

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Allendale Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
494 Woonasquatucket Avenue, Centredale

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02911	CODE: 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE: 007
-------------------------------	-------------	-----------------------	--------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Dixie Yarns

STREET AND NUMBER:  
494 Woonasquatucket Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Centredale

STATE: Rhode Island, 02911	CODE: 44
-------------------------------	-------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
North Providence Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2008 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02911	CODE: 44
-------------------------------	-------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey: New England Textile Mill Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11
--------------------------------	-------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original building of 1822, which still stands as part of the larger present complex of buildings, is rectangular in plan (37'6" x 160'6") and five stories tall, with a stair tower centered on the north elevation. This tower, now capped by a shallow-pitched hipped roof, originally supported a bell cupola. The exterior walls are load-bearing, constructed of random-coursed local stone, whitewashed. There are four stories of double-hung windows which are aligned vertically and spaced uniformly across the length of the principal elevation. The roof is a modified gambrel (the upper slope is almost flat) with dormer windows projecting from the lower slope and aligned with the windows below them. Heavy, rectangular buttresses in diminishing tiers (perhaps not of 1822, but a later necessity) brace the angles of the first-through-third floors at northeast and northwest: these are not open but take the form of enclosed block-like projections.

The 1822 building has been added to on the west, south and on to the north (at the stair tower). At the present time, there are eleven additions that, together with the original building, constitute the present mill. Also, there are five outbuildings. Three additions to the east were made in 1880, 1910 and 1947. Six additions to the south were made in 1844 (originally an outbuilding), 1864 (originally an outbuilding), 1950 and 1955; additions on the west and at the stair tower on the north are undated. The commissary store outbuilding, however, was built at the same time as the original mill.

On the interior, the stone walls are exposed and whitewashed, and the heavy timber planking, beams and columns are also unconcealed. Door and window frames are of wood set in masonry openings, except at the top floor where the dormer windows are framed into the wooden roof structure.

This mill is located to the south of Allendale Pond on the east bank of the Woonasquatucket River, and west of Woonasquatucket Avenue. The terrain of the site slopes downward from the mill toward the north.

A diary entry for March 2, 1822, by Zaohariah Allen, recently discovered at the Rhode Island Historical Society records that supervision of construction of the original mill, three dwellings, a picking house, a blacksmith shop and a dam was given to the prominent Providence architect John Holden Greene, who had recently completed a residence for the Allen family in the city.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)** 1822

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Allendale Mill was built by Zachariah Allen in 1822 for the manufacture of woolens. During its existence it also served as a cotton mill. The building is particularly important as the earliest known example of the "slow-burning" construction technique that came to dominate textile-mill design during much of the nineteenth century. Allen used wood beams of large cross-section, thick floor-planking and shingles set in mortar as innovations to increase the fire resistance of the basic mill structure and the roof sheathing. From Allen's concern for fire prevention in industrial buildings came the Manufacturers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Rhode Island in 1835, which eventually combined with the Firemen's Mutual Insurance Company, becoming one of the largest such organizations in the world. Today, with its subsidiaries and in remembrance, this combination has taken a new name, the Allendale Insurance Companies.

In addition to its significance with respect to fireproofing, the building is important for its early use of dormer windows in the roof in place of the trap-door or shed-roofed monitor common in many other of the early textile mills of Rhode Island, and as the first mill to use the power loom for manufacturing broadcloth, and then next to use a rolling process for imparting a gloss finish to cloth.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allen Zachariah, Papers of; at Rhode Island Historical Society Library, Providence, Rhode Island.  
 Greene, Samuel, and McCarthy, Joseph: "The Rhode Island Collection" (also known as "The Nickerson Architectural Collection"), 1940; at the Providence Public Library, Providence, Rhode Island.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR		LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	.	"	0	.	"	41	51	00	N
NE	0	.	"	0	.	"	71	28	50	W
SE	0	.	"	0	.	"				
SW	0	.	"	0	.	"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Five**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Theodore Anton Sande, Surveyor-Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission      DATE: Dec. 22, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 201, 265 Melrose Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence      STATE: Rhode Island, 02907      CODE: 44

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National       State       Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Allendale Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

494 Woonasquatucket Avenue, Centredale

CITY OR TOWN:

North Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island, 02911

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201,  
265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior of mill from the north-east.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Allendale Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

494 Woonasquatucket Avenue, Centredale

CITY OR TOWN:

North Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island, 02911

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201,  
265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Ancillary building (company store?) seen from the east.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Allendale Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

494 Woonasquatucket Avenue, Centredale

CITY OR TOWN:

North Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jack Boucher, for Historic American Buildings Survey

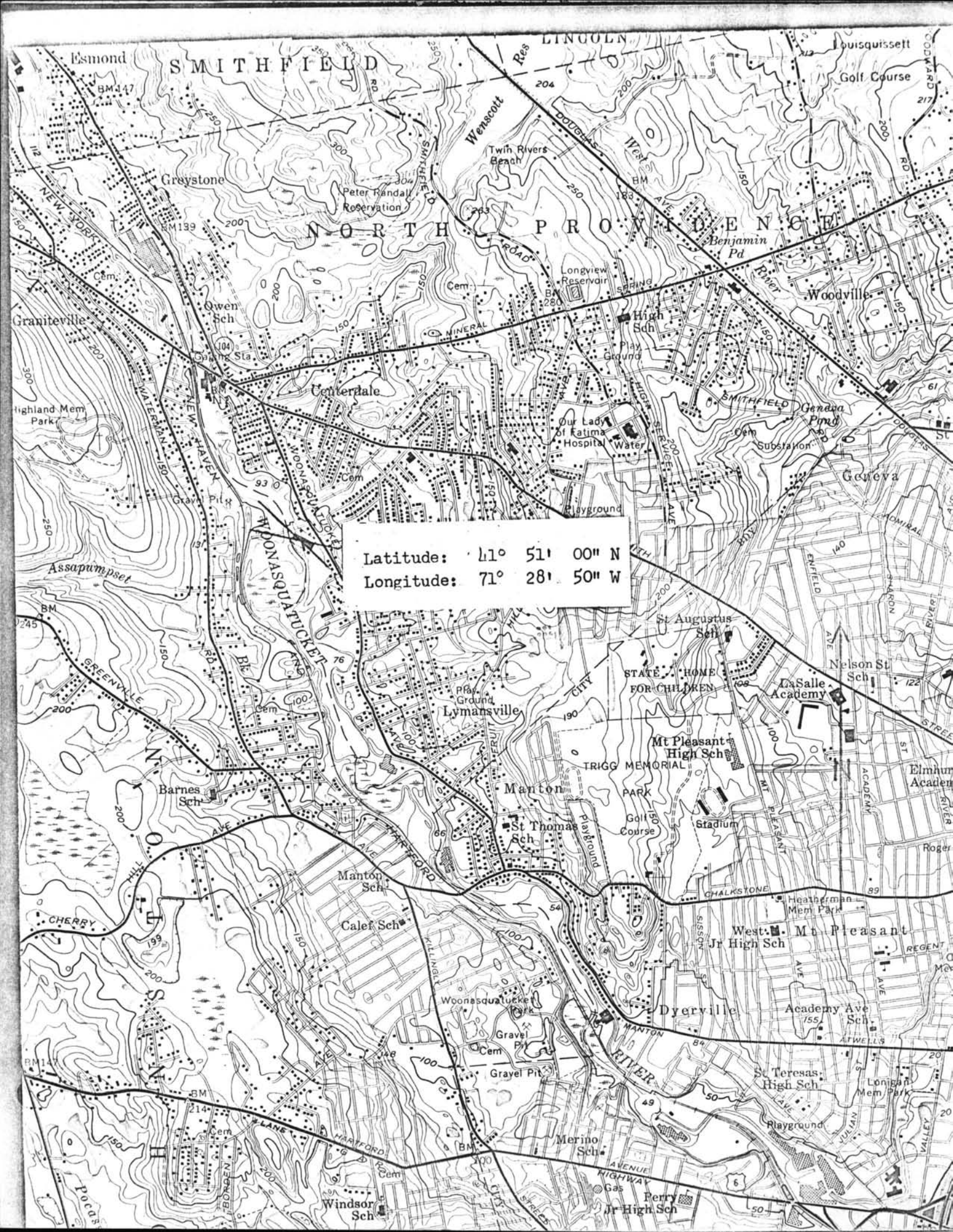
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress,  
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Interior detail, showing wooden column and beam construction.



Latitude: 41° 51' 00" N  
Longitude: 71° 28' 50" W



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Allendale Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

192 Woonasquatucket Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Centredale

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

111

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE:

1: 24,000

DATE:

1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.