

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Shannock Historic District

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Main Street, North Shannock Road, and  
West Shannock Road not for publication

city, town Richmond and Charlestown vicinity of #2 - Claudine Schneider  
~~Congressional district~~

state Rhode Island code 44 county Washington code 009

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.A. in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple - see owners list on file at  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond Town House Charlestown Town House

street & number Richmond Town House Road Route 2

city, town Richmond, R.I. Charlestown, R.I.  
state

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic and Architectural Resources  
title of Richmond, Rhode Island; has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

A Preliminary Report  
date December, 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

city, town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

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Historic and Architectural Resources of Charlestown, Rhode Island:  
A Preliminary Report, June, 1981  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shannock Historic District contains the village of Shannock, a small, former manufacturing center located on both banks of the winding Pawcatuck River among low, wooded hills in the towns of Richmond and Charlestown. The compact part of the community is located principally along Main Street, a two-lane road running near the river. The houses and other structures along this winding road are sited close to the street line and are often fronted by trees, stone walls, and white-painted picket fences. The village is virtually surrounded by stone-wall-enclosed pasture lands running back to the hills which encircle the area.

The double-track Amtrak main line passes directly by Shannock. It crosses the Pawcatuck River and Shannock Road on simple steel girder bridges, and is crossed by Main Street (at the village's east end) on a steel girder overpass with plank decking. A grade crossing, linking two nineteenth-century houses south of the tracks with Main Street, exists near the center of the village. The railroad, once a major factor in Shannock's prosperity, no longer stops in the village. Freight and passenger stations which once existed have been demolished.

The visual focal points of the Shannock district are two factory complexes. In the heart of the village is the Columbia Narrow Fabrics Company factory (map No. 14, photos 1, 2), a complex of low stone and brick structures. It is located a short distance downstream from a small pond (impounded by a horseshoe-shaped, stone dam) and connected to it by a stone-lined power canal. The Carmichael mill complex marks Shannock's west flank; it consists of a large clapboard mill and smaller, brick power house facing each other at either end of another dam (map No. 51, photo 8).

Shannock contains about three dozen dwellings, several former store and public buildings, and a church. White-painted, plain-trimmed, clapboard structures predominate; most date from the 1850-1900 period and served originally as factory housing. The village's most imposing homes are the end-gable, Greek Revival residences of Simeon P. Clark and Charles Clarke (map Nos. 17, 27; photo 5) on Main Street and the Late Victorian George Carmichael house overlooking the community's west end (map No. 54A).

In large measure Shannock retains its nineteenth and early twentieth-century character. Few structures have been extensively altered, and fewer new ones erected. Two major changes have, however, taken place in recent years. In 1948 Shannock Road, entering the village from the southwest, was realigned and the section between Railroad Avenue and West Shannock Road opened. The West Shannock Road railroad crossing was eliminated and Railroad Avenue and the adjacent section of West Shannock Road -- formerly part of the main east-west route through Shannock -- were cut off from the rest of the village.

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Since 1969 the Clark Cotton Mill/Columbia Narrow Fabrics Company plant has suffered severe deterioration. In the mid-1970s the monitor-trimmed gable roof and Greek Revival cupola of the original stone structure were lost in a fire and replaced by a nearly flat roof. The remainder of the complex has suffered extensively from vandalism.

Inventory of Contributing Structures

Contributing structures are defined as those constructed in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century, which are compatible with the district's rural manufacturing character. Buildings which have been resided with modern wall covers, but which otherwise retain their integrity and character, are listed as contributing.

1. Shannock Baptist Church (1901-1902): This handsome Shingle Style/Colonial Revival structure has a high-roofed sanctuary fronted by a lower, flank-gable vestry and low, hip-roofed tower. It is now clad in asbestos siding. The third home of a congregation founded in 1774 and reorganized in 1784, the building stands near the site of an 1856 church which burned in 1901.
2. George W. Hoxie House, "Hillcrest," (1902): This 2½-story, hip-roof, Queen Anne-Colonial Revival dwelling, with its Tuscan-column veranda, was the residence of one of the partners in the G.W. Hoxie & Co. grocery. The house is now clad in aluminum siding. In the back yard is a long, gable-roof, frame, early 20th-century shed.
3. House (c. 1850): A modest, 1½-story, end-gable, vernacular Greek Revival cottage with a wing to one side, an early 20th-century front porch, and heavy classical cornices and cornice returns. It was owned in 1862 by Samuel A. Hoxie. The walls are now clad in aluminum siding.
4. House (after 1870): Vernacular 1½-story, end-gable, shingled cottage possessing plain raking cornices without returns. Erected after 1870, it was owned in 1895 by Holden & Co.
5. Samuel A. Hoxsie House (c. 1830s-1840s): Raised up on a high stone foundation, this 1½-story, 5-bay, frame, flank-gable dwelling has Federal-style molded cornices with returns. It was occupied in 1849 by Hoxsie, whose cotton mill then stood nearby.
6. Jonathan Tucker, Jr., House (c. 1850): A 1½-story, flank-gable, frame cottage, with heavy classical cornices and cornice returns. Raised high on a bank and turned sideways on the lot, the structure presents

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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a clapboard-fronted basement story to the road. In November, 1849, Joseph Hoxsie sold this lot to Jonathan Tucker, Jr. The deed contains an agreement that Hoxsie would pay Tucker \$1.25 per day for his time in building a house on the lot on condition that Hoxsie could have first refusal on the property in the event it was offered for sale. This dwelling appears on the 1855 map.

7. House (before 1855): A flank-gable dwelling, built into the bank, with a 2-story front and 1-story rear. A Late Victorian, shallow, flat-roofed, 2-story extension spans nearly the full width of the front. The structure's original part was standing in 1855.

8. Hoxie House (probably 1870s): This large 2½-story, flank-gable structure is fronted by a bracketed veranda with Swiss-style slat-work railings. The house was built as the residence either of Joseph Hoxsie or his son George W. Hoxsie. Both were grocers.

9. Commercial/Tenement Block (probably 1880s): Owned in 1895 by Geo. W. Hoxsie & Co. (who operated a grocery store at the western end of the village), this is a 2½-story, mansard-roofed structure with its bracketed cornices, dormers, and Queen Anne-style, turned-post front veranda. It originally contained a grocery store in the basement (operated until 1972), stores in the first floor, tenements in the second, and a public hall under the roof.

10. Site of Clark's Hall: Until recently, Clark's Hall (1859) stood on this site. A large, 2½-story structure, the Hall was built as grain mill, enlarged soon after its construction, and used throughout its history for village religious, educational, and social gatherings.

11. Dam (early 19th century?): A handsome, horseshoe-shaped, random ashlar structure which originally impounded water for mills on both sides of the river. This unusual structure may have been constructed by Perry Clarke.

12. Carpenter Shop (c. 1915): Built on the site of the Clarke grist-mill, this shed-like, 1-story structure, with its vertical-board walls and low-pitch roof, originally served as the carpenter shop for the Clarks' Horseshoe Falls farm.

13. House (late 18th century?): Salt-box house, with a 1½-story back. Now divided into two units, this shingled structure may have been the residence of Joshua Clarke, who purchased the nearby saw- and gristmills in 1771.

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14. Clark Cotton Mill/Columbia Narrow Fabrics Co. Factory (c. 1848; enlarged 1907, 1916, and 1923): In 1848 or 1849 the brothers, Charles Clarke and Simeon P. Clark built the original stone section of the factory. A long, 2½-story structure, it had a high gable roof broken by monitors, clapboarded gables, and a square Greek Revival cupola in the center of the roof. The original roof and cupola and much of the interior were destroyed by fire in the mid-1970s; a new roof of very low slope now covers the ruins. The mill, originally used as a cotton factory, was taken over in 1902 by the Columbia Narrow Fabrics Company for the manufacture of elastic webbing. This firm, founded by George H. Clark, and his sons George P. and Henry G. Clark, erected the 1-story, gable and sawtooth-roof, brick additions at the west end of the complex. Since 1968, when Columbia Narrow Fabrics vacated the factory, it has remained empty, and has suffered heavily from vandalism.
15. Shannock Community House (1919-1920): Given to the village by the Columbia Narrow Fabrics Company in memory of the World War I dead from Richmond and Charlestown, the Community House is a large 1½-story, hip-roof, weatherboarded, bungalow-style structure, set on a high concrete basement. The building contained a bowling alley, showers, and barber shop; a library; a hall for lectures, entertainments, dances, and movies; and the local American Legion Post.
16. Foundations of Horseshoe Falls Farm Barn: A very large frame barn, built for George H. Clark in 1885 and enlarged in 1932, stood on this site until its destruction by fire in 1974. Between 1925 and 1974 the barn was the home of George P. Clark's herd of Golden Guernsey cattle, noted for their record milk production.
17. Simeon P. Clark House (c. 1850): 2½-story, end-gable, Greek Revival residence, with corner pilasters and a full pediment. A Late Victorian, bracketed porch extends around the front and one side, and a glassed-in porch projects from the other front corner. The lot is fronted by a stone retaining wall and picket fence. In the fields to the rear is the small, stone-wall-enclosed Clark family cemetery. East of the house are two small frame sheds.
18. Mill House (c. 1870s-1880s): Built for the Clarks, this plain 1½-story, three-bay cottage has a steep, flank-gable roof and plain raking cornices without returns.
19. Shed (early 20th century): Large, 1-story, brick structure with a low, gabled roof, built as part of the Columbia Narrow Fabrics Company complex.

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20. Site of Mill House: Until 1981, a small, plain, 1½-story, flank-gable cottage stood on this site. Constructed shortly after 1895, it was probably built as housing for mill workers.
21. Simeon P. Clark Store (1848): A 2½-story, flank-gable structure, with molded, Federal-style cornices and a square-post veranda across the front.
22. Mill House (c. 1870s-1880s): This high and narrow, 1½-story, flank-gable structure, sited gable end to the road, was probably erected in the 1870s or 1880s. Entirely lacking in decorative trim, it possesses simple raking cornices without returns.
- 23-24. Mill Houses (c. 1848): Built for Charles Clarke and Simeon P. Clark, this pair of identical 2-story, flank-gable, double houses has molded Federal-style cornices and low second-story front windows. The double-door center entrances have transom lights and molded architrave surrounds.
25. Foster House (18th century): Said to date from the early 18th century, this much altered 1½-story, flank-gable structure is named for the family which owned it in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Little more than the frame of the original structure probably survives.
26. See Inventory of Non-Contributing Structures.
27. Charles Clarke House (c. 1850): A 2½-story, end-gable, Greek Revival structure, with paneled pilasters, a full pediment, and a Doric-column door porch, the Charles Clarke house is one of Shannock's finest residences. A 1½-story, side wing now has a glassed-in porch. The lot is fronted by a white-painted picket fence.
28. Barn (Late Victorian): Large and handsome 1½-story, hip-roof structure located behind the Charles Clarke house.
- 29-30. Mill Houses (c. 1848): Built for Charles Clarke and Simeon P. Clark, these double houses are identical to numbers 23 and 24.
31. Mill House (c. 1870s-1880s): Erected for the Clarks, this plain-trimmed, 2-story, flank-gable, center-entrance structure has raking cornices without returns.
32. George H. Clark House (c. 1878): Said to have been a wedding present from his parents, Simeon P. and Catherine P. Clark, the house is a 2½-story, L-Plan structure, with a bracketed entrance porch, paired windows, and raking cornices without returns. The property is fronted by a wrought-iron fence.

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- 33-35. Houses (c. 1900): Three identical 2-story, end-gable cottages, with plain raking cornices without returns. Number 35 retains its original narrow-width shingling, while 33 and 34 are now clad in modern wide-exposure shingles.
36. House (c. 1880): A 2-story, L-plan, Late Victorian structure with a hooded entrance and raking cornices without returns.
37. House (c. 1890): A square, 1-story, hip-roof cottage, clad in staggered-butt shingling.
38. Tenement House (1880s): A large 2½-story, flank-gable structure, with a central, hooded entrance and roof dormers.
39. House (c. 1900): Modest 2-story, end-gable cottage, with a side porch and shingling laid with staggered butts.
40. Former Fire House (c. 1900): This large, 1½-story, end-gable, shingled structure, with three garage doors at the street end, was the original home of "Columbia Hose," the first village fire company.
41. Store (1880s): This 2½-story, flank-gable, dormered structure, now an apartment house, originally contained a store on the first floor and tenements upstairs. A Queen Anne, turned-post front veranda has lost much of its detailing and the exterior been clad in aluminum siding. The store was operated at various times in the late 19th century by Henry Hoxsie, James Collins, and Sullivan and Perry & Co.
42. Store/Tenement Block (1880s): A 2½-story, flank-gable main building, with a low-roofed, 2-story wing owned in 1895 by G.W. Hoxsie & Co. A general store in the wing's above-ground basement, last operated by Lottie Whiting, has been vacant since 1976.
43. House (mid-19th century): Modest, 1½-story, flank-gable dwelling, now clad in asbestos siding. Constructed before 1862, it was owned in 1870 by George Weeden, proprietor of the nearby Knowles mill.
44. John T. Barber House (1860s): Modest 2½-story, end-gable dwelling, with bracketed eaves and doorway lintel. The structure has been clad in asbestos shingles, and a 1-story side wing been raised to two stories. John T. Barber was the owner in 1895. The property also contains several Late Victorian, flank-gable, shingled barns and other outbuildings.

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45. House (1850s): Plain-trimmed, 2½-story, end-gable, vernacular Greek Revival dwelling, with a 1-story side wing containing the entrance. Now clad in aluminum siding, the structure was owned in 1870 by A. Turton.

46. House (c. 1880): This 2½-story, end-gable, Late Victorian dwelling was owned in 1895 by Martin G. Parks. Now clad in asbestos siding, it has a hooded entrance and 1-story side wing.

47. House (c. 1830s-1840s): This 1½-story, flank-gable, center-entrance structure, built perhaps in the 1830s or 1840s, has been transformed in the 20th century by the addition of a porch across the entire front and the covering of the wall surfaces with stucco.

48. Store (mid-19th century): Shown in the 1870 map as a store, this unpretentious 2-story, flank-gable structure, standing on a high stone foundation, was erected before 1862. A plain-trimmed structure whose walls are now shingled, it is now used as a residence.

49. House (between 1862 and 1870): This is a shingled 2½-story, end-gable structure, possessing raking cornices without returns. In 1870 it was owned by William C. Lamphear, a grocery and dry-goods dealer.

50. John T. Knowles House (c. 1834): A flank-gable structure whose single-story facade features a plain-framed entrance with transom lights. The land slopes downward so that the back, fronting on what is today the street, is two stories in height. In July, 1833, Knowles purchased from Jesse Babcock a tract of land and within the next year, erected a textile mill and probably this house. In 1850 Elisha Faxson and George Weeden purchased the entire complex, and in the following year Weeden bought out Faxson. Weeden used a part of the house as a store at least into the 1870s.

51. Carmichael Manufacturing Company Mill (1885): Located near the site of the Knowles textile mill of 1834 which burned in 1884, the Carmichael Mill is a 2½-story, gabled structure with a somewhat later 2-story, shed-roofed addition. The Carmichael firm used the mill for the manufacture of woolen and "mixed goods." In 1899 the firm leased the structure to the Shannock Narrow Fabrics Company, which soon added the shed-roof section and installed silk weaving machinery. The building is now used only for storage and is in deteriorated condition.

52. Dam (19th century): This low stone structure, which follows the crest of the lower Shannock falls, was probably erected by John T. Knowles in the 1830s or 1840s.

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53. Power House (early 20th century): This modest, shed-roofed brick structure contained the water-powered turbine which generated electricity for operating the Carmichael mill.
54. George Carmichael estate, "River View": Dramatically sited on a hilltop overlooking the Carmichael mill, the estate of George Carmichael, Jr., contains two houses and two other structures. The Carmichael house (A) is a large, 2½-story, cross-gable structure with bay windows and pseudo-Swiss vertical-board gable and eaves trim. Several Colonial Revival additions were made in 1896. A brick chimney now mars the front wall. Carmichael and his brother Alexander were the founders of A. Carmichael & Company, a cotton and woolen goods manufacturing firm which owned three plants in Connecticut and Rhode Island. George Carmichael was the superintendent of the Shannock Mill. The complex also contains a gabled carriage house (B) with board and batten siding and the former Carmichael recreation house (C), another low, gabled outbuilding; both reflect the styling of the main house. Directly behind the Carmichael house and facing southeast is a small and much altered, 1½-story, flank-gable dwelling (D). Probably originally constructed c. 1720 as a modest cottage with a stone chimney at one end and a smaller wing beyond it, the house was enlarged at the south end in the 18th century. In the 20th century, the north wing has been shortened and the structure been extensively remodeled. The walls have been reshingled and Early American architrave door and window trim been installed.
55. Former grocery store (1920s): This false-fronted, 1-story, end-gable, weatherboarded structure now contains the Bits 'N Pieces Thrift Shop and the Shannock Stove Store.
56. Shannock Spa and Post Office (early 20th century): A plain, end-gable, 1-story structure, with a low side wing. The former freight station -- a 1½-story, flank-gable building with a widely projecting roof and vertical-board sides -- which once stood near the Columbia Narrow Fabrics Company plant, has been attached to the rear of the Spa.
- 57-58. Houses (1920s): Two square, two-story, hip-roof dwellings, with enclosed front porches. The walls of Number 58 retain their original shingling, while those of 57 are covered with aluminum siding.
59. Shannock Falls Battle Marker (1936): This simple stone shaft commemorates a 1636 battle won by the local Narragansett Indians over the Pequots for possession of the fishing rights at the falls.

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60. Mechanics' Hall (early 20th century): A 2½-story, flanking-gable, clapboarded structure; its off-center door is now sheltered by a closed porch. An outside stair is set at the west end. Mechanics' Hall was a social center for Shannock's mill workers; it has been converted into apartments.

Inventory of Non-Contributing Structures

26. House (1982): Small, wood-frame cottage.

61. Richmond-Charlestown Volunteer Fire Association Fire House (c. 1960s): A flat-roofed, 1-story, cinder block structure, fronted by a paved apron.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Shannock is notable in Rhode Island as a well preserved, small, nineteenth and early twentieth century mill village which retains in large measure the structures and other manmade features -- such as mills, housing, stores, public buildings, dams, and walls and fences -- of its period of ascendancy. It is locally significant for its more than two-century long history of milling and manufacturing activity. A whole greater than the sum of its parts, Shannock's architecture possesses local importance in that it typifies mid- and late nineteenth-century country building in Rhode Island.

Shannock owes its existence to the upper and lower Shannock falls on the Pawcatuck River. The mills and factories established near them led to the development of two small hamlets which coalesced into a single village in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, several saw-, grist-, and woolen mills were set up; these were small operations, serving only the local area. Shannock's first mills appear to have been saw- and grist-mills at the upper falls on the Richmond side. Both existed before 1759, when they were willed by Jeffrey Wilcox to his son Abraham, and may have been in use in the 1730s. Joshua Clarke bought the two mills in 1771 and soon added a woolen mill nearby. A son, Perry Clarke (1780-1835), continued to operate the mills following Joshua's death in 1796.

Other early mills nearby included a sawmill erected before 1815 on the Charlestown side of the upper falls and a gristmill at the lower falls on the Richmond side, established probably before the end of the eighteenth century. The latter, operated by Jesse Babcock in 1828, had disappeared by 1833. None of these early mills have survived.

The real growth of manufacturing in Shannock took place with the construction of the New York, Providence and Boston Railroad through the area in 1837. The railroad, which became part of the "Shore Line" from New York to Boston in 1858 (and remains on the Boston-New York main line), passed through the village, permitting the economical shipment of raw materials and finished goods.

Shannock's first factory was a cotton and woolen mill established on the Richmond side of the lower falls in 1834 by John T. Knowles. Knowles' mills, subsequently enlarged by George Weeden and sold in 1875 to A. Carmichael & Co., burned in 1884. This cotton and woolen goods manufacturing firm, renamed in 1881 the Carmichael Manufacturing Co., built the present frame factory on the same site in 1885 (map No. 51, photo 8).

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The railroad also brought prosperity to the hamlet at the upper falls, encouraging the establishment of textile mills on both sides of the river. A linsey goods factory was built in 1845 by John T. and Jirah Knowles on the Charlestown side. It was bought by Samuel A. Hoxsie in 1848 and converted into a cotton mill, but burned eight years later.

On the Richmond side, Perry Clarke's sons Charles Clarke (1818-1870) and Simeon P. Clark (1820-1887) in 1848 established the beginnings of the factory complex which still dominates the village. The Clarks constructed a large stone mill and nearby, five mill houses and a store. (Map Nos. 14, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30; photos 1, 2, 5, 6, 7). The factory, at first leased to a thread manufacturer, was taken over in 1858 by the brothers for the manufacture of cotton yarn. Following Charles' death in 1870, Simeon P. Clark ran the mills himself until 1876, when his son George H. Clark (1847-1924) became a partner; George bought Simeon's interest in 1885. In the late nineteenth century Simeon P. and George H. Clark gradually added to the mill and mill housing complex and also acquired other Shannock lands and buildings; by 1900 the Clarks owned the largest part of the village.

In 1901 George H. Clark, his son George P. Clark, and Samuel Ward of Providence founded the Columbia Narrow Fabrics Company, Inc. The following year the firm began the manufacture of silk and elastic webbing in the stone mill. A large brick addition was constructed in 1916. The company also leased and then in 1916 purchased the Carmichael mill for the manufacture of silk goods.

Under the paternalistic rule of George H. and George P. Clark, Shannock continued to thrive in the twentieth century. In 1964, however, the Clarks sold their Shannock holdings, including the mills, and in 1968 the Columbia Narrow Fabrics plant closed. Since that time the two mills have been idle. Unlike other company towns in which the company housing and other properties were sold separately following the firm's dissolution, the Clark properties remain a single unit today and Shannock residents continue for the most part to be renters.

Shannock is also important because of its architecture. The village's dwellings, taken as a whole, typify and epitomize the housing types and exterior treatments to be found in rural Rhode Island in the mid- and late nineteenth century, conservative in nature, eschewing the unfamiliar in either form or decoration.

Many of the earliest homes, such as the c. 1834 John T. Knowles house and the mid-century Samuel A. Hoxsie and Jonathan Tucker, Jr., dwellings, and even some later nineteenth-century homes such as the 1870s Hoxsie house (photo 10) -- one of the village's largest -- follow the flank-

(See Continuation Sheet #11)

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gable, center-entrance format in common use in Rhode Island since the seventeenth century.

End-gable structures are also common in Shannock. First appearing in numbers in the 1820s and 1830s as a by-product of the Classical and Greek Revivals, the boxy, end-gable house remained popular statewide to the end of the nineteenth century. Shannock's earliest and most handsome examples are the Greek Revival dwellings of Simeon P. Clark and Charles Clarke (photo 5). Most often, as in the c. 1850 Charles Clarke and c. 1878 George H. Clark houses, the side-hall plan was used, but the Simeon P. Clark residence, Shannock's largest dwelling, is of the central-hall type.

A third type of nineteenth-century housing typical both of Rhode Island in general and Shannock in particular is the mill house. The village's earliest mill houses are the Clark's c. 1848 double-unit, flank-gable dwellings (photo 7).

In their exterior treatment, Shannock's dwellings also exemplify the conservative character of Rhode Island nineteenth-century country architecture. The Clark mill houses and store and other c. 1850 village buildings possess thin molded cornices with returns -- a long since out-of-date vestige of Federal styling. The front entrance of the c. 1834 Knowles house even has the rectangular, multi-light transom characteristic of houses of the mid- and late eighteenth century.

Shannock's late nineteenth-century dwellings were for the most part designed in a vernacular derivation from the Greek Revival. The Victorian styles made little impact; sometimes bracketing or a door hood was added or an elaborate porch attached to an otherwise plain building (photo 10), but more often a house's principal stylistic reference was to be seen in its simple raking cornice. Structures possessing such classically inspired raking cornices without returns proliferated throughout Rhode Island in the latter half of the nineteenth century; Shannock has over a dozen (photo 9).

Just as Shannock's modest clapboard and shingle dwellings are typical of nineteenth-century Rhode Island country housing, Shannock itself is typical of the numerous mill villages which once dotted the Rhode Island countryside. Unlike many other less fortunate villages, however, Shannock has preserved not only its historically important buildings and sites, but its nineteenth-century, rural character as well.

Although no program of field testing has been undertaken to evaluate archaeological resources, the district must have considerable potential for significant categories of this information. The early mill

(See Continuation Sheet #12)

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sites and their associated domestic sites represent in the archaeological record a very important sequence in the evolution and development of the later nineteenth century village. Moreover, it is only reasonable to expect that existing and future scholars may expect to find important categories of data well preserved in association with surviving structures, both industrial and residential.

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and nearby buildings linked to the mills by historical association, physical proximity, or visual compatibility.

The district boundary begins in Charlestown at the southeast corner of lot 156, plat 28, follows the east line of lot 156 and lot 157 to a point opposite the northwest corner of lot 165; the boundary crosses Main Street and follows the north line of lot 165 to its northeast corner; from that corner the boundary follows a line drawn as a continuation of the east line of lot 165 across lot 164 to the middle of the Pawcatuck River (the town boundary). The line continues along the center of the river to a point opposite the east corner of lot 31, plat 10D in Richmond, along a line drawn as a continuation (north & south) of the northeast boundary of lot 31, to and around a stone wall on lot 32; then in a line drawn from the stone wall to the northeast corner of lot 33; then along the north line of lot 33, across North Shannock Road, along the north line of lot 35 to the point where that line meets the eastern line of lot 45. From that point the line follows the east line of lot 45 until it meets the southern side of a private road; from there the boundary follows a line drawn across lot 45 to its western line, south along the west line of lot 45, east along the south line of lot 45, south along the east lines of lots 35, 35-6, 35-4, and 35-3. From there, the line travels west along the north lines of lots 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 43 to the northwest corner of lot 43; then north along the east line of lot 44, west along the north line of lot 44, and south along the east line of lot 44, across Main Street to southern curblines; then along that curblines to the town boundary at the center of the Pawcatuck River.

From that point the boundary passes west along the center of the river to north corner of lot 112, plat 28 in Charlestown, along the west lines of lot 112, across Shannock Road to the south curblines of the road; then southwest along that curblines to a point 100' southwest of the southern gate post of the driveway on lot 113; then south along a line drawn parallel to that drive for 1000'; then, at a right angle to the course of 1000' line to the center of the Pawcatuck River; then east along the center of the river to the railroad right-of-way, west along the north lines of lots 138 and 155, then north to the southeast corner of lot 156, to the point of beginning.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(See Continuation Sheet #13)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 56

Quadrangle name Carolina, R.I.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A 

1	9	2	7	8	8	0	4	5	9	1	6	6	0
Zone			Easting			Northing							

B 

1	9	2	7	9	9	2	0	4	5	9	2	0	1	0
Zone			Easting			Northing								

C 

1	9	2	7	9	3	8	0	4	5	9	1	9	8	0
Zone			Easting			Northing								

D 

1	9	2	7	9	3	2	0	4	5	9	1	1	4	0
Zone			Easting			Northing								

E 

Zone			Easting			Northing								

F 

Zone			Easting			Northing								

G 

Zone			Easting			Northing								

H 

Zone			Easting			Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The boundary was drawn to include the Clarke and Carmichael Mills, surviving elements of the water systems associated with these mills,  
(See Continuation Sheet #14)

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert O. Christensen, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission date November 1978/Revised June 19

street & number 150 Benefit Street telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

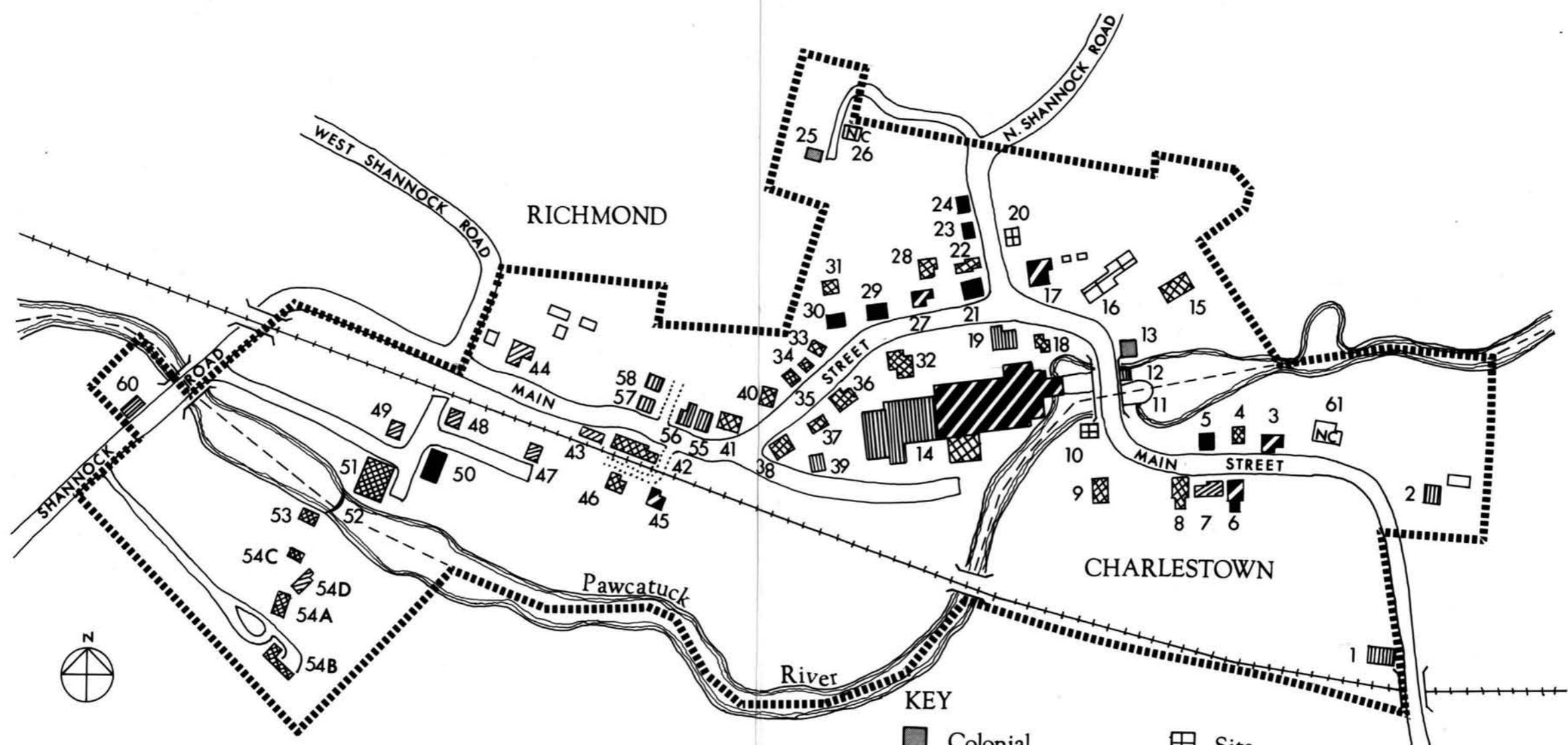
national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Frank C. Williamson

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 24 June 1983

<p><b>For NPS use only</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register</p>	<p>date</p>
<p>Keeper of the National Register</p>	<p>date</p>
<p>Attest:</p>	<p>date</p>
<p>Chief of Registration</p>	



Shannock Historic District  
 Charlestown and Richmond,  
 Rhode Island

SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE  
 RI HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMM. 1983

- KEY
- Colonial
  - Federal
  - ▨ Greek Revival
  - ▧ Early Victorian
  - ▩ Late Victorian
  - ▨ Early Twentieth Century
  - Site
  - ⊠ Non-contributing
  - Outbuilding
  - - - Town boundary



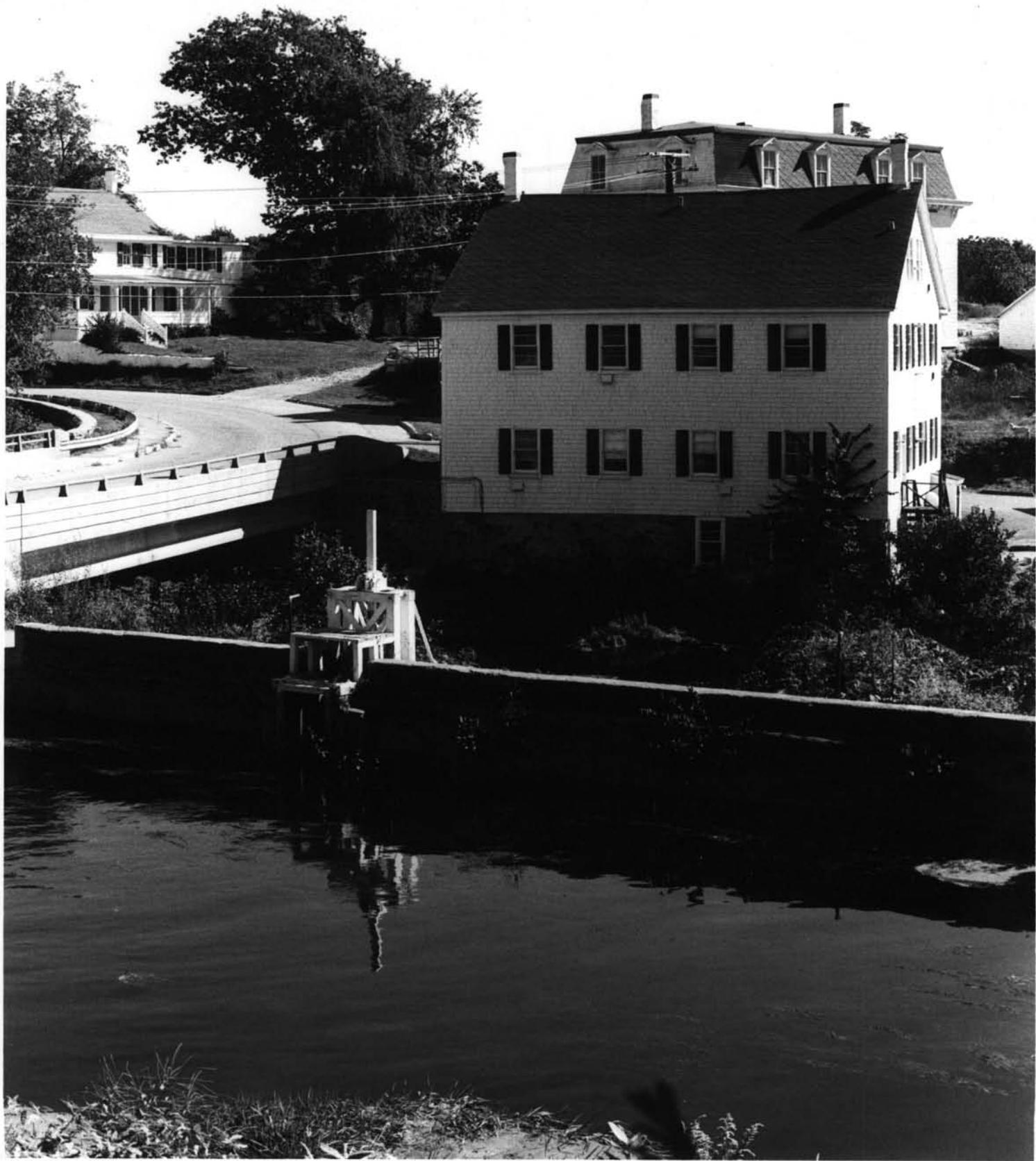
















































4311660  
 4592010  
 4591980  
 4591140

Shannock Historic District  
 Charlestown and Richmond, RI  
 UTM:

A	19	278880	4591660
B	19	279920	4592010
C	19	279380	4591980
D	19	279320	4591140

4594  
 4593  
 27°30'  
 4592  
 WEST KINGSTON 5.5 MI  
 KINGSTON 7.2 MI  
 4591  
 TONJ  
 6666 / NE

