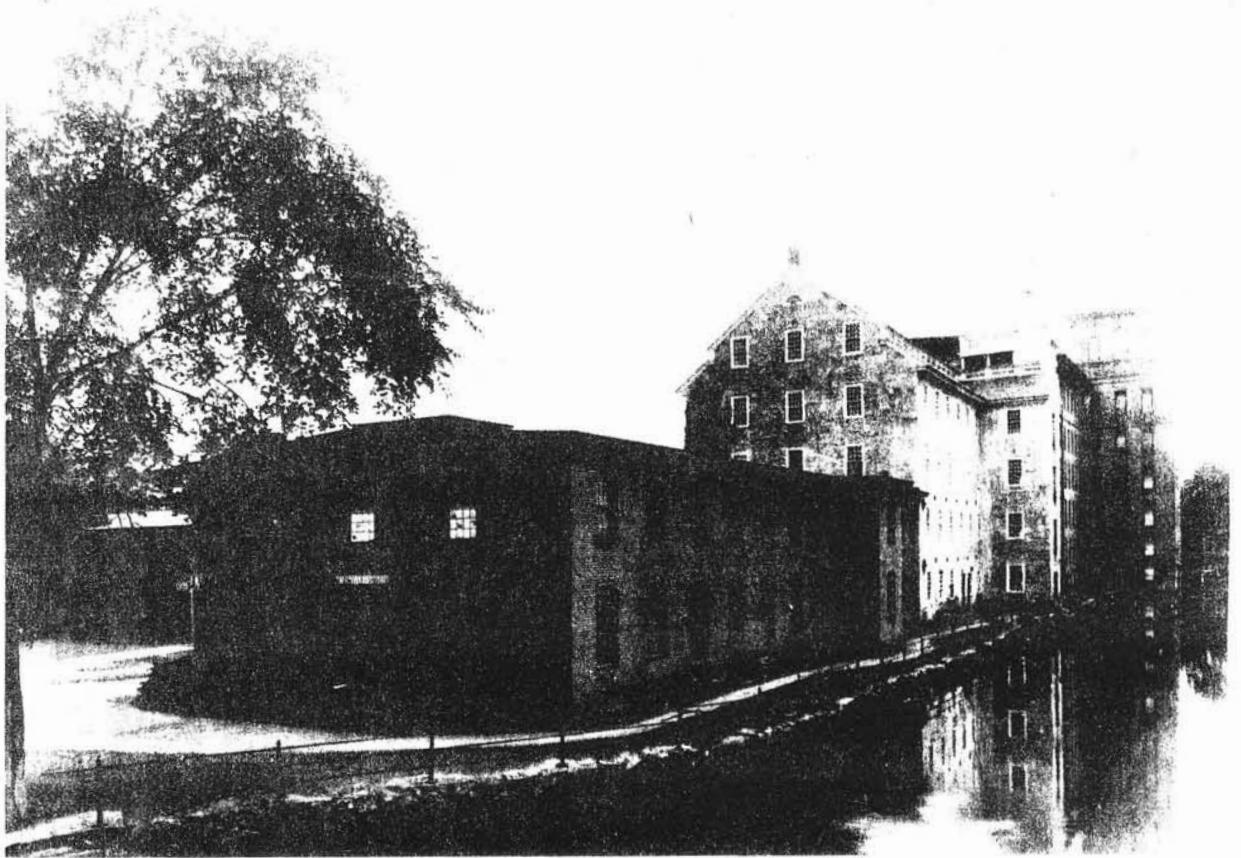


RICHARD M. CANDEE, Compiler

**INDUSTRIAL ARCHITECTURE
IN THE QUINEBAUG
AND BLACKSTONE VALLEYS**



A TOUR CO-SPONSORED BY
THE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY
AND
THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS,
BOSTON CHAPTER

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
INDUSTRIAL ARCHITECTURE OF
SOUTH-CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND

The Blackstone and Quinebaug Valleys form two parallel north-south water courses through south-central New England which furnished requisite water power for the development of local industries throughout the nineteenth century. The earliest of these were the textile industries, which sprang up in self-contained villages during the first half of the century. Where water power and several companies clustered, as at Putnam, Conn., Woonsocket, R.I., Southbridge and Blackstone, Mass., individual villages merged into new towns or cities. Within these new towns and villages an architectural unity can often still be seen.

While the factory or mill remains central to the study of industrial architecture, the subject properly concerns the architectural development of the whole industrial community. Mill housing for mechanics, operatives, overseers and agents or owners presents a wide range of forms, some not usually met with in older urban or agricultural communities. Stores, churches, factories, and homes owned by a single corporation reflect long term planning throughout the nineteenth century. The economic decline of most of these complexes in this century has certainly blemished the results of such planned growth, but not yet destroyed it completely.

A thirty mile radius of Providence is commonly considered the core of the "Rhode Island" system of manufacturing, especially non-corporate ownership and the family labor system of the textile industry. Individual sites throughout this three-state area suggest local architectural variations within a framework of a recognizable regional pattern of relatively small stone mills and multi-family housing. Influences from industrial growth in other parts of New England occasionally overlays the vernacular building of the earlier nineteenth century. How these elements pattern themselves, how they are judged as elements in the historical landscape, and what value they contain as a source of knowledge today are questions worthy of investigation by many related disciplines. I hope that this selective tour will stimulate that interest.

Richard Candee
October 1972

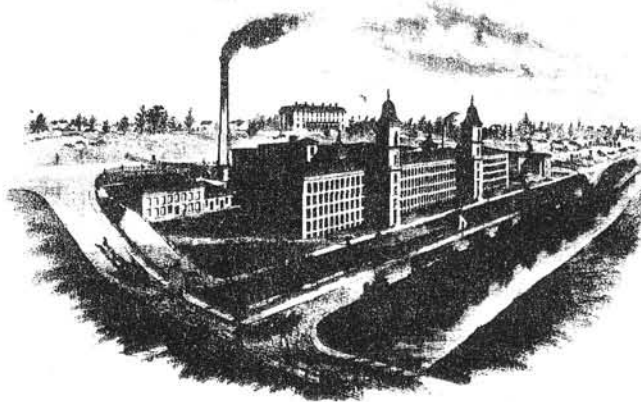
This booklet was compiled by Richard Candee, Old Sturbridge Village, with the assistance of Ted Sande, Williams College and Paul Rivard, Old Slater Mill. We would like to thank Old Sturbridge Village, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Rhode Island Historical Society and Randolph Langenbach for the use of photographs throughout.

Southbridge, Mass.

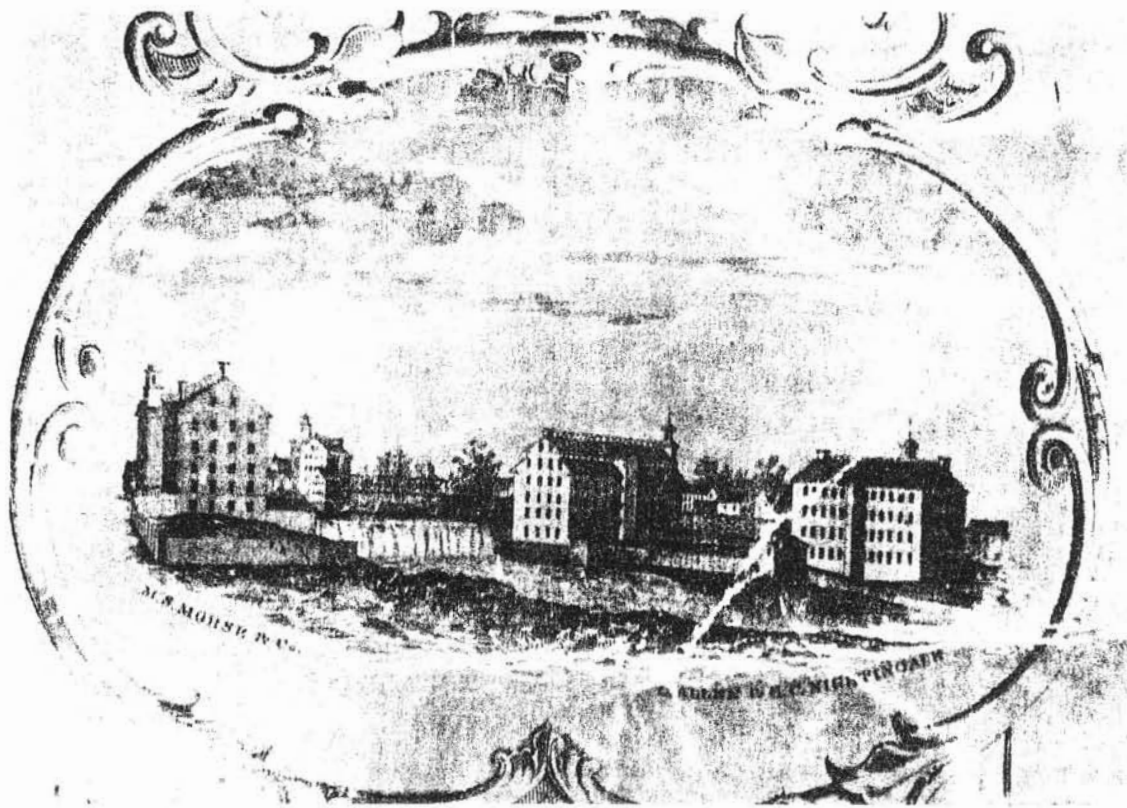
1. "Globe Village": The site of Globe Mfg. Co. begun in 1814 (see fig. 10 Antiques reprint) was reorganized as the Hamilton Woolen Co. in 1831. Brick mills were erected from 1836 on. The brick house (c. 1836) on Rt 131 and the two tenements on either side are among the earliest surviving remnants of this Village.
2. "Lensville": The American Optical Company was housed from 1839 to 1872 in a frame building on lower Main Street (now located in Old Sturbridge Village as a glass exhibit). The present brick structures of the "Main Works" date from 1899 (the central block) to 1908. The "New Lensdale Factories" were erected in 1909-10 entirely of reinforced concrete. The "Cement Building" (485' x 75' 4 stories) and "Power House" were built on the site of The Columbian Cotton Company (1821 to c. 1887).

Thompson, Conn.

1. North Grosvenor-Dale: The Grosvenor-Dale Company (incorporated 1883) occupies the site of "Fisherville," a cotton company established in 1828, one of two villages bought by Wm Grosvenor in 1864. Mills No. 1 and 2 (photo) survive with a nearly complete late 19th c. mill village.



2. Grosvenordale: Originally "Masonville", site of the Thompson Mfg. Co. in 1813 and later mills of 1826 and 1832 (see date stones in the mills on route 12). The surviving company-owned tenement houses "Each built of Stone and brick" were insured by 1835 and the four brick houses were insured the next year. The late 19th century mill would appear to date after the purchase of the village by Wm Grosvenor in 1864.
3. Mechanicsville: The Mechanics' Mfg. Co., built in 1828, explains the survival of the name and early 19th. c. vernacular Greek Revival mill cottages. The French River Textile Company succeeded the Mechanics Company and manufactured cottons throughout the later 19th century.



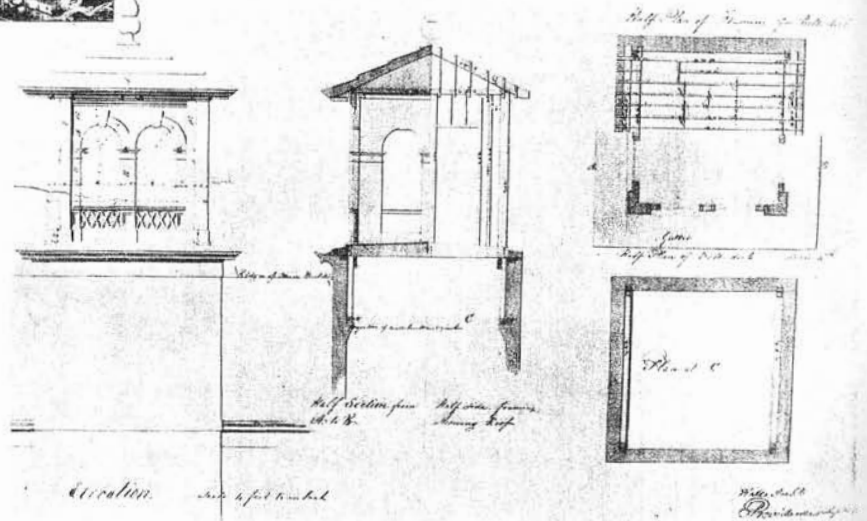
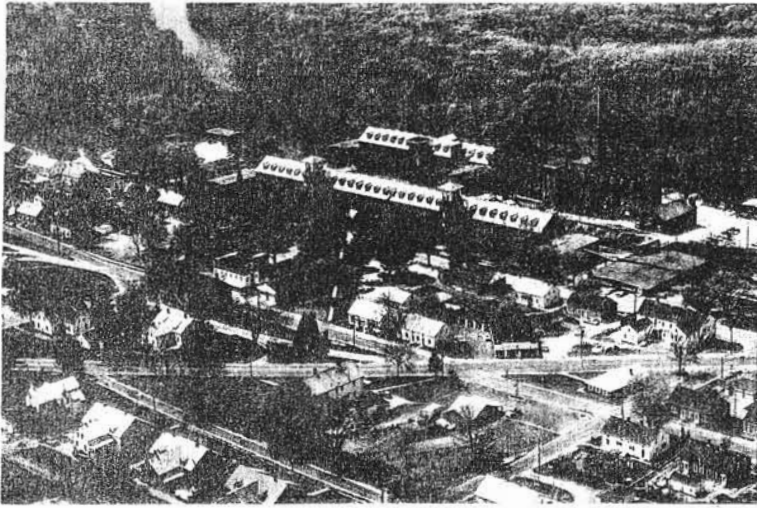
Putnam, Conn.

Incorporated 1855 from villages in the towns of Killingly, Thompson and Pomfret, Putnam contains industrial buildings nearly every period from 1824 to the late 19th century along the Quinebaug River. The brick Mansard mills at the north and south ends of town represent the latter years, while the rubble stone M.S. Morse Co. and the Allen & Nightengale Co. mills reflect the 1840-1850 developments. James Rhodes' mill, a brick Greek Revival building with end stair tower, full clerestory monitor roof, and water closet tower (center mill in photo) is probably that built between 1832 and 1835. Although brick textile mills were less common in this area at this date, the form is typical of many now destroyed or altered.

The Pomfret Mfg. Co. founded in 1806 across the Quinebaug at the lower end of Putnam was originally a partnership between members of the Wilkinson family of Pawtucket and the Rhodes family. The first mill is missing but remnants (an end tower and clerestory roof are now removed) of the 1824 second mill, built of coursed ashlar stone can still be seen. A third rubble mill, built in 1844 after Smith Wilkinson had acquired the company, reflects the change in design which characterizes Quinebaug factory architecture during that decade although its gable roof has been flattened.

Danielson, Conn.

Beginning as a small mill village in 1827 for the name of the "Danielson Manufacturing Co." located on the Five Mile River above its entrance to the Quinebaug. The property was sold in 1847, enlarged and reorganized in 1851 as the Quinebaug Mills. The brick housing on the West side of the River probably dates from this period and was sited as the model for mill housing in Wauregan in 1853.



Plainfield, Conn.

1. Wauregan: This nearly complete and well documented village was begun in 1853 under ownership of Moses B. Lockwood (who also acquired controlling interest in the Quinebaug Co. in Danielson) Calvin Spencer and Orray Taft. Maps show that the land was being purchased between 1846 and 1851, while drawings (see photo) show that Providence "Architect" Clifton A. Hall supplied the design of the cupola of Mill No. 1 in 1853. Drawings for foundation and the privy tower of this first mill and a building contract for ten dwelling houses based upon the Quinebaug Company houses also survive in the company collection.

Left of the company office (1882) is the first addition to the original mill made in 1857/8. Eight multi-colored architectural and engineering drawings by L. H. Cunliffe in 1866-7 show third addition and its transmission systems, while an 1871 drawing shows the connecting unit between the "old" and "new" mills.

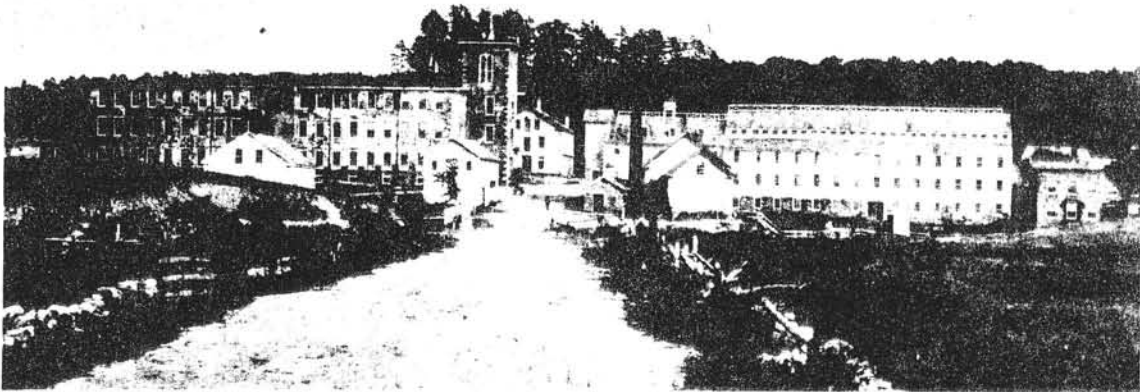
Also among these drawings are 1866 drawings for a one-story Italianate company school house by Putnam architect A. S. Truesdell. In 1884 this building was raised and enlarged to its present form.

2. Central Village--The Central Mfg. Co. built in 1824 was replaced in the last decades of the 19th c. by a brick structure.

Killingly, Conn.

By 1836 Killingly was "The greatest cotton manufacturing town" in Connecticut, with seven mills on the White Stone Brook (11,000 spindles) and seven more on the Five Mile and Quinebaug Rivers (13,428 spindles), as well as three woolen mills, one iron furnace and an ax factory.

1. Attawaugan: The Attawaugan Mfg. Co. organized in 1859 controlled three nearby mills within the next decades.
2. Ballouville: The first mill here was built for A. Ballou in 1826 (see photo) incorporated in 1841 as L. Ballou & Co. The surviving stone mill suggests a date in the late 1840's or 1850's, although the housing and secondary buildings relate to the original industrial village.



3. Killingly Mfg Co. (archeological site): Although all but a single-family stone house have been destroyed "Daniel's Village" is the site of real dirt archeology under the direction of Al Bartovicks excavating the tenements, store, and eventually the industrial structures which operated between 1814 and 1850, when the stone mill burned.

Glocester, R. I.

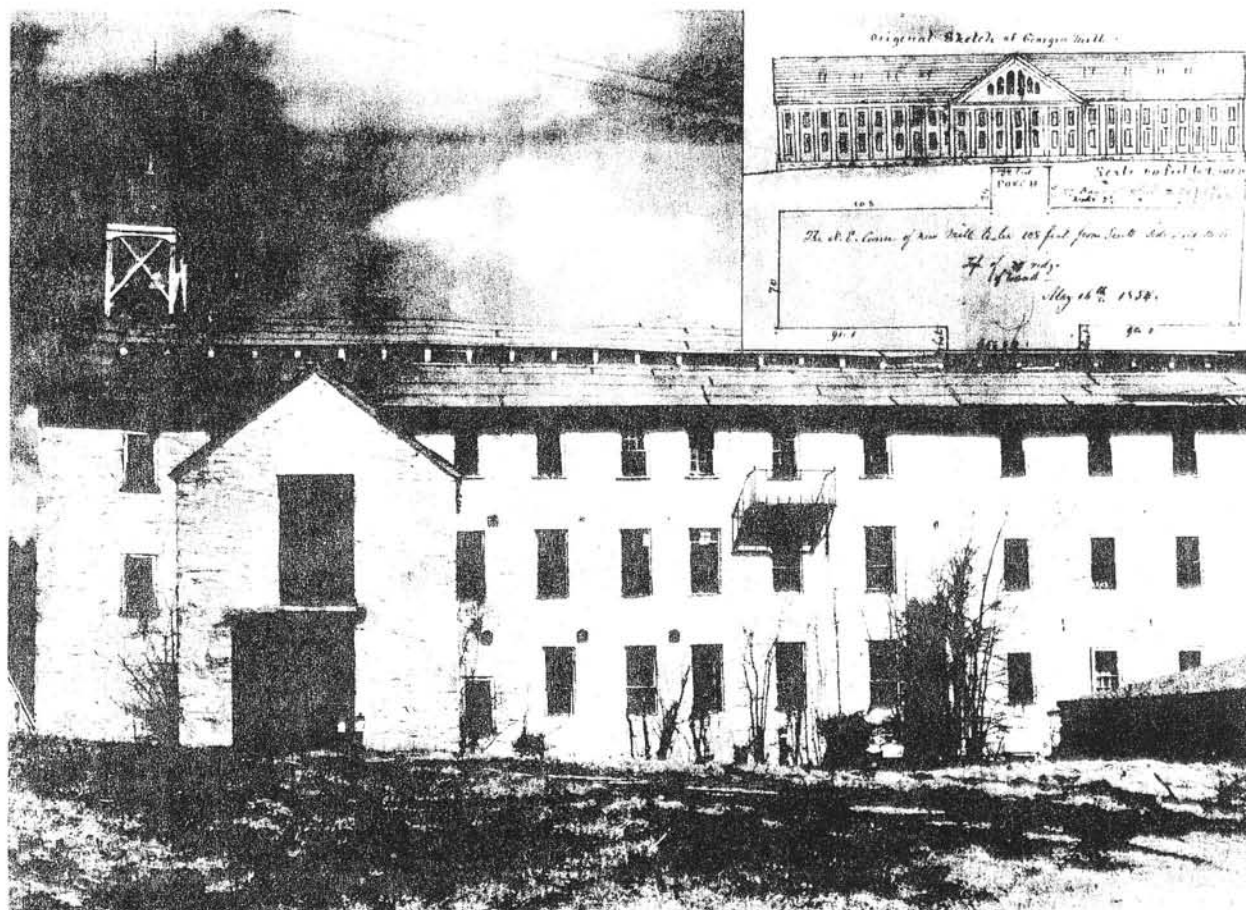
Chepachet Village, the sole surviving cotton mill here is the "Chepachet Mfg. Co." mill of 1814 (note the datestone over the door) which has suffered much alteration, as a Smith and Sayles woolen mill in the 1870's and a fire in 1901, after which the surrounding mills were built.

Smithfield, R. I.

1. West Greenville: A stuccoed, stone rubble woolen mill which originally had a full clerestory roof and projecting central tower. Probably c. 1840.

2. Esmond: Originally "Allenville" after the owner Gov. Phillip Allen who started a cotton mill here. The mill, picker house, blacksmith shop and three dwelling houses were built by the Providence carpenter-architect John Holden Greene in 1813. The mill itself was replaced by the present brick mills.

3. Georgiaville: The original stone rubble mill with "trap-door" monitor roof of the Nightengale Factory (see photo) was built in 1813, enlarged in 1828, and 1848 and destroyed in recent years. Housing from 1813 to the 1870's survive, as does the altered Georgia Mill design by Zachariah Allen in 1854. The unique Greek Revival mill is altered by a fourth story added c. 1875, but the two boarding houses retain their original form.

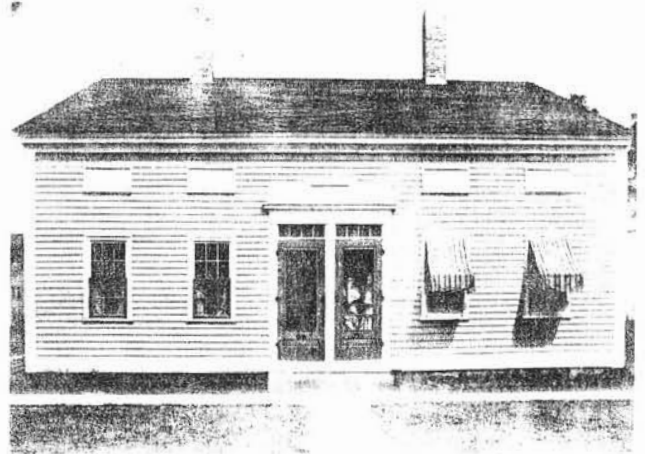
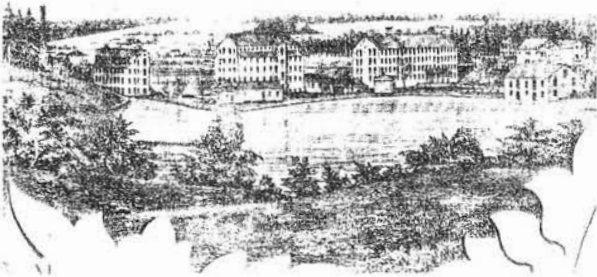


Lincoln, R. I.

1. "Butterfly Mill"--This small stone mill was built for Stephen Smith in 1813, who erected the fine house across the street in 1814 on the benefits of a state lottery. The mill has, in recent years, been made into a dwelling house.

2. Lonsdale: The Lonsdale Company was initially begun by the firm of Brown & Ives between 1829 and 1832. The first mill (center photo) was built in 1831, a second in 1838, in 1844 a dye-house and bleachery were added, and in 1850 a third mill. Only the mills of 1844 and after survive.

The woodwork on the first mill (including the cupola), the original tenement and boarding houses of one and two-stories, a counting house and other subsidiary buildings were built by the architectural and contracting firm of Tallman & Bucklin during the 1830's. The house illustrated is one of several vernacular Greek Revival cottages which still survive in much altered condition.



Pawtucket, R. I.



1. Old Slater Mill: Built in 1793 with additions thereafter by Almy, Slater and Brown, the mill is the earliest surviving cotton factory in the country.
2. Wilkinson Mill: Built in 1810 (see datestone over lower right front window) by Oziel Wilkinson, who used the first floor as a machine shop until 1812. Trap-door monitor-roof and cupola have recently been restored, and the water system is currently being carefully excavated archeologically.

Cumberland, R. I.

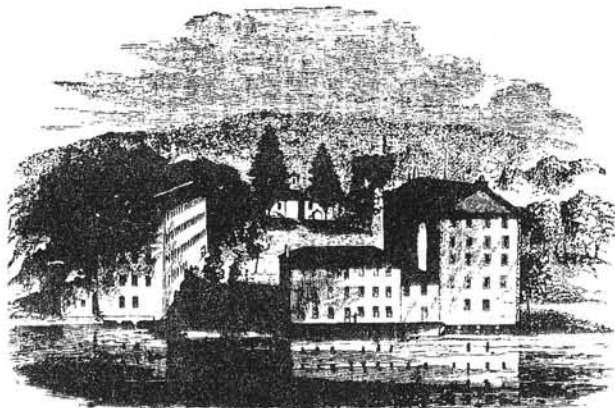
1. Lonsdale: In 1860 the Lonsdale Co. expanded across the Blackstone River building large brick mills in that year and 1871. The Ann & Hope Mill was built in 1886 (by the Lonsdale Co.) from design by Providence architect and engineer Frank P. Sheldon.
2. Berkeley: Mill and office built in 1872 by the Lonsdale Company.
3. Ashton: Site of the 1810 "Sinking Fund Mill", purchased by several later companies including the Lonsdale Co. in 1863 who built a new mill from 1867 which still survives.

Lincoln, R. I.

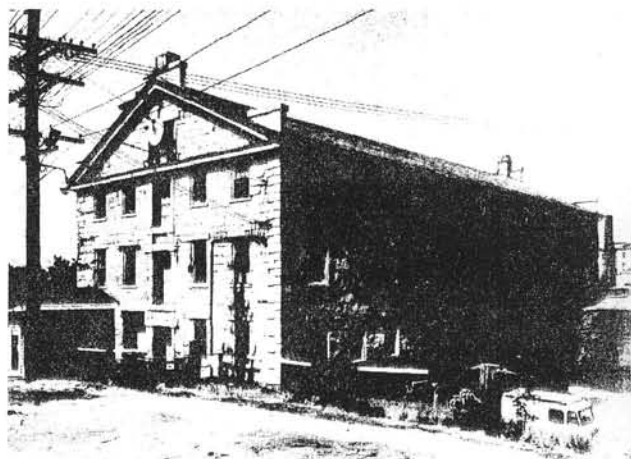
1. Albion: The stone mill (see cover) was built in 1823. A wooden building added in 1830 and removed in late 19th c. for use as a tenement house. The present mill is 1861, 1875-80, and 1908.
2. Manville: The mills of 1812, 1826, 1859, 1862, and 1872 on the Cumberland side of the river have all been removed. However, the domestic and other mill village buildings on the Lincoln side survive in large numbers from both the early and late 19th century.

Woonsocket, R. I.

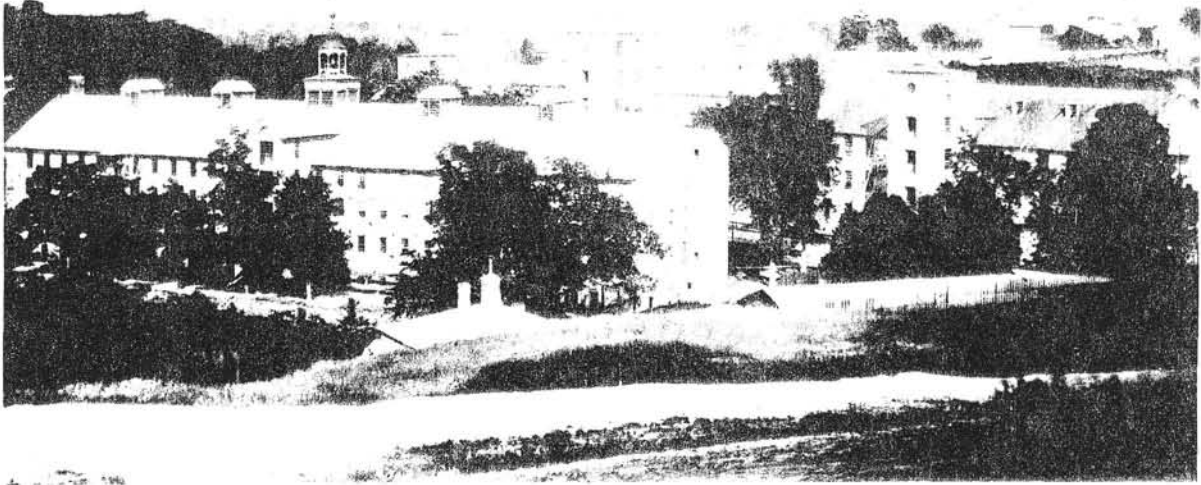
1. Ballou Mill (also Lippitt Woolen Mills) The earliest mill in this complex is the stone mill of 1836. In 1879 a Mansard brick mill replaced an earlier brick structure of 1823.



WOONSOCKET COMPANY'S MILL.



2. The Woonsocket Co. Mills--Mill No. 1 was built in 1829 of uncoursed granite with a full clerestory roof. Mill No. 2 is among the most distinguished Greek Revival textile mill surviving today. Built in 1833 (see datestone lintel in pediment) the random coursed granite ashlar building contains such unusual elements as decorative quions and door surrounds in combination with joisted flooring and unlighted attic story. The original wheelpit and water courses also survive.



Blackstone, Mass.

1. Waterford: Site of the W. & D. D. Farnum Woolen Mills of 1825, 1828 and 1835 since destroyed leaving a vestigial village of small domestic buildings on the R. I. side of the state line.
2. Blackstone: The stone mill of 1809 (foreground in photo) was 211' x 40' and one of the largest yarn mills of its day. The brick tower was added in 1832. By 1840 the firm came primarily under the control of Brown & Ives of Providence, who changed its name to the Blackstone Mfg. Co. (chartered in R.I. as the mills fell south of the Mass. state line). New mills (center, rear) were added in 1841, 1845, 1847, and 1854. While these mills were demolished in 1904 the domestic and related buildings survive in a compact mill village of considerable variety. The Greek Revival Church (1836) on the top of the hill is balanced by the Greek Revival parsonage (1841) and its twin across the school square. Two family tenements of the R. I. type house (standing by 1825) and larger five-family houses (1832) based upon earlier ones in Lowell reflect the mixture of influences at work in this larger-scale community.

N. Uxbridge, Mass.



Crown & Eagle Mills--The Crown Mill (with cupola) was erected in 1823-28 by Robert Rogerson, a Boston merchant moving an earlier frame mill and converting it to tenements. This was followed by the brick machine shop (by 1825) which was soon doubled in size and the Eagle Mill (1828-30). A print of c.1830 (see Antiques reprint fig. 5) shows the newly incorporated Crown & Eagle Mills and its surrounding village "ornamented with pleasure grounds and artificial ponds". The company failed in 1837 and reorganized as the Uxbridge Cotton Mills in 1840. In 1849 James Whitin acquired the whole complex, adding the brick connecting unit in 1851. The original triple arch bridge between the mills was replaced and low granite arches support the brick walls while timber and iron Pratt trusses carry the interior columns.

In 1871 an addition to the Crown Mill, a machine shop and cloth storage was made over a wheel room containing a Swain verticle turbine and in 1874 one was added to the Eagle Mill with a boiler house. In 1912 the frame office building was built west of the Crown wheelhouse.

Across the street a store, (after 1830) with meeting room and tenements above, sits over the Eagle headrace. Adjoining the store are two streets of brick dwellings of one story and two two-story dwellings (one next to the Eagle Mill) for overseers. The Whitin Mansion "Grey Rock", a colonial revival building c. 1918, sits on the knoll opposite the mill housing.

