



National Park Service
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Finding Aid

Faulkner Mills, Inc., and Related Companies Records, 1954-2001(Bulk dates 1955-1985)

Catalog No. LOWE 15927
Lowell National Historical Park
Lowell, Massachusetts



NORTHEAST
**MUSEUM
SERVICES**
C E N T E R

LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

FINDING AID FOR THE
***FAULKNER MILLS, INC. AND RELATED COMPANIES RECORDS,
1954-2001 (BULK RECORDS 1955-1985)***

CATALOG NUMBER: LOWE 15927 -- COLLECTION

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MUSEUM SERVICES CENTER

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*Cover Image: Portion of buildings formerly occupied by Faulkner Mills, Inc on Faulkner Road,
North Billerica.*

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PREFACE

These records were created and maintained by Faulkner Mills, Inc., formerly the North Billerica Company, and the five affiliated companies. Although the manufacturing of woolen fabrics occurred in North Billerica, the companies were managed in Lowell. The records are now part of the archives of Lowell National Historical Park (LOWE). These records and those of other related Lowell textile industries were processed as part of a backlog cataloging project carried out by the Northeast Museum Services Center (NMSC) with FY08 Backlog Cataloging funds.

The catalogers would like to express their gratitude towards the staff of LOWE for their assistance in carrying out this work. In particular, thanks must go to Museum Specialist Jack Herlihy and David Blackburn, Chief of Cultural Resources and Programs, for their aid and advice during this project.

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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid describes the corporate records of the Faulkner Mills, Inc., successor to the North Billerica Company, and its related companies. Wool textiles had been made at the site on Faulkner Road in North Billerica from 1811 to the mid 1980s. These records were received from the last legal firm to record and keep its executive meeting minutes. They now form part of accession LOWE-769.

As part of a fiscal year 2008 project to catalog collections related to the Proprietors and their affiliated companies in the LOWE archives, the Northeast Museum Services Center (NMSC) transferred the collection to its Charlestown facilities. NMSC Archivist Margaret Welch cataloged and rehoused the collection under the direction of Regional Archivist David Vecchioli. Sara Wolf, Director, and Giles Parker, Deputy Director, administered the Center during this time. Backlog cataloging moneys funded this project.

The finding aid is divided into four sections:

- Part 1: Collection Description:
 - Scope and content note;
 - Outline showing the organization of the collection;
 - Descriptions of the various series into which the collection is organized.
- Part 2: Corporate History.
- Part 3: Collection Listing:
- Bibliography.

PART 1:

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

- Accession number:* LOWE-769.
- Catalog number:* LOWE 15927.
- Quantity:* Approximately 1.5 linear feet (approximately 2,400 items).
- Storage:* 5 legal archives boxes.
- Location:* Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852-1029,
(978) 970-5241.
- Description:* These executive-level records relate to the wool manufacturer Faulkner Mills, Inc., operating in North Billerica and managed in Lowell, and its affiliated companies from the mid 1950s to mid 1980s.
- Organization:* Faulkner Mills, Inc., and Related Company Records, 1954-2001 (Bulk dates 1955-1985)
- Series I. Faulkner Mills, Inc., 1955-1985
Series II. Faulkner Textile Associated, Inc., 1954-1985
Series III. Faulkner Fabrics, Inc., 1964-1985
Series IV. Faulkner Realty, 1992-2001
Series V. Tilton, Inc., 1960-1985
Series VI. Trimor, Investments, Inc., 1965-1985

Series Description

Each of the six series is comprised of the executive records of one company. These records include directors' and stockholders' meeting minutes and articles of organization and dissolution. They were stored chronologically in notebooks.

PART 2:

CORPORATE HISTORY

History

Overview

In 1954-1955, John A. Morrill led the reorganization of the North Billerica Company to be later renamed the Faulkner Mills. The mill complex was located at Faulkner Road on the Concord River in North Billerica, and the company's management was located in Lowell. In the 1950s and early 1960s, Morrill's team organized Faulkner Textile Associates, Inc., Faulkner Fabrics, Inc., Trimor Investments, Inc., and Tilton, Inc., to aid in the running of the Mills.

The companies had an interlocking directorate made up of the following individuals over time: John A., Walter, and Elizabeth Morrill, Eldred Field and his son Marshall, Bertrand A. McKittrick and his son Robert A., and Homer Bourgeois of the Union National Bank. Ugo Trio often served on the board of directors, and his accounting firm, Trio & Glowacki, was the firms' accountants. The Fields' law firms acted as the companies' consul as well. The individuals were the companies' stockholders. Directors and stockholders meetings were held in Lowell.

In 1985, the North Billerica Company name was changed to Faulkner Mills, and in October 1986, the Mills was merged into Faulkner Textile Associates, Inc., its primary stockholder. The new company, Faulkner Mills, Inc., immediately merged with Cascade Acquisition Company. The mills ceased production soon after. Faulkner Fabrics, Inc., Trimor Investments, Inc., and Tilton, Inc., had earlier been dissolved.

North Billerica Mills/ Faulkner Mills, Inc.

In 1811, Francis Faulkner began his career in North Billerica. He bought a mill and specialized in wool processing. Fires destroyed the first two mills, but the third factory, made of brick, still stands today.¹ Updates to the physical plant occurred in the 1940s and 1960s. The company was incorporated in 1914. It continued to specialize in wool production after John A. Morrill took over the company in 1954. The tenure of the oldest wool mill in the country ended when production ceased in 1987. The mill structures have been rehabilitated for a variety of purposes.

Faulkner Textile Associates, Inc.

Incorporated in 1954, this firm became the primary shareholder of North Billerica Company. It acted as the selling agent for the mills' textiles. It merged with Faulkner Mills, Inc. in 1986 and was bought out immediately by Cascade Acquisitions Company.

¹ Alan Seabury in "The Faulkner Mills" accessed at http://www.billericahistorical.com/Faulkner_Mills.htm August 2008.

Faulkner Fabrics, Inc.

When New York City agent Howard Schneidewind of Faulkner Textile Associates retired in 1964, the mill and the Textile Associates needed a presence in that city's market. Faulkner Fabrics, Inc., was incorporated in New York City but operated from Lowell. The firm acted as a sub-seller to Textile Associates. Its stylists offered suggestions regarding upcoming styles and fashion to the mill. The company dissolved in 1985.

Tilton, Inc.

The company was incorporated 14 December 1960. It bought the wool used at the North Billerica Company and the Bridgewater Woolen Company. It presumably was named after Harry Tilton, the wool buyer for the North Billerica in the 1950s. It was dissolved 7 November 1985.

Trimor, Inc.

This company, organized in 1965, leased textile manufacturing machinery to the North Billerica and Bridgewater Woolen Company. It also generated income by investing in non-textile related businesses such as color television rentals. After the IRS deemed it a personal holding company with serious tax implications for its stockholders, the company dissolved in 1985.

Faulkner Realty

Due to a legal dispute over alleged breaches of contract between the estate of John A. Morrill and the Cascade Acquisition company, the real estate of the Faulkner Mills, Inc. had to be sold. Faulkner Mills, Inc. handed over the real estate interests to this company incorporated in 1992. The company was involuntarily dissolved in 2007.

PART 3:

COLLECTION LISTING

Series I. Faulkner Mills, Inc., 1955-1985

Box 1 (5.0" legal)

1. Book #1 – Documents re: Reorganizations, 1955-1959²
2. Book #1 – Stockholders' Meeting Minutes, 1956-1966
3. Book #1 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1954-1956
4. Book #1 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1957-1960
5. Book #1 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1961-1966
6. Cover for Book #1
7. Book #2 – Stockholders Meeting Minutes, 1967-1986
8. Book #2 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1974-1978
9. Book #2 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1967-1973
10. Book #2 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1979-1986
11. Book #2 – Miscellaneous Documents, 1984-1985

Series II. Faulkner Textile Associates, Inc., 1954-1985

Box 2 (5.0" legal)

1. Book #1 – Documents re: Organization, 1954
2. Book #1 – Stockholders' Meeting Minutes, 1955-1965
3. Book #1 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1954-1956
4. Book #1 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1957-1961
5. Book #1 – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1962-1965
6. [Book #2] – Stockholders' Meeting Minutes, 1978-1986
7. [Book #2] – Directors' Meeting Minutes, 1978-1986
8. Certificates of Change of Directors, 1984-1985
9. Agreements, 1954-1960
10. Agreements, 1964-1966
11. Notes re: Stock Allocation, 20 September 1979

Series III. Faulkner Fabrics, Inc., 1964-1985

Box 3 (5.0" legal)

1. Book #1 – Documents re: Organization, 1964

² Contains photostat of 1914 Articles of Association for Faulkner Mills.

2. Book #1 – Stockholders’ Meeting Minutes, 1965-1977
3. Book #1 – Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1964-1967
4. Book #1 – Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1968-1977
5. Cover to Book #1
6. Book #2 – Stockholders’ Meeting Minutes, 1978-1985
7. Book #2 – Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1978-1985

Series IV. Faulkner Realty, 1992-2001

8. Documents re: Organization, 1992-1994
9. Stock Records, December 1992
10. Bylaws, and Minutes, 1992-1994
11. Miscellaneous Documents, 1992-1993
12. Mass. Corporation Annual Reports, 1996-2001

Series V. Tilton, Inc., 1960-1985

Box 4 (5.0” legal)

1. Documents re: Organization and Dissolution, 1960, 1985
2. Stockholders’ Meeting Minutes, 1963-1984
3. Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1960-1970
4. Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1971-1985
5. Notebook Cover

Series VI. Trimor Investments, Inc., 1965-1985

6. Documents re: Organization and Dissolution, 1965-1985
7. Stockholders’ Meeting Minutes, 1965-1985
8. Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1965-1970
9. Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1971-1976
10. Directors’ Meeting Minutes, 1977-1984

Box 5 (2.5” legal)

1. Notebook Cover

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