

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM - STRAFFORD ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL
One Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833 Phone: (603)778-0885

TOWN: Rochester COUNTY: Strafford

SURVEY NUMBER: 95

COMMON NAME: Upper Dam

HISTORIC NAME: Norway Plains Woolen Co. Dam

LOCATION: Cocheco R., 100ft. S. of N. Main St. Bridge

OWNER: City of Rochester

ADDRESS: Rochester, NH

MAP & PARCEL # : 42/10 121-29

DATE: C.1900

SOURCE: Inspection

STYLE: Dam

UTM: Z 19 /E 339375 /N 4796350

USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15* series

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Dam

PRESENT USE: Dam

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

CONDITION: Exc. Good Fair Poor ☒ Ruins

INTEGRITY: Original Site ☒ Moved Date

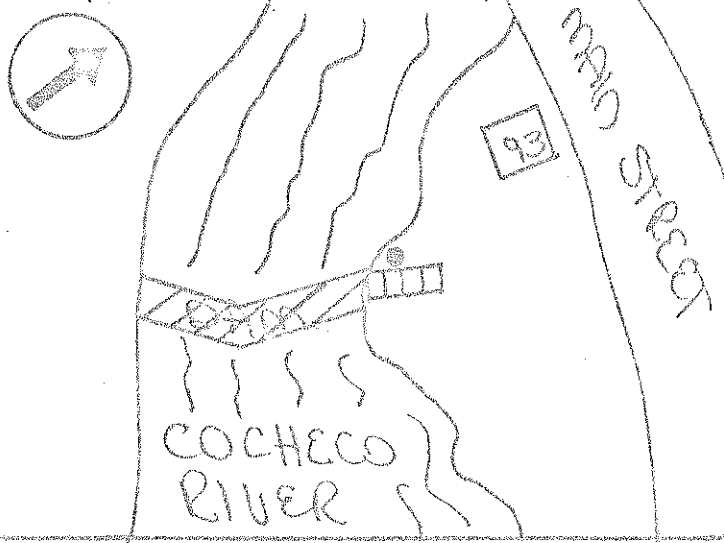
Major Alterations & Date:

LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. State Local ☒

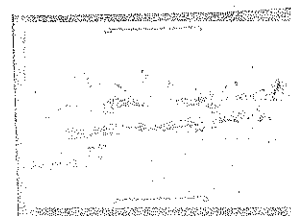
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

- # Stories # Bays Approx. Dimensions Window Sash
Roof Style: Gable Hip Gambrel Flat Shed Mansard Jerkinhead
Monitor Sawtooth Other
Appendages: Porches Towers Dormers Bay Windows Ells Chimneys
Wings Cupolas Sheds Garage Other
Entry Location: Center Sidehall Other
- FOUNDATION: Random Rubble Cut Granite Brick Concrete Concrete Block
Other
- WALL STRUCTURE:
Wood Frame: Post & Beam Balloon Frame Other
Load Bearing Masonry: Stone Brick Concrete Block Other
Metal: Iron Steel Other
- WALL COVERING: Clapboard Wood Shingle Board & Batten Shiplap
Aluminum Novelty Stucco Stone Brick Sheet Metal Asphalt Shingles
Vinyl Asphalt Sheeting Composite Board Other
- ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle Asphalt Shingle Standing Seam Tin Slate
Pressed Metal Sheet Metal Rolled Asphalt Gravel Other
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:

MAP (Indicate North in circle)



PHOTO



Description of View: looking west across dam and river
Negative File Number: RO 80/A2/8
Photographer: Roger Brevoort
Negative on file with: SRRC

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The upper dam is a "V"-shaped poured concrete dam constructed c 1926. Portions of an earlier masonry dam remain at the eastern end of the present structure.

Remnants of a stone retaining wall and portions of the former mill foundation remain on the eastern bank of the river, and there is evidence of a stone-lined sluiceway leading to the mill site. (The mill is no longer extant.) At the head of the sluiceway on the eastern edge, vestiges of the controlling head gate and machinery also survive.

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

The upper dam is part of the industrial environment of the Wyandotte mill complex along the Cochecho River.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The dam correlates to the expansion of the Norway Plains Woolen Company in the late nineteenth century. The initial dam may have been built circa 1862 when the upper mill (no longer standing) was constructed. The present dam is an early twentieth century rebuilding, still incorporating a water power system. Head gates and controls manufactured by the Holyoke Machinery Company of Holyoke, Mass. are still in place.

REFERENCES:

McDuffee, Frank, The History of Rochester

MAP DATA: 1871- map

1884- Birds Eye

1892- Atlas and Sanborn Map

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land _____ Woodland _____ Scattered Bldgs _____ Moderately Built Up _____
Densely Built Up _____ Residential _____ ☒ Commercial _____ Industrial _____ ☒ Agricultural _____
Roadside Strip Development _____ Other _____

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/13/80

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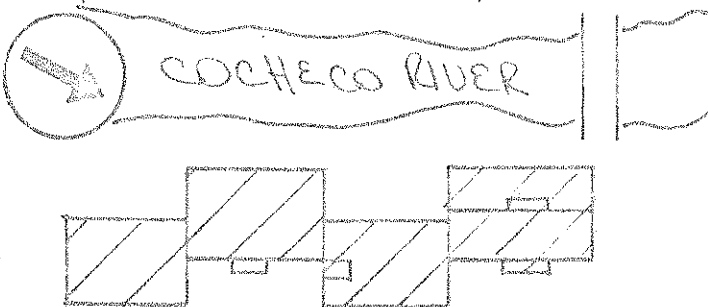
TOWN: Rochester	COUNTY: Strafford
SURVEY NUMBER: 99	
COMMON NAME: The Wyandotte Mill	
HISTORIC NAME: The Norway Plains Woolen Co.	
LOCATION: E. bank of Cocheco R., btwn. Bridge St. and Congress St.	
OWNER: City of Rochester	
ADDRESS: City Hall Rochester, NH	
MAP & PARCEL # :	42/10 121-29
DATE: C.1850	
SOURCE: Inspection	
STYLE: Greek Revival	

UTM: Z19 /E339500 /N 4796 250
USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15' series
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Mill
PRESENT USE: vacant
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown
CONDITION: Exc. ___ Good ___ ☒ Fair ___ Poor ___ Ruins ___
INTEGRITY: Original Site ___ ☒ Moved ___ Date
Major Alterations & Date: Removal of upper story and roof. 1980
LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. ___ State ☒ Local ☒

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

- # Stories 2 1/2 # Bays ___ Approx. Dimensions 75' X 40' Window Sash 6/6
Roof Style: Gable ☒ Hip ___ Gambrel ___ Flat ___ Shed ___ Mansard ___ Jerkinhead ___
Monitor ___ Sawtooth ___ Other ___
Appendages: Porches ___ Towers ☒ Dormers ___ Bay Windows ___ Ells ___ Chimneys ___
Wings ___ Cupolas ___ Sheds ___ Garage ___ Other ___
Entry Location: Center ☒ Sidehall ___ Other ___
- FOUNDATION: Random Rubble ___ Cut Granite ☒ Brick ☒ Concrete ___ Concrete Block ___
Other ___
- WALL STRUCTURE:
Wood Frame: Post & Beam ___ Balloon Frame ___ Other ___
Load Bearing Masonry: Stone ___ Brick ☒ Concrete Block ___ Other ___
Metal: Iron ___ Steel ___ Other ___
- WALL COVERING: Clapboard ___ Wood Shingle ___ Board & Batten ___ Shiplap ___
Aluminum ___ Novelty ___ Stucco ___ Stone ___ Brick ☒ Sheet Metal ___ Asphalt Shingles ___
Vinyl ___ Asphalt Sheeting ___ Composite Board ___ Other ___
- ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle ___ Asphalt Shingle ☒ Standing Seam Tin ___ Slate ___
Pressed Metal ___ Sheet Metal ___ Rolled Asphalt ___ Gravel ___ Other ___
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



PHOTO



Description of View: Looking N. at E. side of mill buildings.
Negative File Number: RO 80/A6/19
Photographer: Roger Brevoort
Negative on file with: SRRC

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Wyandotte complex consists of four adjoining brick mills. At the northern end of the row, the prevalent, mill is a C 1850, 3 1/2 story, gable roofed building, 13 X 5 bays which exhibits the tall, narrow proportionality of mid-nineteenth century industrial architecture. Built in the Greek Revival style, it is characterized by its original 6/6 windows with granite lintels and sills. A brick corbel table marks the roofline. Centered on the facade is a 3 1/2 story, gable-roofed stair tower, a typical element of mid-nineteenth century mills. The building also features a domed belfry centered on the ridge line, a notable Greek Revival element integral to the architectural integrity of the mill as well as being a dominant visual highlight of the entire complex.

The second and third buildings are of similar design, exhibiting the same rectangular proportions as the main mill. Both have 12/12 windows which are topped by granite lintels, a major element of the Greek Revival style. The third building also has a stair tower centered on the facade. The gable roofs and top stories of both buildings have been removed, causing an unfortunate erosion of their

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

The four buildings line the east bank of the Cocheco River and are the dominant feature of the area's industrial environment. A variety of ancillary structures along the river relate to the water power system that originally supported the mills, and there are two smokestacks, one round, one rectangular, indicating

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations): The Wyandotte

Worsted Company was the successor to several earlier woolen firms.

The Mechanics Co. and Rochester Woolen Company, small early 19th century textile manufacturers were the first companies to utilize this site. In 1846, they were bought out by the Norway Plains Woolen Co. This company built the brick mill complex, some of which survives today. They produced heavy wool blankets for the government during the civil war and were successful enough to be forced to expand. After the war the demand for blankets declined and production slumped, but continued well into the twentieth century. In 1926 the business was bought by the Wyandotte Worsted Company based in Springvale, Maine. They were able to keep the Rochester mill going until 1970 because of their connections with the mills in the south. IN 1970, however, the mills were abandoned and left neglected until 1979 when they were drastically altered by the city in an attempt at rehabilitation.

Architecturally, though altered, the complex still retains much of its original identity. It is dominated by a C.1850 Greek Revival style brick mill building which

REFERENCES:

Rochester History Advisory Committee

Norway Plains

Norway

Norway Plains Co.

MAP DATA: 1871- Norway Plain Co. 1884-Birdseye-

1892-Atlas-Plains

1892-Sanborn-

ALSO 1877- Birds Eye - Norway Plains Co.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land _____ Woodland _____ Scattered Bldgs _____ Moderately Built Up _____ X
Densely Built Up _____ Residential _____ Commercial _____ Industrial _____ X Agricultural _____
Roadside Strip Development _____ Other _____

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/28/80

Continuation Sheet

Description

architectural identity.

The fourth mill is of slightly later architectural design, with the windows set within segmental brick arches. It is now 3 stories tall with a flat roof, since the top story was also removed from this building.

RELATED

the subsequent use of steam power.

SIGNIFICANCE

is typical of mid-19th century industrial architecture. The most prominent features are an intact open belfry and a towering brick smoke stack.

