Determination of Eligibility (DOE)

Date received:

October 16, 2002

Inventory #:

CON0254

April 16, 2004

Date of group review:

October 23, 2002 May 4, 2004

Area: Penacook Village

DHR staff: Beth

Town/City: Concord

Property name:

The Penacook Mill

County:

Merrimack

Address:

35 East Street

Reviewed for:

[x]R&C []PTI []NR []SR []Survey [x]Other - LCHIP

Individual Properties			Districts			
NR [x] []	SR [x]Eligible []Eligible, also in die []Eligible, in district []Not eligible [x]More information []Not evaluated for	needed	[] [] (]	IR]]] x]	SR []Eligible []Not eligible []More information needed [x]Not evaluated @ district	
Integrity	r: [x]Location [x]Workmanship	[x]Design [x]Feeling	[x]Setting [x]Association	_	r]Materials	
Criteria: [x]A. Event []B. Person []D. Archaeology []E. Exception		[x]C. Architecture/Engineering				
Level:	[]Local [x]State	e []National				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

oxtimes IF THIS PROPERTY IS REVIEWED IN THE FUTURE, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION WILL BE NEEDED.

for both its historical associations with the textile industry in NH and for its architectural and engineering significance. The 1846 mill is among the longest in the state, particularly as executed in granite and for its time period. Additional investigation into how power was transferred throughout this industrial building will further demonstrate its significance and explain the textile mill's success and longevity. The property's period of significance for textile manufacturing is from 1846-1937.

The property's significance for its use as a tannery needs more explanation and clarification. How important was the tannery within the context of this industry in NH and in Penacook's history. Tanning operations began as early as 1942, but may not have been successfully underway until 1953. Of the tannery-related additions, three appear to have been constructed before 1950 and ten after. This may also be an indication of whether the tannery's period of significance is historic. Are the additions important manifestations of this significance? The property's eligible boundary, based on its textile significance, should be extended beyond the current tax parcel to include the brick textile office building, as well as any other historically-associated structures. A sketch map showing those structures and their original uses and current appearance will help in the eligible boundary definition.

Also, this section of Penacook and the other industrial structures along the Merrimack River have not yet been evaluated as a historic district. Certainly the Penacook Mill would be a contributing structure and focal point in such a district.

Both an inventory form and a structural investigation report were submitted as documentation for this determination of eligibility. DHR's current review is only a determination of eligibility and not an endorsement of the structural report's recommendations; some of these could be discussed further. For example, the suggestion that the structure's timber frame may be hazardous due to 160 years of tanning there is unusual. Tanning operations began about 1947, and certainly other former tanneries have been safely reused without full timber replacement, including the Page Belting property here in Concord. Also, the dates of construction for

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some additions vary between the inventory form and the structural report. These discrepancies can be corrected if more information is submitted regarding the historical significance of the tannery period. 5/4/04 - Judging from information gathered since DHR's last review, it appears that much of this property's use as a tannery dates from a past too recent for listing on the National Register. To verify this, please provide a statement of significance that demonstrates whether the tanning industry was an important historical context in New Hampshire in the early to mid 1900s, and, if so, whether the Penacook mill is a significant and sufficiently intact illustration of this context. The statement should concentrate on the earliest tannery operations and compare the Penacook mill's contributions with other tanneries in the state from 1942-1954. Because tannery operations straddle the National Register's fifty year cut-off, it will necessary to specifically date factors such as the type of products produced, the number of employees and production technologies utilized. Some discussion is also needed as to how the tannery functioned from 1942-1954. Where were tannery operations concentrated. and were the early additions significant to the mill's success? Also, at some point, operations expanded beyond 35 East Street to other former mill sites in Penacook. When and where did this happen? Are these sites still intact and illustrative of the tannery period, or are they now too detached from the main mill in function and location? The recollections of former employees may be the best source of information for this statement of significance, as long as they can be accurately assigned a date.

ACREAGE: map P1, block 7, lots 6 and 7, 3.67 acres

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: textile manufacturing: 1846 to 1937; tannery operations: to be determined industry, engineering, architecture, community planning and development

BOUNDARY: map P1, block 7, lots 6 and 7, 3.67 acres. Other adjacent lots to be determined.

SURVEYOR: Matthew R. Walsh, for the City of Concord

FOLLOW-UP: 10/23/02 – Notify city and LCHIP of eligibility, with congratulations for a well-done inventory form on a complicated property. 5/4/04 – Request a definitive statement of significance, as outlined above. To complete this project, the DHR recommends that the city utilize an architectural historian with experience in National Register criteria and listing.

Final DOE approved by: