and 1361 Broad Street, Central Falls, RI
3. Owner: Blackstone Falls Associates, 534a Green Street, Cambridge, MA
4. Description: This amendment includes two buildings constructed as part of the mill complex. The company office is a 1-story Italianate structure, of stone rubble with a stucco cover, low overhanging roof and exposed purlin ends. The bath house is a 1-story brick and wood building, with a steep hip roof and cupola.
5. Dates: c. 1855, c. 1870.
6. Significance: The company office, which served as the administrative center of the mill complex, and the bath house, which served both mill workers and the community, have been added to the nomination; together, they enhance the visual quality of the mills and historically they add a new dimension to the complex.
7. Acreage: less than one acre
8. Plat 2, lot 192, formerly part of lot 178B.
9. UTM Reference: 19. 301790 4641030

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000745