

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Central Falls Mill Historic District – Boundary Increase

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 381,396,403,404,413,548,558 Roosevelt Avenue

City or town: Central Falls State: Rhode Island County: Providence

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

   national    statewide    local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:

   A    B    C    D

<p><i>Edward Henderson</i></p> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p> <p><u>RI - SHPO</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p><u>12/8/2017</u></p> <p><b>Date</b></p>
--	--

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

<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>
--	---

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
**Boundary Increase**  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

---

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

---

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Providence, RI  
County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 7

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

INDUSTRY/industrial storage

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

VACANT/NOT IN USE

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival  
OTHER/No Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, concrete, asphalt, wood

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

#### Summary Paragraph

The Central Falls Mill Historic District (District) was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in a nomination prepared in 1978 (NRIS 76000005, signed by the Keeper of the National Register on April 6, 1979), and contained six contributing buildings and one contributing structure on approximately 4.5 acres in Central Falls, Rhode Island (Kennedy 1978). The purpose of this nomination is to extend the boundary of the District to encompass previously excluded industrial mill buildings south and west of the original District boundary to better represent the continuum of manufacturing operations along the Blackstone River in Central Falls. The boundary increase extends west and north to Charles Street and south to Clay Street and encompasses nine additional buildings, all of which are contributing resources.

The industrial character of the architecture in the original 1978 District continues in this boundary increase and consists of two discontinuous areas as shown on the boundary map. The buildings added to the Central Falls Mill Historic District with this boundary increase are similar in function and architecture to the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century industrial buildings previously included. The boundary increase areas encompass 10.32 acres and include two buildings on the

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

west side of Roosevelt Avenue between Cross and Charles streets (the northern boundary increase area) and seven buildings on the east and west sides of Roosevelt Avenue north and east of Clay Street (the southern boundary increase area).

---

## Narrative Description

The Central Falls Mill Historic District currently contains industrial buildings constructed between 1825 and circa (ca.) 1910 along a group of six water privileges created in 1823 when the Central Falls Mill Owners Association was incorporated. The buildings are arranged along the east side of Roosevelt Avenue, which runs approximately north–south and parallel to the Blackstone River. The original district begins south of the Roosevelt Avenue bridge over the Blackstone River, and terminates one lot south of Cross Street. Extending the boundaries of the Central Falls Mill Historic District to include nine more industrial buildings will more accurately reflect the continuum of manufacturing along this section of the Blackstone River in Central Falls, Rhode Island. The complete district contains predominantly astylistic industrial mill buildings, with limited examples of buildings constructed in the Italianate and Classical Revival styles. The buildings being added to the Central Falls Mill Historic District are described from north to south below.

### Northern Boundary Increase Area

The northern boundary increase area—bounded on the east by Roosevelt Avenue, on the north by Charles Street and on the south by Central Street—encompasses two buildings: the General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill and the Union Block. A large, asphalt-paved parking lot, once filled with multi-family residences and small businesses such as a car dealer, occupies the northern portion of the area, running south from Charles Street between the west side of Roosevelt Avenue and the rear property line of buildings facing High Street on the west. The parking lot was cleared of buildings between ca. 1920 and 1949.

The **General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill, 558 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)**, constructed ca. 1920, is an east-facing, Classical Revival-style, three-story, fifteen-bay-by-twenty-seven-bay, rectangular, masonry building. The building is seated on a granite foundation and topped with a tar and rubber-clad flat roof with a stepped parapet with channeled bays on the facade. Three sawtooth monitors running east–west pierce the center of the roof. The walls are clad with brick with quoins at the corners and are pierced by regularly spaced window and loading bay openings on the north, south, and east elevations. The primary entrance to the building is centered in the east elevation and consists of a late twentieth-century century aluminum door in an elaborate granite door surround with scrolled brackets and a denticulated pedimented entablature. A square, four-story stair tower is west of center on the north elevation. Window openings on the facade are rectangular, with granite sills and lintels; window openings on the north and south elevations have granite sills and arched brick lintels. All window openings have one-over-one, double-hung, replacement vinyl sash set in metal infill. The north elevation has a one-story, irregularly shaped, stucco-clad addition constructed ca. 1971, topped with a flat roof with a wide, metal-clad overhang, which extends nearly the length of the main building. A pyramidal roof, clad

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

with metal, protects an engaged entry porch leading to an office. The office is accessed via a fully glazed, metal-frame commercial door in the north elevation. The addition is lit by irregularly spaced twelve-over-twelve, double-hung vinyl sash. The former mill building has been partitioned for use as self-storage units.

The **Union Block, 548 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)**, constructed ca. 1860, is an east-facing, irregularly shaped, Italianate-style, primarily three-story, ten-bay-by-fifteen-bay, stuccoed brick building. The Union Block, located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Central Street, is three stories along the street edge and two stories at the northwest corner. The building is seated on a stone foundation and topped with a rubber and tar-clad, flat roof with deeply overhanging eaves ornamented with metal paired brackets. A concrete-paved parking area surrounded by a chain-link fence is north of the building between the subject property and its northern neighbor at 558 Roosevelt Avenue. The Union Block was initially constructed with multiple storefronts on the first story, a print shop on the second story, and a meeting hall on the third (Beers 1870; Sanborn 1884). The first story on the east (facade) and south elevations has evenly spaced brick piers dividing window openings and brick panels, and a stone belt course between the first and second stories. Centered in the first story of the east elevation is a slightly recessed entrance consisting of a three-panel wood door with a simple wood surround topped with a single-light transom. The entrance is accessed by a pair of concrete steps. The south and east elevations are lit by evenly spaced window openings at the second and third stories; a modern, tripartite window replaces two windows at the north end of the third story on the east elevation. The west end of the north elevation is punctuated by evenly spaced brick piers spanned by brick corbels and has irregularly spaced window openings. The west elevation has evenly spaced window openings on the south end; irregularly spaced single and paired openings on the north; and four loading bays filled with metal doors, one north of center in the third story and three in the southern bay of the two-story portion, with two on the first story and one at the second story. The second story loading bay door has a wrought iron gate across the bottom half and a metal hoist above. Window openings on the east and south elevations have projecting stone sills and arched brick lintels; openings on the west and north elevations have brick sills and lintels. Window openings are filled with horizontal metal panels and one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum replacement sash. A wood sign at the southeast corner of the building, mounted above the belt course, indicates the building was once occupied by the Sanford White Company. The building now appears to be vacant.

### **Southern Boundary Increase Area**

The southern boundary increase area is on the east and west sides of Roosevelt Avenue and encompasses all but the southwest corner of the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Clay Street. This area consists of seven buildings that are generally sited near the street edge, with the exception of the United Wire and Supply Company building, which is set to the rear (east) of the Standard Seamless Wire Company building.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

The **Leader Weaving Company Weave Shed and Office, 413 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)**, constructed ca. 1909, is a west-facing, Classical Revival-style, one-and-two-story, eleven-bay-by-twelve-bay, brick factory building on a brick and concrete foundation. The factory consists of an approximately L-shaped, one-story weave shed topped with a sawtooth roof. The main block has a one-story, four-bay-by-four-bay, square addition projecting north from the east end of the north elevation, and a two-story, two-bay-by-two-bay brick office projecting off the west end of the north elevation. A one-story, one-bay garage topped with a shed roof projects off the east elevation of the northern portion of the weave shed and has a vertical-lift garage door. The two additions are topped with flat roofs clad with rubber, and the sawtooth monitors are filled with windows in the north side and clad with asphalt shingles on the south. The office roof has slightly projecting columns at the corners and a corbelled brick cornice topped with decorative tile coping. On the west elevation, the office has a wide, rectangular opening at the first story topped with a metal transom and a corbelled brick lintel; two windows are located above the lintel. The north elevation has a pair of wide semi-circular arched openings at the first story and four, evenly spaced, segmentally-arched window openings at the second story. Window openings in the office are filled with rectangular, two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash or painted plywood and have stone sills and arched brick lintels. The first story openings on the north elevation are filled with plywood on the east and a nine-light, two-panel wood door with a Classical Revival-style surround with fluted pilasters, four-light sidelight, and an arched, oval transom filled with a wood sunburst. The opening on the west elevation is filled with corrugated metal and a wrought iron and metal mesh fence. The north elevation of the weave shed has evenly spaced arched openings along the first story, with vertically stacked loading bays at the east end. All openings on the north elevation are filled with painted plywood. The west elevation of the weave shed is ornamented with evenly spaced brick piers spanned by brick corbels and punctuated pairs of low, wide, arched openings between each set of piers at the ground level, except in the southernmost bay, which has a nearly full-height, metal, vertical-lift loading dock door. A pair of arched window openings is in the northern bay of the west elevation of the weave shed and is filled with plywood and two-over-two, double-hung wood sash. A slightly recessed door under an arched entryway is also in the northern bay and is filled with painted plywood. The building continues to be used for industrial purposes.

The **Pennsylvania Textile Company Silk Mill, 404 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)**, constructed ca. 1919, is an astylistic, east-facing, four-story, five-bay-by-eleven-bay, rectangular, rusticated concrete block building with concrete block quoins at the corners. The building is on a concrete foundation and topped with a shallow-pitch end gable roof clad with asphalt and tar. The eastern bays on the north elevation are clad with vinyl siding. Openings are evenly spaced across the east and north elevations and consist of windows and loading bays. Loading bays are centered in the east elevation and in a one-bay-by-one-bay, full-height projecting tower on the easternmost bay of the north elevation. A hoist beam projects from the center of the gable peak on the east elevation above the loading bays. The building is accessed via twin entrances on the north and south ends of the east elevation that consist of slightly recessed, modern, metal doors sheltered by deep, angled metal awnings. Loading bay openings on the east elevation are filled with a modern, vertical-lift, metal door at the first story and tripartite vinyl replacement windows in the upper stories; the openings on the north elevation are filled with metal panels. Fenestration consists of

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

paired one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash. The building has been converted for use as residential condominiums.

The **Lyon Silk Works, 404 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)**, constructed ca. 1920, is an astylistic, south-facing, four-story, eight-bay-by-ten-bay, approximately rectangular, brick building located at the northern edge of Clay Street and set into the rising slope of the street. A large, asphalt parking lot is immediately west of the building and is level with the second story. The building is topped with a flat roof clad with rubber and tar and surrounded by a metal cornice. Narrow, rectangular stair towers project off the southernmost bay of the east elevation and the easternmost bay of the north elevation. The south (facade) elevation has a parged first story. Loading bays with arched brick lintels and rough-dressed stone sills punctuate the center of the south elevation; openings on the second through fourth stories have been infilled with brick and paired windows. Recessed entrances are in the center and west bays of the first story of the south elevation and are filled with single and paired metal doors with narrow rectangular windows. Window openings are evenly spaced across all four elevations and are filled with paired one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash with arched brick lintels and rough-dressed stone sills. Metal fire escapes are attached to the western bay of the south elevation. The building has been converted for use as residential condominiums.

The **Seth Wilkinson Machine Wipers Factory, 403 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** is a ca. 1905, west-facing, astylistic, one-to-two-story, eleven-bay-by-twelve-bay, U-shaped brick building on a brick foundation. The northeast corner of the building is one story, and the northwestern and southern portions of the building are two stories. The building is topped with a shallow-pitch end gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. A ca. 1960, two-story addition constructed of brick and topped with a flat roof fills the interstice between the northern and southern arms of the U-shape. The west (facade) elevation is punctuated by evenly spaced door and window openings, consisting of loading bays centered in each of the original arms of the U and flanked by windows; personnel-sized doors in the north end of each arm; an additional entrance in the south end of the southern arm; and a metal, vertical-lift door in the center of the addition, which is flanked by windows. Loading bay openings at the second story are filled with pairs of nine-light wood doors with a half-height metal grate across the bottom of the opening. Metal hoists sit in the gable peak above each set of loading bay doors. The first story loading bay openings are filled with pairs of plate glass windows set in metal frames. Fenestration in the main block consists of plate glass windows with eight-light transoms on the first story and sixteen-light windows with eight-light transoms, all in wood frames, at the second story. Windows in the addition consist of nine-light wood windows at the second story and eight-light wood windows at the first story. Window and door openings in the main block have rough-dressed stone sills and arched brick lintels; openings in the addition have brick sills. Evenly spaced window openings in the north and south elevations are filled with sixteen-light windows with eight-light transoms or painted plywood and have rough-dressed stone sills and arched brick lintels. The building continues to be used for industrial purposes.

The **Central Falls Power Company Building, 396 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** is a ca. 1892, east-facing, Italianate-style, four-story, five-bay-by-eleven-bay, brick and wood-



Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

frame building on a brick foundation at the northwest corner of the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Clay Street. The building is topped with a shallow-pitched end gable roof clad with rubber and tar. The first story of the building is brick, and the upper stories are clad with vinyl siding. It was originally constructed as a three-bay-wide building; by 1923, the northern two bays, topped with a flat roof, had been added. Entrances are in the center and westernmost bays of the south elevation and just south of center in the original block. Loading bays are centered under the gable peak and are filled with a vertical-lift metal door at the first story with multi-light double doors above. A second vertical-lift metal door, set into an arched brick opening, is in the fourth bay of the east elevation. Windows are evenly spaced in the facade and are irregularly spaced in the north and south elevations. Fenestration consists of single and paired six-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash with wide, flat surrounds and slightly projecting sills on the upper stories, and large, multi-light windows with cast stone sills at the first story. The building has been converted for use as residential condominiums.

The **Standard Seamless Wire Company Factory, 381 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** is a ca. 1890, west-facing, astylistic, three-story, nine-bay-by-twelve-bay, wood-frame, L-shaped industrial building on a brick foundation at the east edge of Roosevelt Avenue. The original (ca. 1890) portion of the building is five bays wide with loading bays in the center of the west elevation. By 1923, a three-story, four-bay-wide addition, approximately seven bays deep, had been constructed off the north elevation. The building is topped with a shallow-pitched double end gable roof clad with tar and asphalt. The walls are clad with asphalt siding on the north and south elevations, and the west (facade) elevation has brick veneer at the first story and vinyl siding above. The asphalt siding possibly was applied as part of the 1923 improvements; the brick veneer and vinyl siding were likely added in the late twentieth century. The west elevation has irregularly spaced pairs of windows and a deeply recessed entrance just north of center. The entrance consists of a fully glazed, metal frame door flanked by eight-light sidelights and topped with a narrow, rectangular, glass transom. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung wood sash on the first and second stories and four-over-four, double-hung wood sash on the third story. Paired windows replaced the loading bays in the center of the southern portion of the elevation. On all three stories, the south elevation is lit with clerestory ribbon windows that are sheltered by angled metal awnings. Window openings on the north elevation are infilled with plywood. The building continues to be used for industrial purposes.

The **United Wire and Supply Company Factory, 381 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** was constructed ca. 1906 to the east (rear) of the Standard Seamless Wire Company Factory. The building is a west-facing, two-story, six-bay-by-thirteen-bay, concrete encased metal-frame, approximately rectangular mill building with reinforced concrete walls. The building is topped with a flat roof clad with tar and rubber and is on a concrete foundation. The southern half of the west elevation shares a party wall with the Standard Seamless Wire Company building to the west. The north and south elevations have projecting concrete piers and floor slabs which form a grid pattern. Primary access to the building is likely through the adjacent Standard Seamless Wire Company building. An entrance is centered in the east elevation in a one-story addition and is filled with a solid metal door. A vertical-lift metal door is in the northernmost bay of the west elevation. Windows are evenly spaced between the vertical piers on the north and south elevations

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

and are irregularly spaced on the east elevation and in the western addition. Fenestration generally consists of paired single-light replacement windows. A one-story, painted brick addition projects off the west elevation and is topped with a flat roof clad with tar and gravel. A series of one-story additions topped with flat and shed roofs projects off the east elevation and includes a one-story, four-bay garage topped with a gable roof constructed ca. 1935. The building continues to be used for industrial purposes.

### Statement of Integrity

The buildings within the Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase possess integrity of design, workmanship, location, association, feeling, setting, and materials. The buildings within the original Central Falls Mill Historic District consist of large, brick mill buildings along the east side of Roosevelt Avenue. The nine buildings within the boundary increase areas, west and south of the original district boundary, demonstrate the expansion of the industrial area of Central Falls as the manufacturing base shifted from predominantly cotton- and wool-based industries to silk and wire and the building types that housed those industries shifted from predominantly brick to wood frame and concrete. The district as a whole also demonstrates the shift from predominantly hydropowered manufacturing to electrical and steampowered production. The buildings in the increase areas retain their historic massing and siting, and none have been moved from their original location. Additionally, no new buildings have been constructed within the boundary increase areas; little loss of building stock has yielded a generally cohesive grouping of industrial buildings that retain their original relationships. At least four of the buildings have had interior alterations as a result of changing uses (e.g., from manufacturing to self-storage units and condominium residences) and shifts in industrial uses from textile to jewelry manufacturing and other light industries. The most common exterior alteration is the application of vinyl siding on wood-frame buildings; the exteriors of the brick buildings are largely unchanged. Six of the nine buildings in the boundary increase area have replacement windows, with vinyl as the most common type, particularly in buildings converted for residential use. The streetscape along Roosevelt Avenue still appears to be industrial in nature, despite the changing uses of many of the buildings within the original Central Falls Mill Historic District and the boundary increase areas.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
 Boundary Increase  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Property

Providence, RI  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 County and State

## HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET

### CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Resource Name	Est. Date of Construction	Address	Assessor's Parcel No.	Architectural Style/Type	Photo #
General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill	ca. 1920	558 Roosevelt Avenue	1-301	Classical Revival	1
Union Block	ca. 1860	548 Roosevelt Avenue	1-331	Italianate	2
Leader Weaving Company Weave Shed and Office	ca. 1909	413 Roosevelt Avenue	1-12	Classical Revival	3, 7
Pennsylvania Textile Company Silk Mill	ca. 1919	404 Roosevelt Avenue	1-21	No Style	4, 5
Lyon Silk Works	ca. 1920	404 Roosevelt Avenue	1-21	No Style	5, 6
Seth Wilkinson Machine Wipers Factory	ca. 1905; altered ca. 1960	403 Roosevelt Avenue	1-240	No Style	7
Central Falls Power Company Building	ca. 1892	396 Roosevelt Avenue	1-22	Italianate	4, 5
Standard Seamless Wire Company Factory	ca. 1890; altered ca. 1923	381 Roosevelt Avenue	1-11	No Style	8
United Wire and Supply Company Factory	ca. 1906	381 Roosevelt Avenue	1-11	No Style	9
<b>Total Contributing Resources: 9</b>					

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1823–1967

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1823 – water privileges created along Blackstone River

1907 – United Wire and Supply Company Factory constructed

1920 – General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill building constructed

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Suck, Adolph

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Industry and significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The 1978 nomination describes the Central Falls Mill Historic District as the core of the city's economic life and consists of architecturally significant nineteenth-century mills constructed along the original six mill privileges on the Blackstone River in Central Falls, Rhode Island (Kennedy 1978). The boundary increase documentation further emphasizes the prolonged economic impact of the industrial core by expanding the discussion of industries along the Blackstone River in Central Falls and the buildings constructed on the west side of Roosevelt Avenue and south of the original mill privileges. The buildings within the increased boundary areas are generally astylistic, although there are limited examples of Classical Revival-style (e.g., the General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill) and Italianate-style buildings (e.g., the Central Falls Power Company Building). The expanded District also includes the Adolph Suck-designed United Wire and Supply Company Factory, which may be one of the earliest surviving reinforced concrete buildings in Rhode Island (Kulik and Bonham 1978:164).

The period of significance for the original Central Falls Mill Historic District listed in 1978 consists of six dates (1825, 1863, 1864, 1870, 1897, and ca. 1910) that correspond to the years of construction of the original six mills within the District. With this boundary increase nomination, the District's period of significance is established as 1823 to 1967, beginning with the establishment of the mill privileges along the Blackstone River and ending with the 50-year cutoff date for the National Register of Historic Places, which is justified by the continued industrial use of many of the buildings within the District into the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### **CRITERION A – INDUSTRY**

The Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase is significant under Criterion A in the area of Industry at the local level for its association with the industrial history of Central Falls. The buildings within the original Central Falls Mill Historic District (District) are along the Blackstone River north of Cross Street and along a series of six mill privileges that provided waterpower to the mills. The buildings within the expanded boundary areas generally date to the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century and are associated predominantly with silk production and wire manufacturing for the electrical and jewelry industries. The buildings are west and south of the Blackstone River mill privileges and were generally powered by electricity and steam. The 1978 nomination discusses the industrial development of the District and focuses primarily on the textile industry, specifically the mills associated with woolen and thread manufacturing industries.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Name of Property

Providence, RI

County and State

Central Falls was initially settled in the late eighteenth century and consisted of a chocolate mill, a blacksmith shop, and two small houses. In the early nineteenth century, the town's development was confined primarily along the Blackstone River. Beginning in the 1820s, Central Falls expanded rapidly with the establishment of mills, initially constructed at six mill privileges along the Blackstone River, and the subsequent influx of mill workers, including large groups of European immigrants and people from rural areas who wished to move away from agricultural activities (RIHPC 1978:8, 9, 20). The industrial development of Central Falls paralleled Pawtucket, its larger and more prosperous neighbor to the south, despite being administratively part of the town of Lincoln for much of the nineteenth century (Billson 1983:5, RIHPC 1978:15). With a town vote in 1895, Central Falls became its own city and became Rhode Island's geographically smallest city (RIHPC 1978:3, 39).

In the late nineteenth century, industry in Central Falls expanded from predominantly wool and cotton textiles (as described in the 1978 nomination), to a more diversified industrial base, including silk and wire manufacturing. The northern boundary increase area was predominantly residential until ca. 1920 and populated with tenements and single-family dwellings with small wooden workshops catering to the needs of the local population. The property immediately north of the Union Block was owned by the Stafford Manufacturing Company in 1882 and built up with tenements. Other large properties owned by successful business owners, including Joseph E. Fales (1841–1886), a grocer, were built up with tenements, many of which were occupied by immigrant workers employed in the nearby mills. Much of the Fales estate, at the north end of the District on the west side of Roosevelt Avenue immediately north of the Stafford Manufacturing Company land, is now occupied by the General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill and a large, asphalt-paved lot.

### **Silk Manufacturing**

Silk manufacturing began in the United States in 1810 with the establishment of a silk mill in Mansfield, Connecticut. Two more mills in the Northeast—one each in Gurleystown, Connecticut (1814) and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1815)—followed, but silk production remained a minor industry until the 1870s when mechanical looms were introduced. In 1882, there were 382 silk manufacturers in the United States (Mark 2013:20). Additionally, the emergence of Japan as a leading supplier of raw silk on the international market had a significant impact on the U.S. silk industry (Mark 2013:20). In Rhode Island, there were a handful of silk-producing establishments before 1900. By 1903, six manufacturers were listed in the *Providence Trade Journal*, but none were in Central Falls (*Providence Board of Trade Journal* 1903:43). However, by the first decade of the twentieth century, the United States was the largest producer of thrown silk in the world.<sup>1</sup> Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Valley Falls were the three major silk-producing cities in Rhode Island. In 1921, Central Falls was home to at least six silk mills: United Nets Corporation, General Fabrics, Leader Weaving Company, Pennsylvania Textile Company, Waypoysset Manufacturing Company, and Bengal Silk Mills (SPC 1921:78). Silk production in the United States had

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Thrown' refers to the process of creating yarn from raw silk and is a derivation of an Anglo-Saxon word, 'thrawn,' which means 'to twist' (Trussell 2003:229). Thrown silk yarn is a higher quality yarn than spun silk, which is made from the waste products generated during thrown silk production (Daly and Cahoon 2012:4).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

increased significantly after World War I (1914–1918) due to trade disturbances caused by the war and to new defense-related needs for silk products, particularly cloth made from spun silk used to make powder bags for large guns (Daly and Cahoon 2012:4). Production in Central Falls was further increased by a rising demand for high-quality silk hosiery (SPC 1920:92). By 1926, silk was the third largest textile industry in Central Falls and Pawtucket, behind braids and woven laces and cotton goods, and employed 1,658 people who produced \$10.4 million dollars' worth of silk goods. In 1926, nearly 80 percent of the industrial workers in Pawtucket and Central Falls were employed by the textile industry (MIT 1928:12–13).

By about 1920, most of the tenements in the District's northern boundary increase area were no longer extant, and a new silk throwing mill, the **General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill, 558 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** was built in their place. An auto body manufacturer and a group of four two-story dwellings were at the northeast corner of the boundary increase at the intersection of Charles and Mill streets; by 1949, these buildings were no longer extant and the lot was vacant. In 1921, the General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill was purchased by the Klots Throwing Company, an umbrella company for multiple silk mills, including the National Spun Silk Company in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The mill produced silk cloth until 1932, when the company went bankrupt and liquidated its holdings (Trussell 2003:231). In 1941, the Standard Romper Company (later Health-Tex, Inc.) purchased the mill. Standard Romper manufactured knit garments for children (Central Falls Assessor; Sanborn Fire Insurance 1949; *Bennington Banner* 2003). In the early twenty-first century, the building was converted for use by a self-storage company, with the interior partitioned into storage units.

In the southern boundary increase area, the **Leader Weaving Company Weave Shed and Office, 413 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** was also constructed for the manufacture of silk fabric. The Leader Weaving Company formed in 1905 and, by 1917, had grown from 50 to 300 silk looms (Slater Trust Co. 1917:50). In 1921, the demand for silk was so high that some mills, including the Leader operation, were running 24 hours a day (SPC 1921:78). In 1936, the company sold the building to the Collyer Insulated Wire Company, which owned it until 1962 (Central Falls Assessor). Two other buildings in the southern boundary increase area, constructed ca. 1919–1920, manufactured silk cloth: the **Pennsylvania Textile Company Silk Mill, 404 Roosevelt Avenue (front) (contributing building)** and the **Lyon Silk Works, 404 Roosevelt Avenue (rear) (contributing building)**. By 1923, the Pennsylvania Textile Company had gone out of business, but had likely vacated the building by 1922, as Clydesdale Worsted and Airedale Worsted companies are listed at that address in the 1922 *Textile World Official Directory of the Textile Mills and Buyers of Fabrics* (*Textile World Record* 1922:503, 1923:529–530). The Pennsylvania Textile building and the Lyon Silk Works were both converted into residential condominiums in the early twenty-first century.

Other silk-related industries in Central Falls included the manufacture of silk and imitation silk thread and various finished silk textiles. Seth Wilkinson (1866–1915), an English immigrant who came to the United States in 1893, moved his factory from Pawtucket to 403 Mill Street (now Roosevelt Avenue) in Central Falls (the **Seth Wilkinson Machine Wipers Mfg. Co., 403 Roosevelt Avenue [contributing building]**) and made machine wiping cloths from silk.



Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

Wilkinson purchased the property in 1901 and occupied the site by ca. 1903 (U.S. Census 1910; *Textile World* 1903:279; Central Falls Registry of Deeds [CFRD] 75:370). For a time, the Empire Thread Company occupied the northern arm of the building, until it went out of business by 1923. Despite Wilkinson's death in 1915, his company continued operating until ca. 1960. Wilkinson's family owned the property until 1961, when they sold it to American Products, Inc., which rented it to various manufacturing concerns. The property passed through various other owners and, in 2000, was sold to the current owners, K&W Webbing Co., manufacturers of elastic and non-elastic webbing (CFRD 175:230, 388:49; *Bertozzi v. Kolodziej* 1967; K&W Webbing 2017).

### Wire Manufacturing

The wire manufacturing industry in Rhode Island was an offshoot of the base metal industries, including iron and steel, particularly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the products were used in a variety of production processes. Steel wire was first manufactured in the United States in the 1840s and had a wide variety of uses, from hair pins and safety pins to telegraph wires and suspension bridge cables (Cavanaugh 2003:36). By the mid-nineteenth century, wire was used in machinery for the jewelry and textile industries and for making finished jewelry products such as earrings. While Central Falls was not known for jewelry making, Attleboro and North Attleborough, Massachusetts, to the north and Providence, Rhode Island, to the south, were major jewelry-producing areas (MHC 1981a:8, 10; MHC 1981b:7, 9–10; RIHPC 1981:11). In the late nineteenth century, rubberized copper wire began to be in demand with the advent of the telephone and electricity (Cavanaugh 2003:35).

In 1890, the Standard Seamless Wire Company was incorporated by Henry T. Smith (1855–ca. 1913) and Charles D. Wood (1844–1923). Smith had invented a way of making seamless, plated, hollow wire used in jewelry making (U.S. Census 1920; Smith 1890). Smith patented his invention in 1890, and he and Wood went into business that same year. In 1893, the Standard Seamless Wire Company purchased the lot at 381 Roosevelt Avenue from Stephen Jenks, owner of the Pawtucket Hair Cloth Mill to the north and, by 1895, had constructed a factory (**Standard Seamless Wire Company Factory, 381 Roosevelt Avenue [contributing building]**) (Figure 1). In 1902, The United Wire and Supply Company succeeded the Standard Seamless Wire Company at 381 Roosevelt Avenue and made brass and nickel tubing, tapered tubes, and silver solder, among other products (*Iron Age* 1902:60). In 1906, the United Wire and Supply Company purchased the eastern portion of the lot from Stephen Jenks and constructed the **United Wire and Supply Company Factory, 381 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** as an addition to the original 1890 factory (Figure 2 and **Criterion C – Architecture**).

By 1926, wiremaking was the third largest industry in Pawtucket and Central Falls, with four wire products companies in operation that employed a combined approximately 900 men and women produced \$14.4 million dollars worth of wire goods. These companies' products predominantly consisted of insulated copper wire, cable, and cords (MIT 1928:12, 16). By 1930, however, the United Wire and Standard Seamless Wire buildings had been sold to the Spencer Worsted Company and were no longer used for wire production (CFA Lot 1-11).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

### Other Industries

The Roosevelt Avenue area of Central Falls was predominantly industrial in nature, with buildings constructed to serve single industries. A number of commercial and industrial buildings that housed retail and small industrial businesses were also built in the area. In the northern boundary increase area, the **Union Block, 548 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** was constructed ca. 1860 as a three-story building with five storefronts on the first story, a print shop on the second story, and a meeting room on the third (Figure 3). In 1864, Edward L. Freeman (1835–1907) opened a small print shop in the building to accommodate the printing needs of the thread, silk, and other companies. Freeman likely printed labels, catalogs, and other paper ephemera for these companies (Greene 1886:321). He later expanded his business, E. L. Freeman & Sons, to include book and stationery shops in Pawtucket and Providence, and he owned and printed the *Central Falls Weekly* newspaper, which began in 1869 and was published until 1890, when he sold it to David J. White (1856–unknown) of the Standard Seamless Wire Company, who merged the newspaper with the *Pawtucket Record* (Taylor 1900: 37; Grieve 1897:155). The Union Block was occupied by E. L. Freeman & Sons until at least 1960, when it was taken over by the Sanford White Company, a jewelry manufacturer (*Providence Journal* 2016).

The **Central Falls Power Company Building, 396 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** was constructed ca. 1892, initially part of a larger group of buildings with small outbuildings to the north of the main building (see Figure 3). The Central Falls Power Company leased the building to four tenants: the Central Yarn Company; the Rhode Island Hosiery Company, makers of knit goods; Coombs & Patterson, jewelry manufacturers; and O. H. Hathaway, makers of roll coverings (Barlow Insurance Maps 1892). The Flossette Thread Company acquired the building by 1900, and manufactured imitation silk yarns and threads at that location through ca. 1907. By 1910, the property was occupied by the Reliable Manufacturing Company, another thread company, which went bankrupt by 1912 and was replaced by the Sewing Thread Company, which was in business at that location until ca. 1917. By 1919, the Star Braiding Company, makers of shoelaces, had taken over the building, which had an address of 1 Clay Street at that time (*Textile World* 1900). In 1926, companies in Pawtucket and Central Falls manufacturing braids and woven laces occupied 22 plants, employed 972 people, and produced \$3.7 million dollars worth of goods. Only 3 of the 22 companies were in Central Falls and employed more than 100 people (MIT 1928:12, 15).

After World War I, manufacturing in Rhode Island and the rest of New England began to sharply decline as competition from southern and western states and outdated technology began to take their toll. Central Falls was hit particularly hard due to its economic dependence on the textile industry, even while the rest of the country experienced an economic boom in the post-war years (RIHPC 1978:45). The Great Depression (1929–1939) further affected New England’s textile industry, and many of Central Falls’ industrial concerns were forced to close (RIHPC 1978:46). World War II (1939–1945) had a significant impact on the silk industry, when Japanese silk supplies were no longer available. The textile industry shifted from natural to synthetic fibers, causing further decline in the regional textile industry as many owners of older mills were unable

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

to afford to convert their machinery for synthetic production or failed to recognize the coming shift in the market (Mark 2013:22; RIHPC 1978:45; RIHPC 1981:29).

Despite the general economic downturn in the textile industry, the nine buildings within the Central Falls Mill Historic District boundary increase area continued to be in use by various industrial concerns through 1960. The General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill was occupied by Standard Romper, later Health-Tex, which manufactured children's clothing; the Union Block continued to be occupied by E. L. Freeman; the Leader Silk Company Weave Shed and Office was occupied by the Collyer Insulated Wire company; the Seth Wilkinson Machine Wipers factory continued in operation; the Lyons Silk Works and Pennsylvania Textile Company Silk Mill were likely occupied by the Princess Julie company (a housecoat manufacturer), and Chadwick Yarn; Adrien Fortin, a yarn jobber, occupied the Central Falls Power Company Building; and the Standard Seamless Wire building was occupied by Spencer Worsted Yarns, a yarn dealer (R. L. Polk & Company 1960). During the early twenty-first century, about half of the former industrial buildings have been converted for other uses, namely self-storage at the General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill and residential condominiums in the Pennsylvania Textile Company, Central Falls Power Company, and Lyons Silk Works buildings. The Leader Silk Company Weave Shed and Office, Seth Wilkinson Machine Wipers Factory, Standard Seamless Wire and United Wire and Supply buildings remain used for industrial purposes. The Union Block appears to be vacant.

### **CRITERION C - ARCHITECTURE**

The 1978 Central Falls Mill Historic District nomination addresses the general architectural significance of the District under Criterion C at the local level for the buildings constructed between 1825 and ca. 1910. The buildings in the boundary increase areas are good representative examples of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mill architecture. These buildings demonstrate the architectural evolution of industrial mill buildings in Central Falls as the industrial base expanded to include a wider range of textile manufacturing, such as silk and cords and laces, as well as wire manufacturing. The United Wire and Supply Company Factory within the boundary increase area is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level as an early example of reinforced concrete mill construction in Rhode Island.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Rhode Island mills were typically constructed of red brick, as it was relatively inexpensive compared to stone and allowed more flexibility in design due to its small size (RIHPC 1981:37). Mill buildings initially had gable roofs with clerestory monitors to allow for more daylight on the top floor; in the late nineteenth century, roof forms shifted to a nearly flat form, made possible by the use of tar paper coated with gravel or tin (RIHPC 1981:35). Mills might have ornamental elements, including segmentally arched windows separated by brick piers, and restrained elements from popular architectural styles of the day, including corbelled brick cornices or brackets under the roof overhangs (RIHPC 1981:40). By the turn of the twentieth century, however, mill construction began to adopt a more standardized form, with brick pier and spandrel walls, large segmental-arched windows, and a nearly flat roof (RIHPC 1981:40).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

In the 1890s, European engineers began to develop a system of building construction using reinforced concrete. Prior to this time, American engineers had used unreinforced concrete for structures such as dams, canals, and supports for bridges, and to create concrete blocks (frequently referred to as “artificial stone”), but poured concrete was not yet in use as a general building material in the United States. This was due, in part, to the scarcity of Portland cement in the United States until after the American Civil War (1861–1865)<sup>2</sup> (Wermiel 2000:164–165). Prior to the Civil War, nearly all Portland cement used in the United States was imported from Europe but, by the 1880s, it was in wide use for the construction of bridge piers and abutments, and as a component of fireproof construction in industrial buildings. Improvements in processing methods for Portland cement allowed for production of the material in the United States, driving its popularity as a building material (Bradley 1999:156). In the late nineteenth century, building engineers began combining steel and concrete to create reinforced concrete, which could survive myriad tensile forces impacting building components (Slaton 2003:15–16).

At the end of the nineteenth century, poured concrete in concert with metal mesh gained popularity, replacing brick and terracotta as a common building material in utilitarian buildings due in part to its fireproof properties (Slaton 2003:17–18). Early use of reinforced concrete as a building material in the United States occurred on the West Coast, with engineer Ernest Ransome (1844–1917) initially developing sidewalks and experimental wall panels using twisted iron ropes as reinforcement, which he patented in 1884 (Wermiel 2009:1512). The earliest buildings constructed of reinforced concrete in the United States were built in California by Ransome, one of which was the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco (no longer extant) (Condit 1960:236).<sup>3</sup> Between 1902 and 1909, Ransome received a series of patents for a system of reinforced concrete framing and the standardization of precast concrete units. Concurrently with his building innovations was the emergence of the “Daylight Factory” industrial building type, which allowed for large numbers of windows to be installed in curtain walls, providing copious natural light for employee work spaces. In 1906, Ernest Ransome designed and constructed the first reinforced concrete mill in the United States: the United Shoe Machinery Corporation factory in Beverly, Massachusetts (Hepler and PAL 1996:9).

In Central Falls, the United Wire and Supply Company hired Boston architect Adolph Suck (1874–1936) to design a reinforced concrete addition to the **Standard Seamless Wire Company Factory, 381 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)** (Figures 4–6). Suck’s design for a reinforced factory building was presented at the 1907 National Association of Cotton Manufacturers Annual Meeting held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Suck’s talk, titled “Reinforced Concrete Construction Especially Applied to Mill Use” was illustrated with images of the **United Wire and Supply Company Building, 381 Roosevelt Avenue (contributing building)**. Suck rejected the notion that the new building technology was a passing fad, but instead believed it to be the vanguard of fireproof mill

<sup>2</sup> Portland cement is a mixture of finely ground limestone and clay to create a hydraulic cement, i.e., a mixture which hardens with the addition of water (Portland Cement Association 2017).

<sup>3</sup> The first reinforced concrete building in the United States was the William E. Ward House, or Ward’s Castle, in Greenwich, Connecticut, built 1873–1876 (listed in the National Register November 7, 1976, NRIS 76001294).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

construction (Suck 1907:369).<sup>4</sup> Further, Suck acknowledged the growing scarcity of large-dimension lumber, which led to the need for an alternative building material (Suck 1907:370). Instead, he was a proponent of the use of steel framing encased in concrete. For some buildings, he suggested casting support columns before construction; for others, he suggested building the steel frame and then constructing molds around the various steel elements before pouring in the concrete (Suck 1907:372).

Suck used the United Wire building as an example of reinforced concrete used in mill construction and illustrated his 1907 talk with photographs of the mill, including images of the frame before the application of concrete and concrete-encased support pillars on the interior of the building. Suck also described the United Wire building in the *Textile World Record* trade journal, with numerous photographs of the building under construction. No reinforced concrete mill building had been subjected to the strong vibrational forces as would be generated by the United Wire machinery, thus making the building somewhat experimental (*Textile World Record* 1907:741). The United Wire building embodies the “Daylight Factory” characteristic of large numbers of windows providing natural light inside the building (Figure 7). The building appears to be largely unchanged from its 1907 appearance, apart from three small, one-story additions projecting off the east elevation that were likely added during the mid-twentieth century.

Reinforced concrete as a mill building material was not widely adopted in areas of Rhode Island with many textile mills, despite the material’s fireproof, durable characteristics. This lack of innovation in textile mill buildings in New England was likely due to the increased industrialization of the American South and the economic downturn of the New England textile industry (RIHPC 1978:45). In non-textile industries, particularly jewelry and other wire-based industries, reinforced concrete was used in new buildings. By the 1920s, reinforced concrete was more widely adopted for factory construction in Rhode Island, particularly in Providence, where a total of at least five reinforced concrete buildings were built in the jewelry manufacturing area of the city: the A. T. Wall Building (1908) at 162 Clifford Street; the Coro Building (1929, 1947) at 167 Point Street; the Little Nemo Building (1928) at 222 Richmond Street; the N. H. Haronian Building (1925) at 60 Ship Street; and the Doran-Speidel Building (1912, 1964) at 70 Ship Street (all listed in the National Register in 1985 or 2011 as part of the Providence Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District and Amendment, NRIS 8503088) (RIHPC 1981:40; Greenwood and Connors 1985, 2011). The United Wire building, as well as the above-listed buildings in Providence, are notable examples of reinforced concrete factories in Rhode Island that remain extant (Kulik and Bonham 1978:22).

---

<sup>4</sup> Little is known about Adolph Suck’s academic career, but newspaper ads from the early twentieth century indicate he had a background in mechanical engineering. He also designed a reinforced concrete house at 111 Centre Street in Brookline, Massachusetts, which is no longer extant (*Boston Herald* 1909).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

#### Barlow Insurance Maps

1892 “Central Falls Power Co.’s Bldg.” Barlow’s Insurance Maps, New York, NY. On file, American Textile History Museum, Lowell, MA.

#### Beers, D.G. & Co.

1870 *Rhode Island State Atlas, Pawtucket*. D. G. Beers & Co, Philadelphia, PA.

#### *Bennington Banner*

2003 “Charles H. Heaslip, Jr.” Electronic resource,  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bennington/obituary.aspx?n=charles-h-heaslip&pid=1230271>, accessed February 2017.

#### Bertozzi v. Kolodziej

1967 229 A.2d 48 (1967), Albert N. Bertozzi et al., Trustees v. Stanley K. Kolodziej, Tax Assessor. Appeal No. 97. Electronic resource,  
<http://law.justia.com/cases/rhode-island/supreme-court/1967/229-a-2d-48-0.html>, accessed March 2017.

#### Billson, Janet Mancini

1983 *Central Falls, Rhode Island: In the Wake of the Mills*. Rhode Island College, Department of Sociology, Providence, RI.

#### *Boston Herald*

1909 “Reinforced Concrete Residences.” *Boston Herald* 6 June:9. Boston, MA.

#### Bradley, Betsy Hunter

1999 *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

#### Cavanaugh, Kathryn J.

2003 *National Register Nomination – Phillips Insulated Wire Company, Pawtucket, RI*. On file, Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Historical Commission, Providence, RI.

#### Central Falls Registry of Deeds (CFRD)

n.d. Central Falls, Rhode Island Deed Books. Office of the City Clerk, Central Falls, RI.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

City of Central Falls Assessor's Office (CFA)

n.d. Assessor's log books. Office of the City Assessor, Central Falls, RI.

Condit, Carl W.

1960 *American Building Art: The Nineteenth Century*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

Daly, John and Allison Cahoon

2012 *Massachusetts Historical Commission Area Form A – Brook Street Industrial and Commercial Area (NBE.D, I, J, U, 613)*, New Bedford. On file, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA.

Greene, Welcome Arnold

1886 *The Providence Plantations for Two Hundred and Fifty Years*. J.A. and R.A. Reid, Providence, RI.

Greenwood, Richard and Edward Connors

1985 *National Register Nomination and Amendment – Providence Jewelry*  
& 2011 *Manufacturing Historic District, Providence, RI*. On file, Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Historical Commission, Providence, RI.

Grieve, Robert

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

Hepler, Marie and the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (Hepler and PAL)

1993 and 1995 *Massachusetts Historical Commission Area Form A – United Shoe Machinery Corporation Complex Area (BEV.AE)*, Beverly, MA. On file, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA.

*The Iron Age*

1902 Price Lists, Circulars, etc., (11 December):60.

K&W Webbing Company

2017 "K&W Webbing Co. Inc." Electronic resource, [www.kwwebbing.com](http://www.kwwebbing.com), accessed March 2017.

Kennedy, Pamela

1978 *National Register Nomination – Historic Resources of Central Falls, Rhode Island*. On file, Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Historical Commission, Providence, RI.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

Kulik, Gary and Julia C. Bonham

1978 *Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Historic American Engineering Record, Washington, D.C.

Mark, Bonnie Wilkinson

2013 *National Register Nomination – Stehli Silk Mill, Manheim Township, Lancaster City, Pennsylvania*. On file, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA.

Massachusetts Historical Commission

1981a *Reconnaissance Survey Report – Attleboro*. On file, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA.

1981b *Reconnaissance Survey Report – North Attleboro*. On file, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Division of Municipal and Industrial Research (MIT)

1928 *Industrial Survey of Pawtucket and Central Falls, Cities of the State of Rhode Island, For the Year 1926*. E. L. Freeman and Company, Central Falls, RI.

Portland Cement Association

2017 “History of Portland Cement.” Electronic resource, <http://www.concretethinker.com/detail/History-Portland-Cement.aspx>, accessed February 2017.

Providence Board of Trade Journal

1903 Vol. 15 (January):41-43.

*Providence Journal*

2016 “Neal White.” Online obituary, <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/providence/obituary.aspx?pid=182071494>, accessed March 2017.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission (RIHPC)

1978 *Statewide Historical Preservation Report – Central Falls*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, RI.

1981 *Statewide Historical Preservation Report – Providence Industrial Sites*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, RI.



Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

R. L. Polk & Company

1960 *Polk's Pawtucket and Central Falls Directory*. R. L Polk & Company, Boston, MA.

Sanborn Map Company

1884 *Insurance Map of Pawtucket and Central Falls, Rhode Island*. New York, NY.

1949 *Insurance Map of Pawtucket and Central Falls, Rhode Island*. Vol. 1-2. New York, NY.

Silk Publishing Company (SPC)

1920 "News of the Mills." *Silk*. Vol XIII (3):92.

1921 "Situation in Rhode Island." *Silk*. Vol. XVI (8):78.

Slater Trust Company

1917 *Pawtucket Past and Present*. Walton Advertising and Printing Company, Boston, MA.

Slaton, Amy E.

2003 *Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology: Reinforced Concrete and the Modernization of American Building, 1900–1930*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.

Smith, Henry T.

1890 Art of making seamless plated hollow wire. U.S. Patent 422,647A, filed September 18, 1899 and issued March 4, 1890. On file, United States Patent Office, Alexandria, VA.

Suck, Adolph

1907 Reinforced Concrete Construction Especially Applied to Mill Use. *Transactions of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers*, Vol. 82:369–397.

Taylor, William Harrison.

1900 *Legislative History and Souvenir of Rhode Island, 1899–1900*. E. L. Freeman & Sons, Pawtucket, RI.

*Textile World*

1900 *Official Directory of the Textile Mills and Buyers of Textile Fabrics*. Textile World, Boston, MA.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

*Textile World Record*

- 1903 *Official Directory of the Textile Industries also the Yarn Trade Index.* Lord & Nagle Co., Boston, MA.
- 1907 “Reinforced Concrete Construction.” Vol. XXXII (4):741–744.
- 1922 *Official Directory of the Textile Mills and Buyers of Fabrics.* Lord & Nagle Co., Boston, MA.
- 1923 *Official Directory of the Textile Mills and Buyers of Fabrics.* Lord & Nagle Co., Boston, MA.

Trussell, Rebecca M.

- 2002 “The Klotz Throwing Company in Lonaconing: Opening Tut’s Tomb.’ Published in *Silk Roads, Other Roads: Textile Society of America 8th Biennial Symposium*, Sept. 26–28, 2002, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, pp. 229-238.

U.S. Census

- 1910 *Thirteenth Census of the United States.* (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- 1920 *Fourteenth Census of the United States.* (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Wermiel, Sara E.

- 2000 *The Fireproof Building: Technology and Public Safety in the Nineteenth-Century American City.* Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.
- 2009 California Concrete, 1876-1906: Jackson, Percy, and the Beginnings of Reinforced Concrete Construction in the United States. *Proceedings of the Third International Congress on Construction History.* Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany.

---

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Providence, RI  
County and State \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 10.32

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 41.887900 Longitude: -71.381884

B. Latitude: 41.888440 Longitude: -71.383415

C. Latitude: 41.886925 Longitude: -71.383410

D. Latitude: 41.886955 Longitude: -71.382997

E. Latitude: 41.886586 Longitude: -71.382868

F. Latitude: 41.886719 Longitude: -71.382120

G. Latitude: 41.884490 Longitude: -71.382260

H. Latitude: 41.884485 Longitude: -71.383163

I. Latitude: 41.883984 Longitude: -71.383192

J. Latitude: 41.884011 Longitude: -71.382265

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State

K. Latitude: 41.883796	Longitude: -71.382277
L. Latitude: 41.883801	Longitude: -71.380995
M. Latitude: 41.885432	Longitude: -71.380960
N. Latitude: 41.885327	Longitude: -71.382228

**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The existing boundary for the Central Falls Mill Historic District is being increased in two discrete areas. The northern area is on the west side of Roosevelt Avenue, and is roughly bounded by Cross Street on the south, Charles Street on the north, and Roosevelt Avenue on the east. The southern area encompasses resources on the east and west sides of Roosevelt Avenue, north and east of the intersection with Clay Street. The specific boundaries and lot lines are shown on the accompanying map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This expansion of the Central Falls Mill Historic District includes resources associated with the industrial history of Central Falls along the Blackstone River. The previous boundary was drawn to include only mill buildings constructed along the six mill privileges established on the Blackstone River. The expanded boundary encompasses nine other buildings associated with the textile, wire, and jewelry industries in Central Falls that lie on the west side of Roosevelt Avenue, west of the original mill privileges; and on the east side of Roosevelt Avenue, south of the original mill privileges.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gretchen M. Pineo/Architectural Historian, Virginia H. Adams/Sr. Architectural Historian, Michelle Johnstone/Asst. Architectural Historian  
organization: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL)  
street & number: 26 Main Street  
city or town: Pawtucket state: RI zip code: 02860  
e-mail vadams@palinc.com  
telephone: (401) 728-8280  
date: November 2017

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

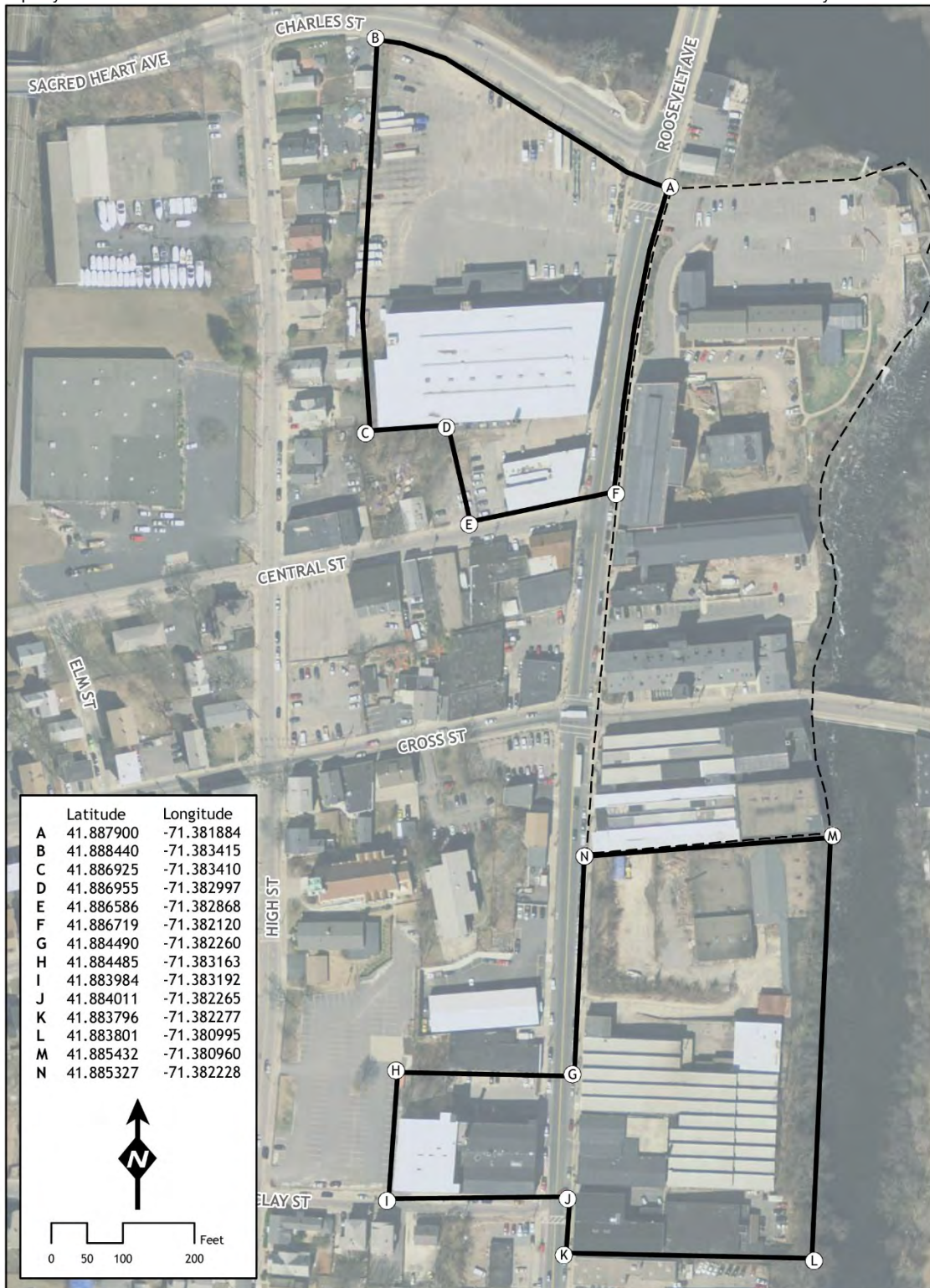
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
 Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State



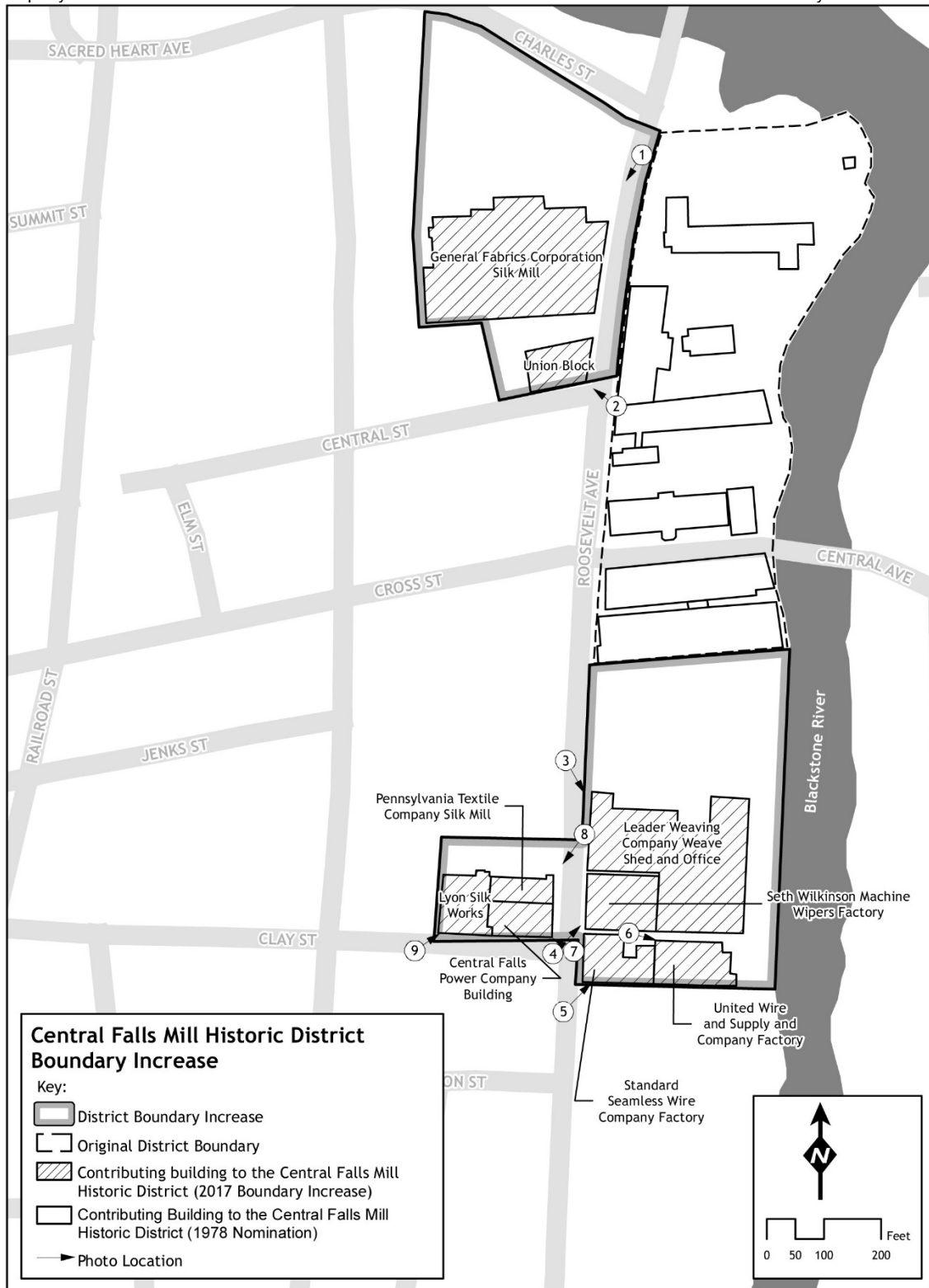
Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase National Register District Boundary Map

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
 Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State



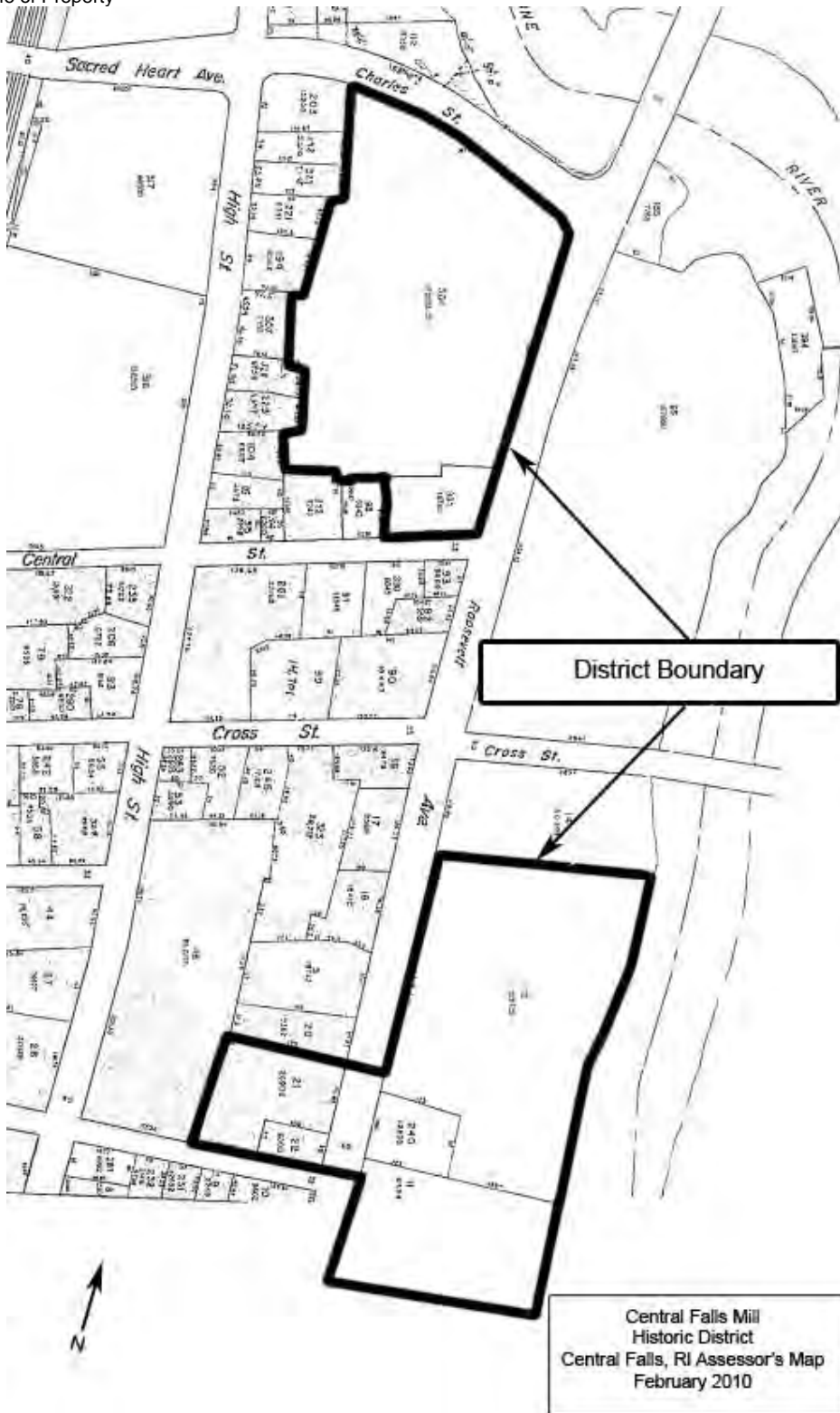
National Register of Historic Places National Register District Map

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Providence, RI

Name of Property

County and State



Central Falls Mill Historic District Assessor's Map



Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase

City or Vicinity: Central Falls

County: Providence

State: Rhode Island

Photographer: Carolyn Barry, Dylan Peacock, and Gretchen Pineo, PAL

Date Photographed: June 7, 2016 and March 13, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 9. General Fabrics Corporation Silk Mill, looking southwest.
- 2 of 9. Union Block, looking northwest.
- 3 of 9. Leader Weaving Company Weave Shed and Office, looking southeast.
- 4 of 9. Seth Wilkinson Machine Wipers Factory, looking northeast.
- 5 of 9. Standard Seamless Wire Company Factory, looking northeast.
- 6 of 9. United Wire and Supply Company Factory, looking southeast.
- 7 of 9. Lyon Silk Works (left), Central Falls Power Company Building (center), and Pennsylvania Textile Company Silk Mill (right), looking northwest.
- 8 of 9. Central Falls Power Company Building (left) and Pennsylvania Textile Company Silk Mill (right), looking southwest.
- 9 of 9. Lyon Silk Works, looking northeast.

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

### Historic Images



**Figure 1.** Standard Seamless Wire Company Factory, ca. 1897 (Grieve 1897:65).



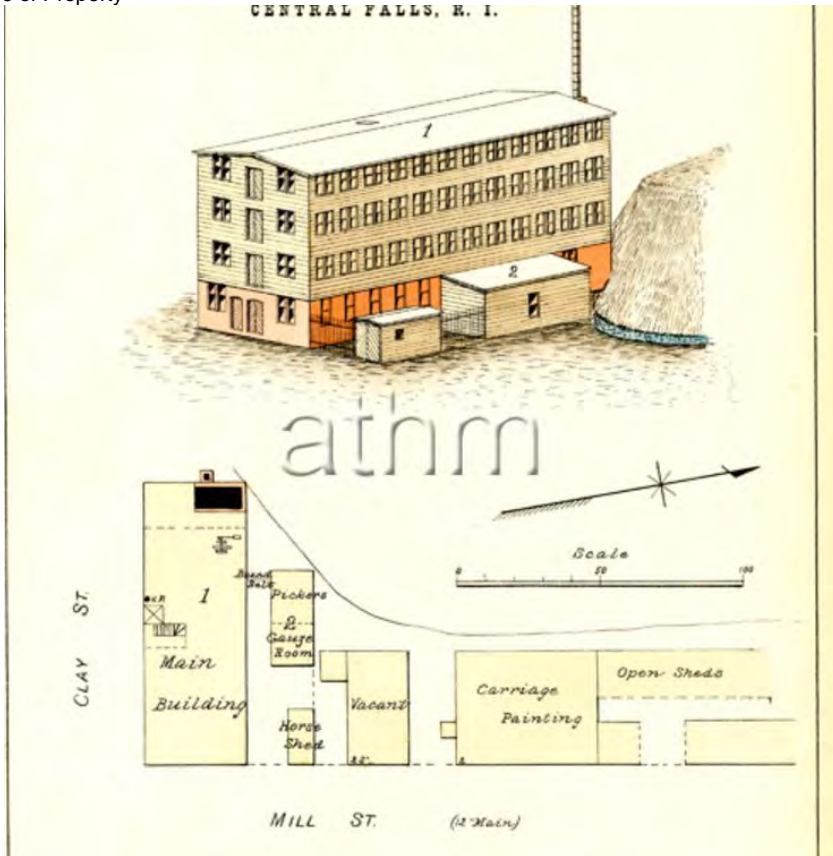
**Figure 2.** Union Block, ca. 1886 (Greene 1886:322).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

Name of Property

Providence, RI

County and State



**Figure 3.** Central Falls Power Company Building, ca. 1892 (Barlow Insurance Maps 1892. Image from American Textile History Museum [ATHM], Lowell, MA).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State

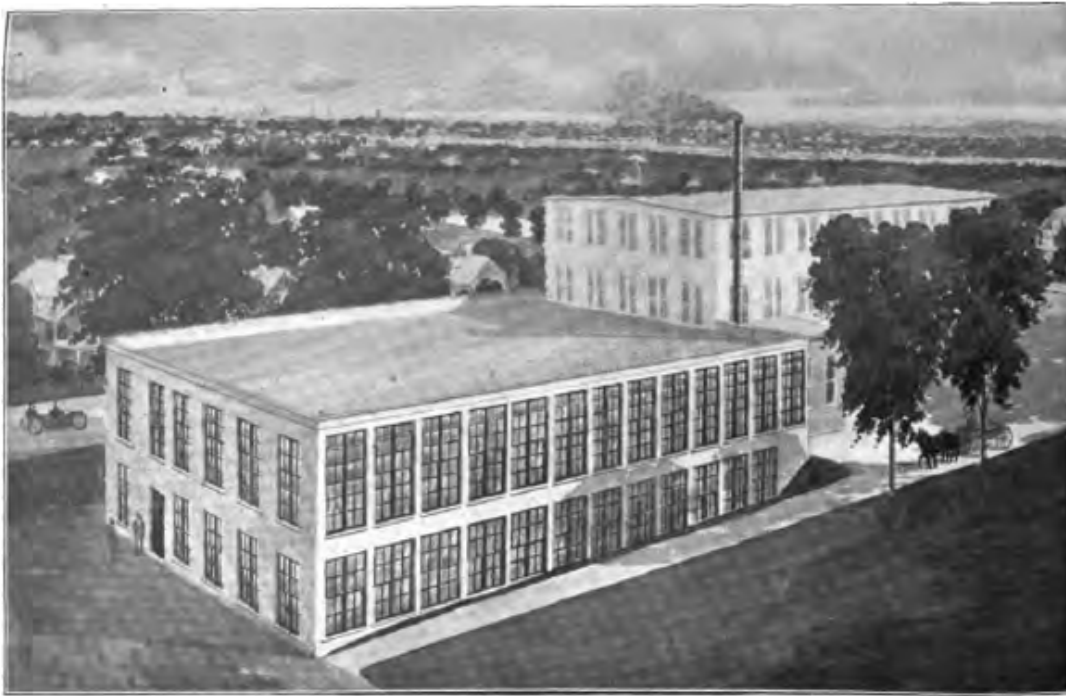
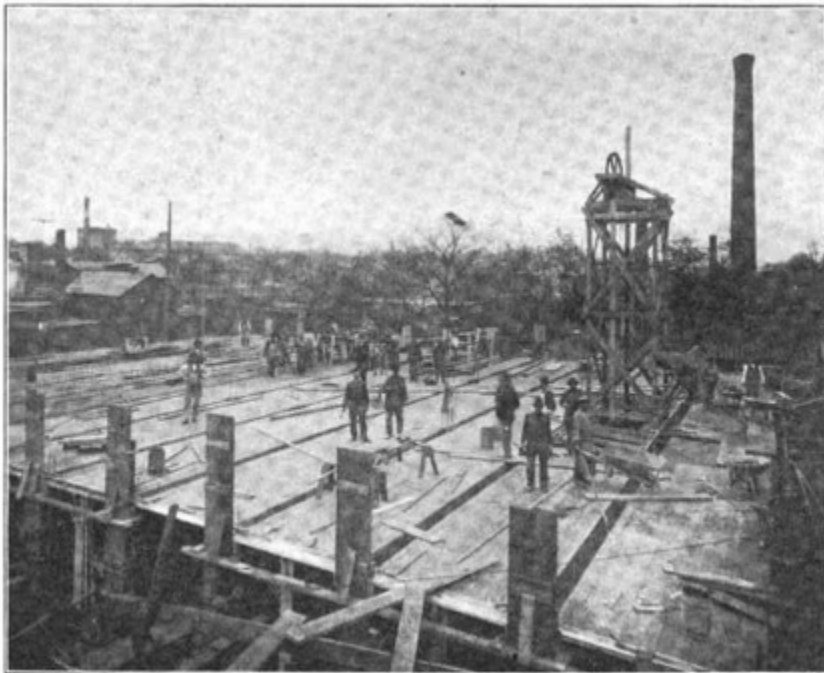


FIGURE 5.— EXTERIOR VIEW.

**Figure 4.** United Wire and Supply Company Factory, ca. 1907 (Suck 1907:377)

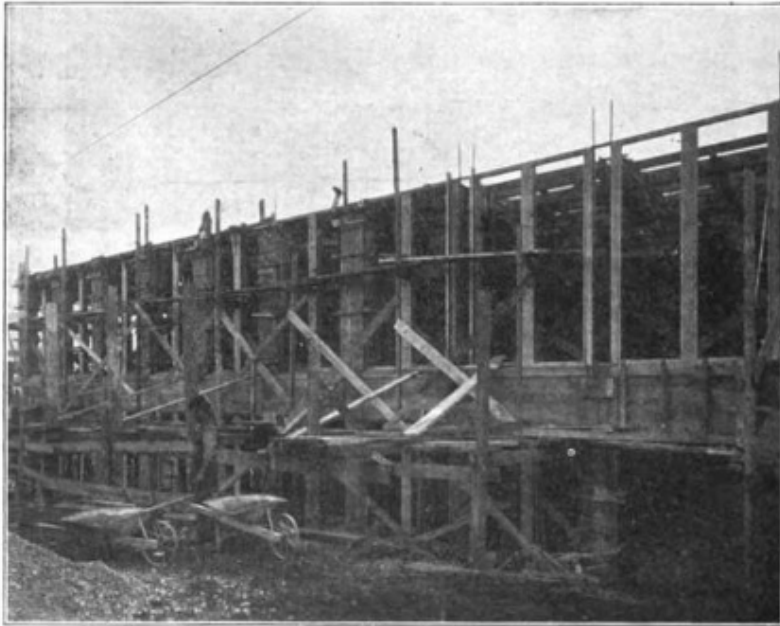


A VIEW SHOWING FORMS FOR FIRST FLOOR.

**Figure 5.** Construction of the first floor of the United Wire and Supply Company building, ca. 1907 (*Textile World Record* 1907:741).

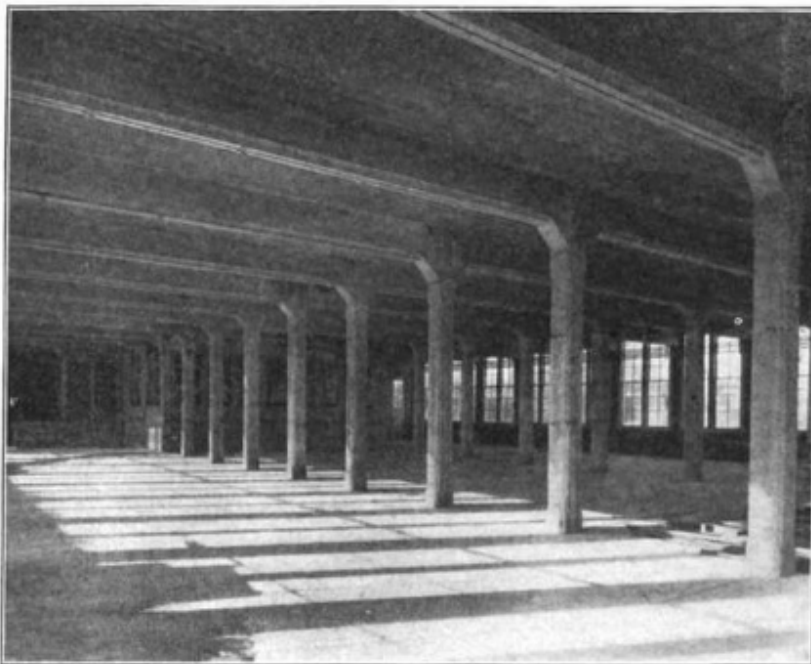
Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase  
Name of Property

Providence, RI  
County and State



VIEW SHOWING THE FORMS FOR A SIDE WALL.

**Figure 6.** Construction of exterior walls of the United Wire and Supply Company Building, ca. 1907 (*Textile World Record* 1907:742).



THE INTERIOR OF A CONCRETE MILL BUILDING.

**Figure 7.** Interior of the United Wire and Supply Company Building, ca. 1907 (*Textile World Record* 1907:742).

Central Falls Mill Historic District –  
Boundary Increase

---

Providence, RI

---

Name of Property

County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 1 of 9



Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 2 of 9





Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 3 of 9



Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 4 of 9



*Mel-Co-Ed INC.*

Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 5 of 9



Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 6 of 9



Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 7 of 9



Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 8 of 9



Central Falls Mill Historic District Boundary Increase  
Providence Co., RI  
Photo 9 of 9