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Gray's Mill: Eligibility for National Register of Historic Places, October 2002

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Original yellow form: Eligibility file
Copies: inventory form
Town file(w/corresp.)
Macris
NR director _____

Community: Westport

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 9/19/02 Date Due: Date Reviewed: 10/16/02

Type: Individual District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Gray's Mill Inventory Form: Form B WSP.470

Address: Adamsville Road
Westport, MA

Requested by: William J. Underwood, Jr., Chair
Westport Historical Commission

Action: Honor ITC Grant R & C Other:

Agency: Staff in charge of Review: Leonard W. Loparto

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Eligible
 Eligible, also in district
 Eligible only in district
needed
 Ineligible
 More information needed

DISTRICTS

Eligible
 Ineligible
 More information

CRITERIA: A B C D

LEVEL: Local State National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On Wednesday October 16, 2002, staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) evaluated the National Register (NR) eligibility potential of Gray's Mill at a meeting of the NR Evaluation group. MHC staff determined that the surviving mill complex including the mill building, water-power features and machinery retain sufficient integrity as an architectural resource and working mill to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under criterion A, C, and possibly D. Although a grist and saw mill have been on the site for nearly 300 years, the period of significance for the present mill dates from the mid 19th to 20th century. Under criterion A the mill complex is significant for its associations with the early settlement of Westport, then part of Dartmouth, and the economic history of the town. A 19th and early 20th century mill village grew at the head of the West Branch of the Westport River in the vicinity of the mill. Additional research may

extend the boundaries of the mill complex district to encompass farmsteads and residences located along the Adamsville and Cornell Road corridors. Under criterion C the mill complex is also significant for its surviving architectural and design characteristics associated with a continuously operated mid to late 19th century water-powered grist mill. The mill's water-powered turbine ceased operation after the 1938 hurricane, however, most of the water-power features still remain. The mill currently runs under gasoline power. Water-power may be restored in the future. The mill complex may also be significant under criterion D. Documentary evidence and surface remains indicate archaeological resources may survive associated with water-power features and industries that overlap or predate the 19th/20th century period of significance of the current mill. Archaeological survey and testing should be conducted to document the identity and location of these resources and the extent that recent repairs to the structure and waterways have affected the integrity of potential archaeological resources in those areas.