

# Historic and Architectural Resources of North Smithfield, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT

TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD

SEPTEMBER, 1980

This document is a copy of the original survey published in 1980.  
It has not been corrected or updated.

Since the original publication:

- >additional properties have been entered on the National Register;
- >some financial incentives referred to in these pages are no longer available;
- >some new financial incentives are available.

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The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission is your state agency for historical preservation. The Commission identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, landscapes, structures, and archaeological sites throughout the State of Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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## PREFACE

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, established by the General Assembly in 1968, is charged with the responsibility of safeguarding Rhode Island's cultural heritage. In order to provide an overview of the physical record of this heritage, the Commission has initiated a "broadbrush" or preliminary planning survey of the rural and suburban towns of the state. The purpose of this initial inventory is to identify and record properties of historic and architectural significance in each town. Presently, archeological resources are treated through a separate survey effort being conducted by the Commission. The preliminary surveys are designed to provide a catalog of nonrenewable cultural resources. This information is needed for a variety of planning purposes at the local, state, and national levels. It identifies sites, districts, and structures eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and it becomes a basis for preservation planning.

The preliminary surveys are accomplished by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on United States Geological Survey maps enlarged to twice normal scale (or other maps that may be more appropriate) each building or site of particular architectural, visual, cultural, or historic significance. Each property is photographed and recorded on a standard data sheet which includes a physical description and notations concerning history, use, condition, and architectural style or period. The significance of each property is evaluated in a preliminary fashion and properties are designated as being in one of three categories: properties already on, or approved at the State Review Board level, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; properties recommended at the staff level for nomination to the Register; and other significant properties, some of which, with further study and review, may be determined to be eligible for the Register. Known archeological sites are mentioned only incidentally in these studies to provide historical context. In the present study of the town of North Smithfield, no Native American archeological sites are noted as none have been recorded.

In preparation for a Commission preliminary historical and architectural survey, the staff reviews all existing studies, town histories, reports, and other readily available information to ensure that published historic sites and structures are included. In addition, planners, historical societies, and knowledgeable residents are consulted wherever possible.

Upon completion of the survey, finished maps are developed and a brief report written. The result is a preliminary document--useful until a full-scale, intensive, cultural-resource survey of the community can be completed. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission intends to conduct such intensive surveys as soon as funds and staffing are available.

## INTRODUCTION

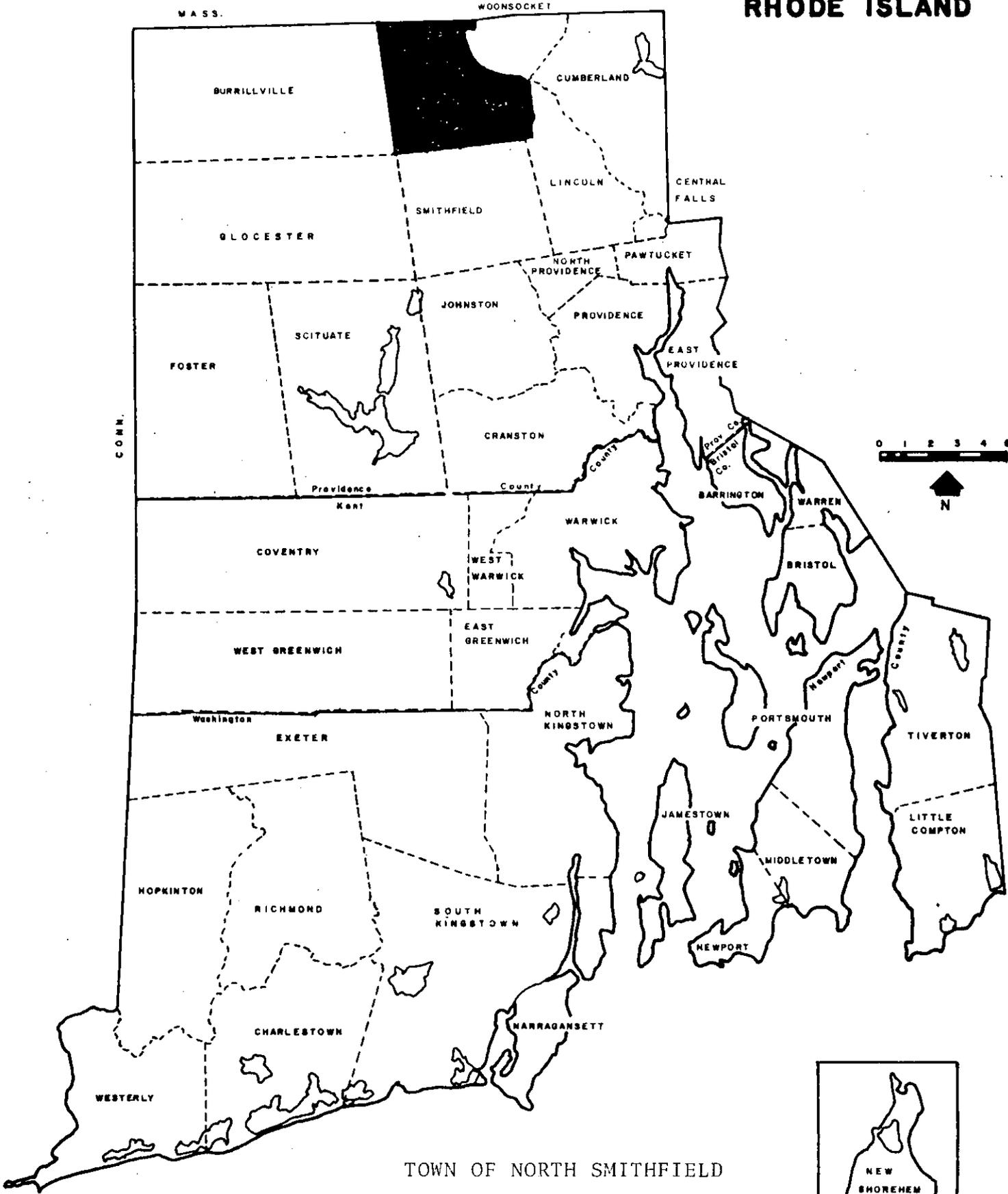
The following preliminary study covers the historical and architectural resources of North Smithfield. The report includes a short, illustrated account of North Smithfield's architectural and developmental history in Section I. Section II is a comprehensive list of properties in the town already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, followed by those approved by the Rhode Island Review Board for the Register and those recommended for nomination to the National Register as a result of this preliminary survey. Section III is an annotated inventory of properties of historical and architectural importance in the town. The Inventory numbers are keyed to the small-scale locational map at the rear of this publication. For more precise information on the location of properties, reference should be made to the large-scale, preliminary, cultural-resource survey map prepared by the Historical Preservation Commission and drawn at a scale of one inch to one thousand feet. This large-scale map is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the North Smithfield Town Hall; copies have also been deposited with the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning, and the Department of Community Affairs.

The Commission would like to thank the many officials, residents, and scholars who assisted in the conduct of the preliminary survey and in the publication of this report. In particular, the Commission would like to thank George Harvey, Mary Mowry, Ellen Rosebrock, Pamela Kennedy, and all the many people who provided information which was originally used in The History of North Smithfield, upon which this report is based.

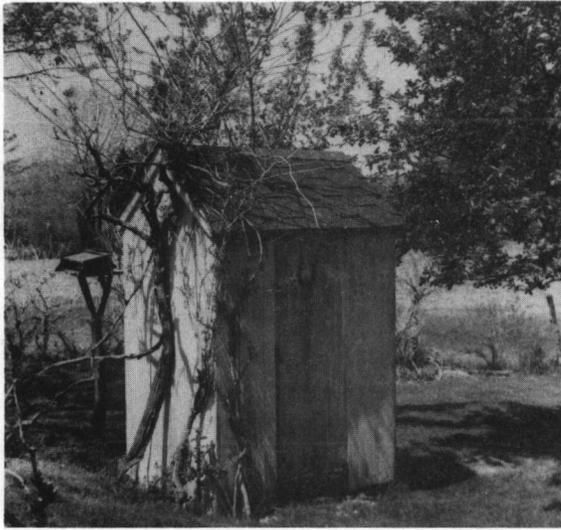
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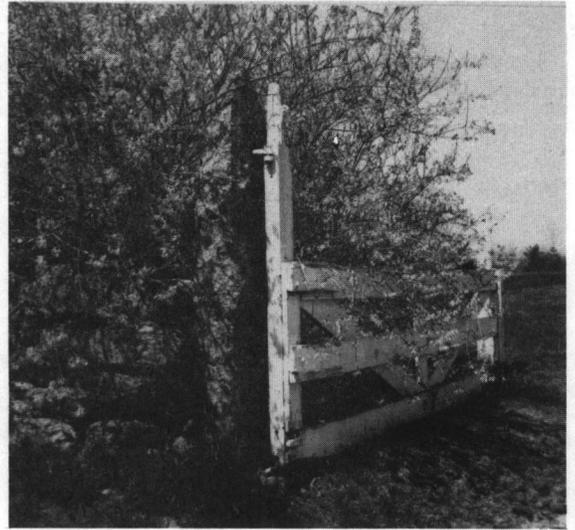
# RHODE ISLAND



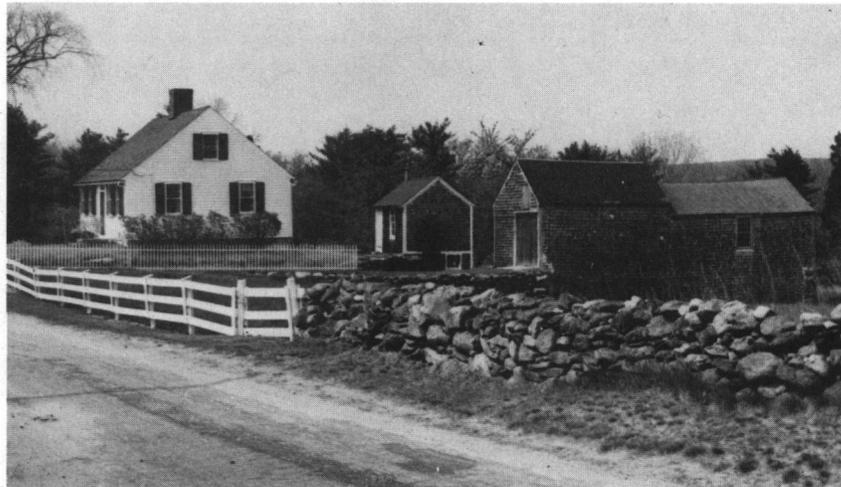
TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD



Privy on N. Baker Farm: Grange Road Historic District. (#3-F)



Gate at Grayson Phillips Farm: Grange Road Historic District. (#3-E)



Grange Road at N. Baker Farm: Grange Road Historic District. (#3-A, 3-F)



Entrance to Smith Farm: Providence Pike. (#92)

## I. ANALYSIS

### OVERVIEW

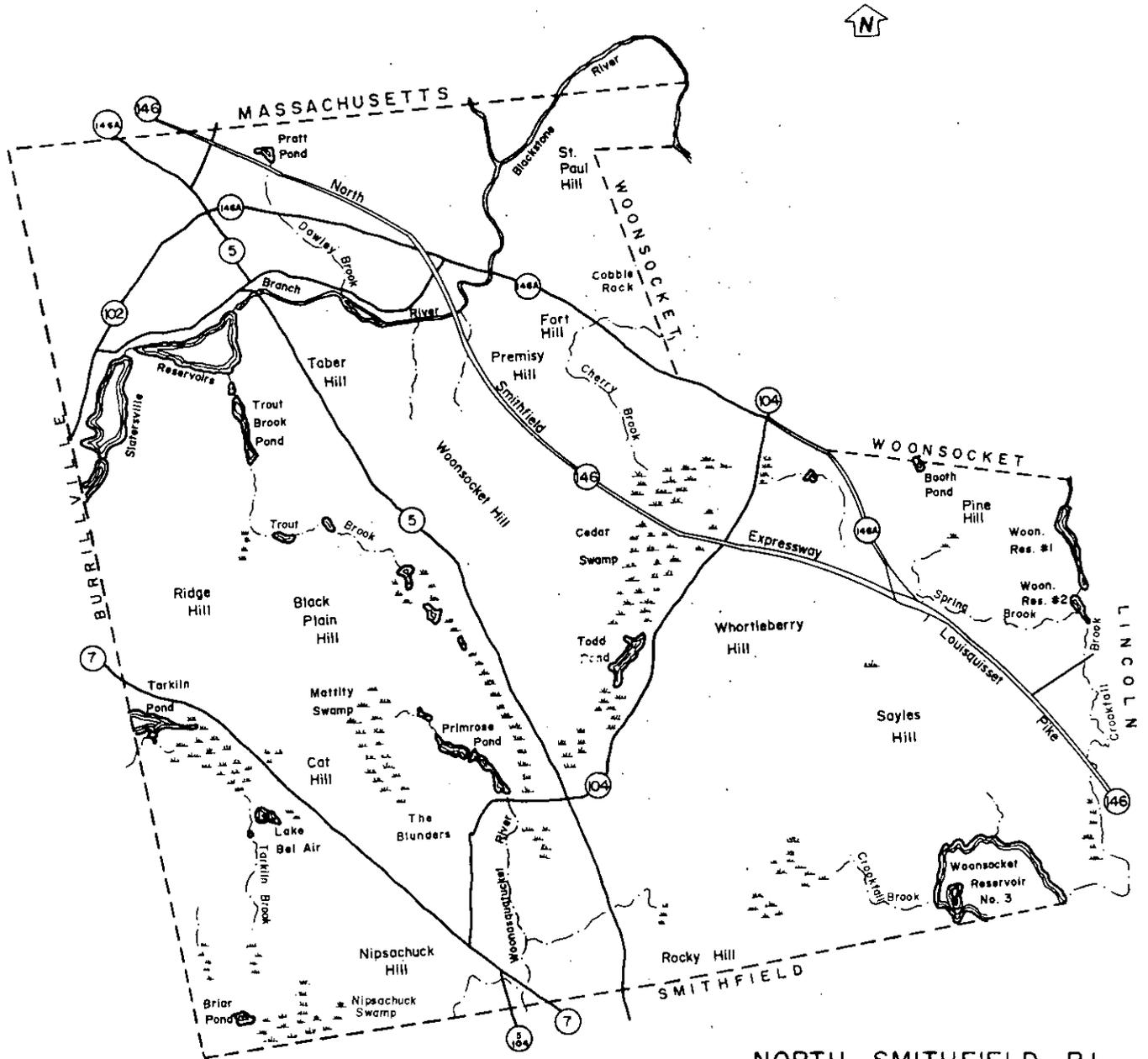
Colonists moving out from Rhode Island's earliest European settlement at Providence settled in what is now North Smithfield in 1666. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the town experienced intense agricultural development, and in the nineteenth century considerable industrial development occurred along the Branch and Blackstone rivers which included the creation of several mill villages. Originally part of the Town of Providence, in 1731 what is now North Smithfield was set off as part of the Town of Smithfield. In 1871 it became a separate town, as we know it today. The rapid growth of nearby Woonsocket, the coming of the automobile age, increasing affluence, and twentieth-century highway improvements transformed the rural areas into suburbia. Today, North Smithfield is a composite of mill villages, recent suburban tracts, and the hilly forested area that comprises most of the town where houses are strung out along North Smithfield's many old roadways. Until recently, most North Smithfield residents gained their livelihood on the land or in the local mills; now, many work outside the town.

### LOCATION AND POPULATION

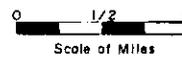
North Smithfield, in Providence County, is located along the state's northern border with Massachusetts--abutting the towns of Blackstone, Millville, and Uxbridge. In Rhode Island, North Smithfield is bounded by Burrillville on the west, Smithfield on the south, Lincoln on the southeast, and Woonsocket on the northeast. An irregularly shaped town of about 25.1 square miles, North Smithfield's estimated 1980 population of 11,000 gives an average population density of about 438 people per square mile, but this statistic is non-representative because the density is much greater in the northern part of town and near Woonsocket and much lower in its rural southern section.

### TRANSPORTATION

A network of numbered highways crisscrosses North Smithfield. The most important is Route 146. Known as the Eddie Dowling Highway and the North Smithfield Expressway, it is a section of the route connecting Providence with Worcester, Massachusetts. Part of the original Route 146--that section from Sayles Hill through Park Square, Union Village, and Branch Village to Slatersville--known in different sections as the Louisquisset Pike, Smithfield Road, and the Great Road became Route 146A when the North Smithfield Expressway was constructed in 1960. At Carpenter's Corner, north of Slatersville, Route 146A meets Route 102, the Victory Highway; here, Route 146A turns north to rejoin Route 146 in Massachusetts, while the Victory Highway runs southwesterly into Burrillville. Route 7, the



NORTH SMITHFIELD, R.I.  
 PHYSICAL FEATURES  
 SEPTEMBER, 1980



Douglas Pike, an early nineteenth-century turnpike route connecting Providence and Douglas, Massachusetts, traverses the southwestern corner of town. Routes 5 and 104 run together northward into the town from Smithfield. At Sheldon's Corner, Route 5 continues generally northwesterly to Slatersville as the Providence Pike, while Route 104 takes a northeast direction to Woonsocket as the Farnum Pike, or the Greenville Road. An express route, the Industrial Highway, was built connecting Route 146 at Pound Hill Road and the Slatersville Industrial Park in about 1975.

The Providence and Worcester Railroad passes through the northwest corner of town at Waterford, but, like the Conrail line from Woonsocket to the Slatersville Industrial Park, carries only freight. Bus service is available in North Smithfield, and one of the state's major airports, North Central State Airport, lies a short distance to the south in Smithfield.

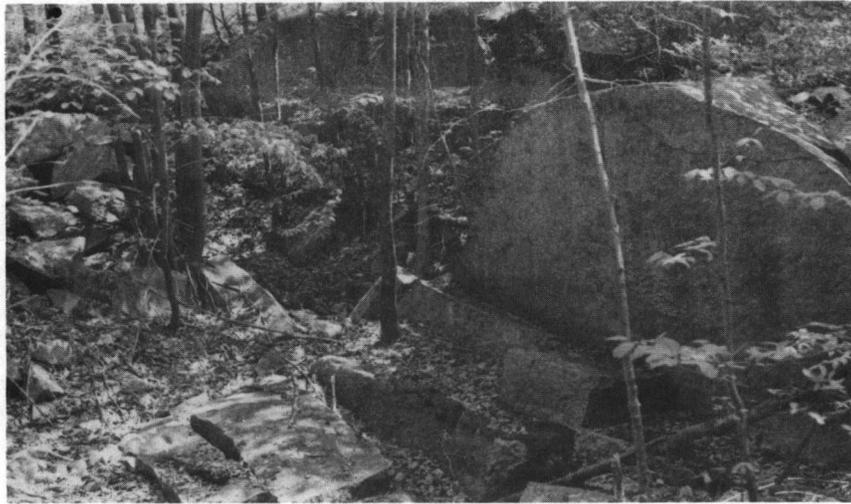
#### GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS\*

Located in the Upland section of New England, North Smithfield is underlain by old crystalline rocks, mostly granite. Formerly part of the more extensive Appalachian Mountain system, the land was worn down over millions of years of weathering and erosion.

In the recent geologic past, continental glaciers--vast ice sheets overriding the land--covered this area. The southward-moving ice mass carried large quantities of soil and boulders which were deposited indiscriminantly over the land when the ice sheet melted about 11,000 years ago. The unsorted material deposited, a mixture of soil and rocks, is known to geologists as till. In places where large ice blocks were left standing on the land, then covered up with material deposited by glacial meltwaters, a feature known as kame-and-kettle topography resulted. This kame-and-kettle landform is well exemplified in the Nipsachuck area (11)\*\*. Rivers flowing under the ice sheets also laid down material in a linear pattern, which, as relatively sharp-topped ridges, is known as eskers. There is a well developed esker at Nipsachuck (#11). Other glacial deposits were sorted out by the action of running waters--the material deposited ranging from coarsely sorted pebbly mixtures to fine sand and clay. Large sandy areas along former glacial lakes are known as kame terraces. Large boulders that were carried here from elsewhere and left perched on the land, resting on bedrock of another material, are known as glacial erratics. Cobble Rock (#65), a well known boulder, is a

\*Refer to map of physical features following page iv for locations.

\*\*Numbers in parentheses refer to the Inventory (Section III) and to the map of cultural resources following page 65.



Former Granite Quarry: Woonsocket Reservoir  
Number 3 Natural and Historic Area. (#12)



Sheep Fence: Woonsocket Reservoir Number 3  
Natural and Historic Area. (#12)



Sawmill, John Durrans Farm: Grange Road  
Historic District. (#3-B)

glacial erratic. Glacial deposits also blocked pre-existing watercourses, resulting in many swampy areas--Cedar, Mattity, and Nipsachuck swamps being the largest. Smaller swampy areas occur along all the town's brooks.

The long period of erosion and the scouring effect of the glacier as it moved south resulted in very irregular topography with smooth hilltops. North Smithfield is a hilly town. Woonsocket Hill, near the center of town, is a steep-sided, well defined hill. Attaining an elevation of 586 feet it is the highest in town. Nipsachuck and Wortleberry hills also rise above 500 feet; Black Plain, Sayles, and Taber hills are over 400 feet, and Cat, Ridge, and Pine hills are above 300 feet. These hills dispersed in an irregular pattern, provide for a diversified scenic topography, but the rugged slopes and rock outcrops have acted as a deterrent to settlement. The largely forested rural part of North Smithfield, away from the roads, is sparsely populated. Most people live in the northern part of town, largely in the valley of the Branch River, and in Union Village, which is contiguous to Woonsocket.

The south-flowing Woonasquatucket River begins in the southwest corner of town, but most of North Smithfield lies within the watershed of the Blackstone River. The Blackstone, Rhode Island's largest river, flows through a small part of the northeast corner of town, where it receives the Branch River waters. Tarkiln, Trout, and Dawley brooks empty into the Branch River, a major tributary of the Blackstone. Cherry Brook and Crookfall Brook (with its tributary, Spring Brook) flow north into the Blackstone. Crookfall Brook forms the eastern boundary with Lincoln. The brooks were an important part of North Smithfield's early industrial development, supplying power for sawmills and gristmills. The Branch River, also the scene of early industrial activity, became the most important waterway in industrial terms, for it powered the great mills at Slatersville, Forestdale, and Branch Village.

Originally forested, then largely cleared for farms during the eighteenth century, much of North Smithfield has reverted to forest. Parts of the town are still uninhabited. Many of the areas still in a natural state have associations with human events and activities and are included in this report.

#### NATIVE AMERICANS

Northern Rhode Island, before European settlement, was the territory of three Algonquin tribes. The Narragansetts, whose principal settlements were in the southern part of the state, were the most powerful tribe in Rhode Island. The northeastern part of present Rhode Island, including North Smithfield, was the western edge of the territory of the Wampanoags, an important tribe which was well established in southeastern Massachusetts and along the eastern shores of Narragansett Bay. They also exerted control over the Nipmucs, an insignificant group which occupied the northwestern part of Rhode Island and much of Worcester County. These Indians hunted,

fished, gathered nuts and other forest products, and probably planted some crops in clearings in the woods. Several references to Indians which appear in old deeds mention "Indian fields" and "Indian grounds," and these often in connection with boundaries of land purchased by early white settlers. There were some Indian settlements nearby, including Douglas and Uxbridge, Massachusetts, but there is little evidence that these semi-migratory people were well established in North Smithfield. Settlements were most likely temporary, based on the seasonal patterns dictated by nature. The Native American use of the land was a major aspect of the cultural history of the community. From evidence gathered, along the Branch River in the way of artifacts--an axe head, a hand spear, hide scrapers, and arrow heads--it is apparent that the Indians were quite familiar with that river valley; and the discovery of a stone pot, or basin, near Cherry Brook, south of Union Village, suggests that the smaller waterways were also used by the Indians. However, little professional archeological investigation has been done in the town; consequently, accurate knowledge of the life of North Smithfield's earliest inhabitants is sketchy at best.

## THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

### Settling the Land

The initial settlement of Rhode Island was made at the head of Narragansett Bay in 1636. Gradually, the Providence proprietors added to their lands, in 1661 acquiring a tract at Louisquisset (today's Lime Rock) which extended to the vicinity of Crookfall Brook. In May, 1666, William Minnian, "of Punkkupage," in Massachusetts Bay, deeded about 2000 acres in present North Smithfield to John Mowry and Edward Inman. Although not mentioned in the deed, Nathaniel Mowry, John's brother, was among the first settlers on Sayles Hill. The first division of lands in town, in 1668, included John Steere and Thomas Walling. Each proprietor received 300 acres of upland and swamps and six acres of meadow; the remainder of the undivided land remained as common land. In 1669, another 500 acres were sold to Edward Inman and heirs by William Minnian.

To the early settlers, meadows were important for livestock grazing and as a source of wood, principally cedar; several meadows, which we know today as swamps--Cedar (#9) and Mattity swamps (#10)--were used from the earliest days.

Members of the Arnold family of Providence were the first white settlers in and around Woonsocket, including today's Union Village area. Richard Arnold, a grandson of William Arnold (one of the original Providence proprietors), was granted property on Cherry

Brook, probably in what is now North Smithfield, in 1675. Richard Arnold, Jr., and Samuel Comstock, Richard Arnold's brother in law, settled in what is now Union Village before the end of the seventeenth century. Although they took possession of a great deal more land than they had been deeded their "squatter's rights" were legitimized in 1707 when the Providence proprietors granted them title to a large tract which included Union Village and land further west. These early settlers in the northern part of town were Quakers--members of the Society of Friends. The Society, formed in 1719, built a meetinghouse on the north side of Great Road, near Union Village, in 1721. Since 1871, the meetinghouse (which was burned in 1881 and immediately rebuilt) has been on the Woonsocket side of the highway, but historically this institution is very much a part of the early life of what is now North Smithfield.

By century's end, most of North Smithfield's land had been parceled out and the territory was part of the Town of Providence, which included most of today's Providence County. Settlement was slow at first, because only a few families located here initially and because of disagreements with the Indians which finally erupted into King Philip's War. The southwest corner of town, in the area known as Nipsachuck (#11), was the scene of two engagements between colonists and Indians, in August, 1675, and in July, 1676. In 1676, with the death of King Philip, the war was over and settlement proceeded uninterrupted thereafter. A road between Providence and Worcester, the Great Road, was laid out in the seventeenth century over Sayles Hill, the site of the town's first settlement, and continued northwesterly, passing through today's Union Village. Other roads and pathways were developed, crosscrossing the town. Settlers constructed sturdy, timber-framed houses with massive stone chimneys. The Blackmar-Wing House (#90), on Providence Pike, built about 1690, is one of the oldest extant houses in town, and still retains the appearance of an early farmhouse, but the contemporary Arnold House (the Peleg Arnold Tavern, #6-P) in Union Village was later enlarged and no longer resembles its seventeenth-century antecedent. Another early house, the Malavery House (#36) on Grange Road, reveals its early age in a massive stone chimney, a chamfered summer beam, and other construction features.



Old Sayles Hill Historic Roadway: Old Sayles Hill Road. (#73)



Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm (c. 1740 et seq):  
670 Farnum Pike. (Map #27)



Blackmar-Wing Farm (c. 1690 et seq): 2338  
Providence Pike (#91)

## THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

### Settlement

Colonial life in North Smithfield was agrarian. The population grew gradually and more and more land was cleared for fields, pastures and orchards. Farm families were essentially self-sufficient; food grown on the land supplied most of the needs of life. The simplicity of life in colonial North Smithfield is reflected in the buildings which survive from this period: solid, unadorned structures. A good number of eighteenth-century houses--typically two-and-a-half stories, with a large, brick, center chimney--remain, including the William Mowry House (#34), on Farnum Pike, the Mowry-Connolly house (#44) and another house (#45) on Iron Mine Hill Road, and Westacres (#55) on Louisquisset Pike. A number of one-and-a-half-story, eighteenth-century houses also survive; these include several in the Grange Road Historic District (#3); the Lapham House in Union Village (#6-N); and rarer, gambrel-roofed houses--one on Grange Road (#3-B), another at 1182 Pound Hill Road (#85).

### Highways

By the end of the eighteenth century, a well developed road network served the town residents. The principal highway remained the Great Road, which in 1741 was re-routed to go around Sayles Hill, instead of over it, along today's Smithfield Road. In 1774, milestones marking the distance from Providence were set at intervals along Great Road. Two of these old stones, the Peleg Arnold Milestone (#103) and the Caleb Aldrich marker (#51), can still be seen along the road and indicate that it was a major overland route in pre-Revolutionary days.

### Eighteenth-Century Taverns and a Renowned Tavern Keeper

Several taverns were licensed during the eighteenth century, the first in 1733 in what is now Union Village. Another Union Village tavern, started in 1739, later became the well known Peleg Arnold Tavern (#6-P), entered in the National Register of Historic Places. Several other taverns were licensed in other places. Peleg Arnold was one of the most colorful and important men in town. His tavern was used during the Revolutionary War years as a recruiting place and as a depository of arms for townspeople. Arnold was appointed Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of

the Second Battalion in the County of Providence. After the hostilities ended, he served as a delagate to the Continental Congress from 1786 to 1789 and was Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court and Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court.

#### Early Industry: Sawmills and Gristmills

Small, water-powered sawmills and gristmills serving a local neighborhood were necessary adjuncts to a rural agrarian economy, and North Smithfield, with its many fine water-power sites, contained several mills. Inman's Mills, mentioned in records as early as 1735, with a gristmill (and later, an iron works), may have been within the present town limits. A sawmill was set up along the Woonasquatucket River at today's Primrose Pond (#31) about 1780, and a sawmill along Cherry Brook (#27) was probably working in the eighteenth century. In 1795, Elisha Bartlett, who had manufactured iron at Inman's Mills, began the manufacture of scythes and other edge tools along the Branch River, at what later became Branch Village (#1). A sawmill and a gristmill were built sometime before 1800 along the Branch River at Buffum's Mills, the site of Slatersville. The earliest sawmills and gristmills serving North Smithfield, however, were those operated by the Arnold family at Woonsocket Falls; these mills were functioning by the 1890s.

#### THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The nineteenth century was a time of dramatic change in North Smithfield. While the eighteenth was a century of rural "tranquility" dominated by an agrarian existence, the early years of the nineteenth century ushered in a hustle and bustle of activity which transformed sleepy hamlets into busy and thriving villages.

#### Union Village

Along the Great Road, at the crossroads of this north-south route linking Providence and Worcester, and an east-west route connecting Boston and eastern Connecticut, a small community, with several houses and taverns, had developed in the early eighteenth century. Before 1800, the few houses and the Peleg Arnold Tavern stood here, strung out along the Great Road in what was then known as Woonsocket. Shortly after 1800, this village grew considerably. Walter Allen, a master builder, erected several large houses and the Seth Allen Tavern (6-F). This tavern and the George Allen Tavern (6-G) across the road were built in 1804 in response to increased traffic along the highways. In 1805, the Smithfield Union Bank (6-0) was incorporated. The first bank in northern Rhode Island, it gave its name to the village, first as Bank Village, and later, Union Village. In 1852, the bank business was moved to nearby Woonsocket Falls, and, later, the building itself was moved from Great Road to its present location on Pound Hill Road. In 1808, the Smithfield Academic Society was incorporated, and in 1810, a building for the Smithfield Academy was



Walter Allen House (1802): 138 Great Road, Union Village Historic District. (#6-I)



Jacob Morse House (c. 1851): 101 Great Road, Union Village Historic District. (#6-E)



Carriage House, Walter Allen House: 138 Great Road, Union Village Historic District. (#6-I)



Seth Allen Tavern (c. 1804): 120 Great Road, Union Village Historic District. (#6-F)

constructed. The academy, and the Linden Grove Seminary for Girls, took students until sometime about mid-century, when it closed. A number of fine, Federal houses were built along Great Road in what became North Smithfield's "Queen Village," including the 1802 Walter Allen House (6-I), the 1806 Stephen Brownell House (6-C), the 1810 Gray's Homestead (6-A), and the 1812 Dency Wilbur House (6-H). The Joel Aldrich House, the Walter Allen House, and the Daniel Arnold House (6-B) boast exceptionally fine entry porticoes. The Jacob Morse House (6-E), built in 1851 in the Bracketed style, was the last of the large, architecturally significant nineteenth-century dwellings built in Union Village. After mid-century, with the academies and bank gone, and the highway traffic reduced, largely because of the completion of the Providence and Worcester Railroad through Woonsocket, Union Village entered a period of dormancy. It remained a sleepy and secluded residential area and the stronghold of the town's Yankee community for the rest of the century.

### Industrial Transformation

While Union Village developed as a commercial, social, and educational center for the surrounding rural hinterland at its highway location, North Smithfield's other villages developed in response to the waterpower potential offered by the Branch and Blackstone rivers. Soon after the successful operation of the first cotton mill in America in nearby Pawtucket, in 1790, an industrial revolution stormed the entire state, converting sleepy hamlets into bustling and prosperous mill villages, and generating new communities where none had existed before. The growth of industry provided an alternative to the demands of farm life, which, combined with competition from western farmers (beginning with the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825), spelled the decline of agriculture as the major component of North Smithfield's economy. By mid-century, manufacturing was the most important economic force and continued thereafter to be the backbone of the town's economy. Several villages--Slatersville, Branch Village, Forestdale, and Waterford--developed around textile mills during the nineteenth century. Slatersville, the first industrial village in the state, was one of the first established in the entire country.

### Slatersville

Joseph Buffum, who, with his family owned much of what is now Slatersville, ran a farm, a sawmill, and a gristmill in the quiet hamlet then known as Buffum's Mills for many years around the turn of the nineteenth century. In 1805, William Almy and Obadiah Brown, as Almy & Brown, began buying land in and around Buffum's Mills with the intent of establishing a rural industrial village. In 1806, Samuel Slater, and his brother John, became partners with Almy & Brown, forming the new firm--Almy, Brown, & Slater. It was Samuel Slater who, as Almy & Brown's employee, had, in 1790, set up America's first successful textile mill in Pawtucket. The new mill, at the village Almy, Brown & Slater named Slatersville, was in operation in 1807. It was the first in Smithfield and only the fifteenth cotton mill then operating in the entire country. The self-contained village,



Commercial Blocks (1850 ; 1970):  
7-9 and 11-13 Main Street, Slaters-  
ville Historic District. (#4-L)



Slatersville Congregational Church  
(1838): Green Street, Slatersville  
Historic District. (#4-D)



John Slater House (c. 1810): 16 School Street,  
Slatersville Historic District. (#4-V)



Center Mill (1826): Railroad Street, Slaters-  
ville Mills Complex, Slatersville Historic  
District. (#4-T)

with a store and houses owned by the company, was one of the first factory villages in the United States; it remained in company ownership until the 1950s. In 1826, the original mill burned and was replaced by the present stone mill (4-T). Other factories were soon added, forming a large complex of stone mills along the Branch River and the mill trench which carried water to the mills. Mill houses were erected along Main Street (4-N), North Main Street (4-Q), and Green Street (4-C). A Congregational Church (4-D) was erected in 1838, and a pair of commercial blocks were built in the village center in mid-century. By the latter half of the century, a fine, double-arched, stone bridge (4-U) spanned the Branch River. It carried Slater's Turnpike, or the Branch Turnpike, into the village from Douglas Pike. Built in 1821, the Branch Turnpike, later known as the Providence Pike, improved access to the village from Providence.

A large influx of French-Canadian mill workers and their families settled in Slatersville after the Civil War, transforming it from the Yankee community it has always been. St. John's Roman Catholic Church (4-A) was built on Church Street in 1872 to serve the needs of the new families. Most of the mill workers' houses were typical Federal-era structures, whose basic architectural forms were a carry-over from the eighteenth century. They are simple, sturdy, functional dwellings. The mill managers, professionals, and businessmen built homes which naturally reflected more ample means, personal choice, and an awareness of up-to-date architectural tastes. The c. 1850 Dr. Elisha Bartlett House (4-B), at 2 Green Street, is noteworthy as the finest Greek Revival dwelling in North Smithfield; it occupies a prominent location in the center of the village. The c. 1885 Parkis House (4-R), at 177 North Main Street, is a handsome, Queen Anne house, built by the proprietor of the general store. The c. 1859 George Johnson House (4-X), at 30 School Street, an Italianate dwelling, was built by a general store proprietor. The gothic cottage (4-Y), at 49 School Street, built in 1855, was the caretaker's cottage on the old Slater estate. The Italianate house that Thomas Tefft designed for William Slater has been demolished.

Almy and Brown's Slatersville interests were sold after their deaths, and for the rest of the nineteenth century the village was owned by John Slater and his sons.

#### Branch Village

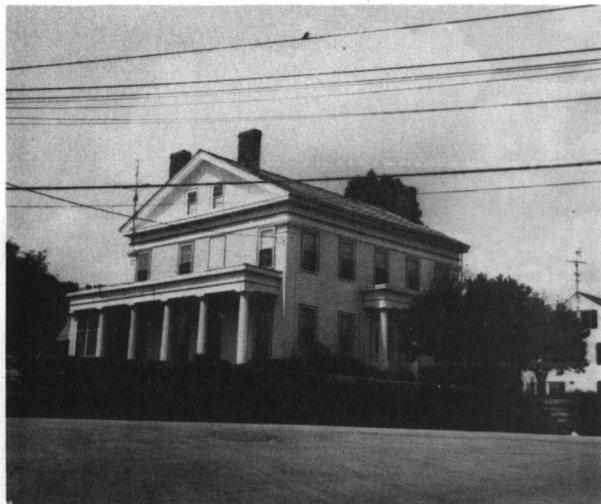
In 1805, after the death of Elisha Barlettt, Bartlett's scythe works was sold to a group which built a small cotton factory (1-F), at what became Branch Village. A few houses were built in the area, where the Great Road crosses the Branch River, but Branch Village (really a hamlet) remained a small and quiet community throughout the century.

#### Forestdale

At Forestdale, as at Branch Village, the first industry was a scythe manufactory along the Branch River. It was inaugurated in 1825. Forestdale remained a small place, shown on mid-nineteenth-century maps as



Federal Mill House: 20 School Street,  
Slatersville Historic District. (#4-W)



Dr. Elisha Bartlett House (c. 1850):  
2 Green Street, Slatersville  
Historic District. (#4-B)



Mill House (c. 1810-1820): 10  
Green Street, Slatersville  
Historic District. (#4-C)



J. H. Parkis House (c. 1885): 177-  
179 North Main Street, Slatersville  
Historic District. (#4-R)

Mansfield and Lamb's Scythe Works. Their business prospered, and in 1858, a handsome, brick-faced, rubblestone commercial block (#2-D) was erected on Main Street opposite the factory. The building still houses the Forestdale Post Office. In 1860, the scythe works employed 100 men turning out 168,000 scythes a year. In that same year, a large stone, cotton mill was erected next to the scythe works, and Forestdale grew. A row of Greek Revival houses (2-E) was built along Forestdale's Main Street near the mill, and another row of dwellings (2-A) went up on Main Street at the west end of the village. A Bracketed house for the cotton-mill superintendent (2-G) was built on an elevated site at 24 Maple Street. During the Civil War, Mansfield and Lamb manufactured 20,000 sabres for the Union army. In 1876, a one-room schoolhouse (2-F) was built at the east end of the village on land donated by the Forestdale Manufacturing Company. For the rest of the century, there were few additions to the village.

#### Waterford

Waterford, in the northeast corner of North Smithfield, was a wilderness while its Blackstone, Massachusetts, neighbor was prospering around its 1808 textile mills. In 1824, Welcome Farnum purchased about 150 acres of land in today's Waterford area and built a mill in 1825-1826 just across the Rhode Island line. Farnum built another mill in 1828, this one straddling the state line. In 1836, he began the construction of a brick factory in Rhode Island known as the Mammoth Mill because of its size; it was said to have been the largest mill in the United States at the time. The Blackstone Canal (7-A), completed in 1828, passes through Farnum's Waterford mill complex. A section of the canal is preserved but the Waterford mills are in ruin. Although several mill houses survive on Canal and Mill streets in North Smithfield, most of the Waterford mill houses were built on the Massachusetts side of the state line. St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church (7-D), on St. Paul Street, a stone, Gothic structure, was built in 1852 on land with money donated by Welcome Farnum to serve the mill workers recruited from Ireland.

#### Transportation

Nineteenth-century transportation improvements had a major impact on North Smithfield, helping to establish industries and promoting their growth. During the century, several important new, through highways were built, a canal was dug, and, late in the century, rail service was provided.

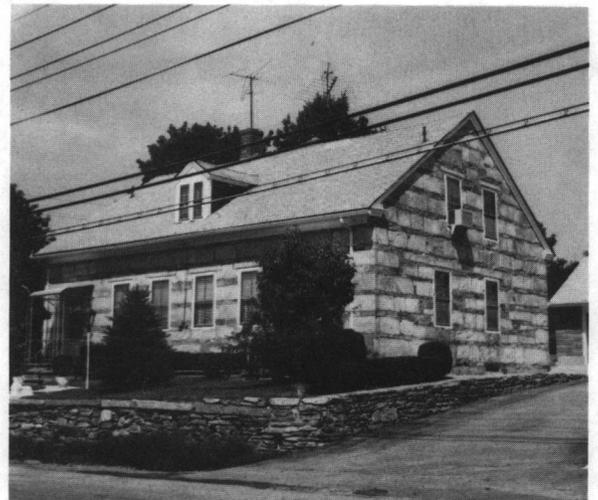
In 1805, the Providence and Douglas Turnpike Company was chartered, and a few years later the turnpike road was completed. Constructed during the heyday of turnpikes, this route connected Providence with Douglas, Massachusetts. The Douglas Pike ran through the agricultural hinterland, but a branch, known originally as Slater's, or the Branch Turnpike (today's Providence Pike), connected the Douglas Pike with Slatersville. It was important to Slatersville's growth.



Commercial Block (1858): Main Street,  
Forestdale Historic District. (#2-D)



Mill House (c. 1850): 39 Main  
Street, Forestdale Historic  
District. (#2-E)



Stone House (c. 1865): 21 Main  
Street, Forestdale Historic  
District. (#2-B)



Former Forestdale School (1877): Main Street,  
Forestdale Historic District. (#2-F)

In 1828, the ill-fated Blackstone Canal was completed. Part of it cut across the northeast corner of town, in Waterford. Although a failure as a transportation route between Providence and Worcester, canal waters helped power the large mill at Waterford, and did, for a time, provide improved bulk transport to Providence. Its value to Waterford manufacturers as a means of transportation was soon superceded by the Providence and Worcester Railroad, which ran through Waterford and Blackstone, Massachusetts.

During the latter part of the century, two railroads were constructed through North Smithfield. The Providence and Springfield Railroad ran its first passenger train, from Providence to Pascoag, in 1873. This route traversed the rural southwestern corner of town. The Primrose Station, built near Farnum Pike, gave its name to the neighborhood it served. Field's Station, near present Lake Bel Air, was named for a railroad stop; here, garbage was brought from the city to a large pig farm. The more densely populated northern part of town was not served by a railroad until 1892, when the Woonsocket Division of the New York and New England Railroad, commonly known as the "Airline," was completed from Woonsocket to Pascoag. Stations were established at Union Village, Forestdale, and Slatersville in North Smithfield. The line, which still exists as far as Slatersville, serves industries in Branch Village, Forestdale, and Slatersville.

A street railway, horse drawn at first, was established in 1890. Connecting Woonsocket with Union Village, Branch Village, Forestdale, and Slatersville, it brought an end to the stagecoach era. In 1902, the line was extended west to Harrisville, in Burrillville; soon after, it became an electric street railway, and provided service until the 1930s.

#### Education

A growing population produced the need for schools and other public institutions. For many years, educational needs were fulfilled in private homes and a few private schools, but it wasn't until after the state's Free School Law of 1828 that the town was prompted to build new schools and provide for free public education. The law, which provided for payments to the towns and for the appointment of school committees, was the foundation for the present school system. Eleven school districts were established in the North Smithfield part of what was then Smithfield. Centrally located in each district, the one-room schools served the neighborhood until the twentieth century. Most are now gone, but a few survive. The Forestdale School (2-F), built in 1876, was used as a school until 1974, when it became the headquarters for the North Smithfield Heritage Association. Several schools were converted into private residences, including a small house (#87) at the corner of Pound Hill Road and Providence Pike and a house (7-I) on St. Paul Street in the Waterford Historic District.



Mill Houses (c. 1827): Mill Street, Waterford Historic District. (#7-C)



St. Paul's School (1927) and St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church (1852): Saint Paul Street, Waterford Historic District. (#7-D, 7-E)



Former St. Paul Hill School: 97 St. Paul Street, Waterford Historic District. (#7-I)

## Agriculture and Quarrying

Although farming continued as the major way of life in the hinterland in the nineteenth century, agriculture experienced a gradual decline, which quickened toward century's end. The 1875 state census, the first that included North Smithfield as a separate political unit, recorded 191 farms and only 528 acres of cropland. Most land was in hay and pasture. Value of farm and forest products (\$130,000) was far overshadowed by the value of manufactured goods (\$676,509). Much farmland was reverting to forest. Traditional crops such as corn were still grown, but there was a reduction in livestock and more attention paid to fruit growing. Beginning in 1866, an annual agricultural fair was held at fairgrounds on the Woonsocket side of today's Park Square. In Primrose, a local grange organization, part of a much larger, nationwide group, was established. A grange hall (3-C)--still in use--was built in 1887 to serve the town's rural population on what became Grange Road.

In addition to farming, the land yielded other products. The forests supplied timber for fuel and lumber. Native bedrock produced whetstones of excellent quality at several sites, and a quarry on Woonsocket Hill contained a highly refractory stone used for hearth stones. Granite quarries in the southeastern part of town produced stone used for foundations, curbing, and paving. By the end of the century, several ponds were harvested for ice in winter; icehouses stood along the shores of both Todd's Pond and Crystal Lake (now Primrose Pond).

The first half of the nineteenth century was North Smithfield's formative period of growth of industry and social, commercial, educational, and religious institutions. Although the first decades of the century were essentially a carry-over of the eighteenth-century economy and culture, the establishment of textile mills and resultant growth of villages and population provided a great growth spurt. By mid-century, the mill villages were prospering, but Union Village had reverted to a sleepy hamlet. In the last half of the century, agriculture was in decline, as were some of the textile mills. The town's population, almost 2,000 in 1875, rose to 3,200 then dipped to 2,400 in 1900, but the lull was only temporary.

## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

### Industry

During the present century, North Smithfield has experienced several periods of substantial growth. Today, the town is radically different in economy, population, and appearance from what it was in 1900.

When the Blackstone, Massachusetts, tax assessors raised the taxes on the Blackstone Manufacturing Company mills about 1902 the company decided to relocate. It demolished its factory complex in Massachusetts and built



Andrews Tavern (1825): Old Great Road. (#72)



John Mansfield House (c. 1875): North Main Street.  
(#67)



D. B. Mowry House (c. 1860): Woonsocket Hill Road.  
(#108)

a large, new, brick factory (#13) just across the state line in the North Smithfield section of town in 1904. Twenty years later, the Branch River Woolcombing Company (#1-C) built a new factory and accompanying mill houses at Branch Village. In general, however, the early twentieth century was a period of serious decline for the New England textile industry, and North Smithfield firms suffered with the rest; at Waterford, the mills were demolished.

In the 1950s, the former Andrews Mill (#1-F) at Branch Village and the brick factory at Blackstone (#13) were purchased by Tupperware, a nationally known plastics manufacturer which today runs one of northern Rhode Island's largest industries. The woolcombing company ceased operating in 1973; the sprawling factory complex was transformed into an industrial "park" housing several firms. The Slatersville, purchased by Henry F. Kendall in 1915 and developed by him as a model of paternalistic industrial management, was sold piecemeal in the 1950s. For the first time, the village proper was not owned as a whole; most formerly company-owned houses were purchased by their residents. In the late 1950s, a new industrial park was established just south of Slatersville. The Forestdale Mill operated until the late 1970s. Its manufacturing at an end, it was scheduled for conversion to another use when a disastrous fire leveled the handsome stone structure in 1978.

#### The Pre-World War II Era

The automobile and modern-highway age were inaugurated in the early years of the century. Upgrading of old roads and construction of new highways, such as the Louisquisset Pike, had a profound effect on the town, affording people the means to find employment outside their own small community and also resulting in home construction in the rural areas by affluent people who liked the idea of "living in the country" but whose work was elsewhere. Many people emigrated to North Smithfield from neighboring Woonsocket. The town's population increased from 2,422 in 1900 to 4,196 in 1940.

In the early twentieth century, improved municipal facilities were needed. A town hall was built at Slatersville (#4-K) in 1921 and the era of the one-room school came to an end as new elementary schools were built, including Bushee School (#100) at Park Square and schools in Slatersville and Union Village. St. Paul's School (7-E), a Roman Catholic institution, was constructed in 1927 to serve the Blackstone-Waterford area. In 1941, Hospice St. Antoine (#64) on Mendon Road opened its doors to elderly parishoners of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence.

The suburban homes of the twentieth century reflect new architectural tastes. There is a Mission Style house (#33) along Farnum Pike, a bungelow (#101) on Smithfield Road, and a "Spanish Colonial" house (#38) and several neo-Colonial residences (#42) along Great Road in Union Village. The 1939 Frederic J. Brown House (#25) on Farnum Pike was said to have been designed after ideas borrowed from the 1939 New York World's Fair.

## The Postwar Years

Like so many other towns near urban centers, North Smithfield changed radically after World War II. Suburbanization was rampant. The independent life of the villages declined and the countryside was transformed by residential development. Population has more than doubled since 1940, and is today above 10,000. Suburban development has taken two forms--individually built houses strung out along pre-existing town roads, and housing developments, usually in the form of subdivisions, with homes ranged along neatly laid-out culs-de-sac. Today, there are about a dozen, small, housing developments and several multi-unit apartment complexes in North Smithfield.

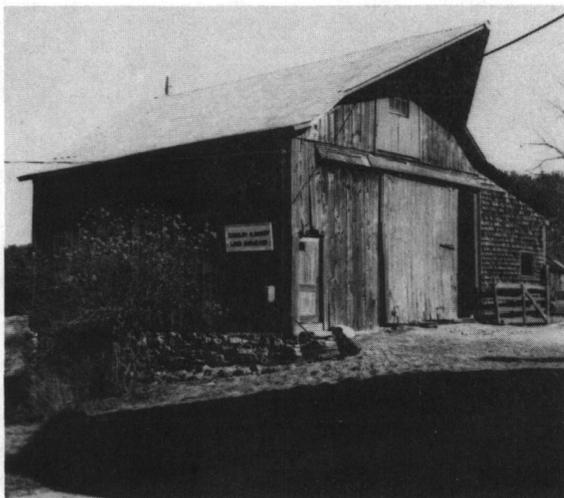
As was true earlier, new housing reflects nationally popular tastes. Postwar domestic architecture is characterized by a great diversity of "styles," from the split level to the log cabin to the "garrison colonial" to the "contemporary," and even to the Pueblo-Mission style. All of these, and much more, can be seen in North Smithfield.

Population increases necessitated new schools. The Haliwell Elementary School (#39) was built in 1956 in the northern part of town, and the sprawling high school (#29)--the first ever built in North Smithfield--opened in 1966 in the Primrose area in the southern part of town. Fogarty Hospital (#50) opened in 1966 at Park Square, a major new commercial district serving North Smithfield and Woonsocket. Characteristically, this "shopping center" was divorced from any village center; it is an isolated business strip oriented to the automobile.

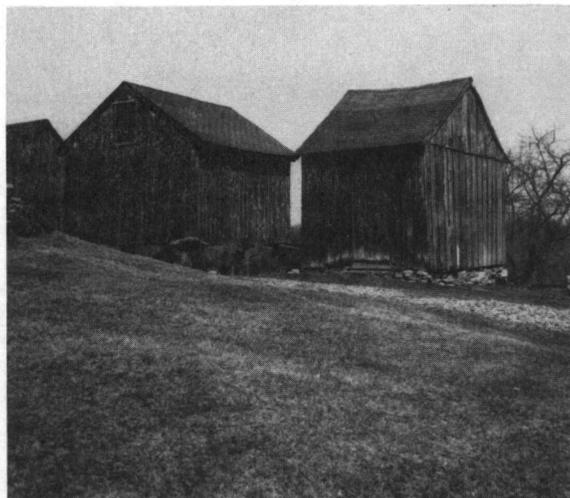
## Farms and Barns

By the early twentieth century, many North Smithfield farms were for sale, and, gradually, the era of subsistence farming ended. Today, only a few farms produce a variety of agricultural products. Wright's Dairy (#107) on Woonsocket Hill Road, sells dairy products; apples are sold at a salesroom on Victory Highway (#106); and cattle graze on a few farms, including the Smith Farm (#92) on Providence Pike and the John Durrans Farm (#3-B) on Grange Road. Animals are also raised as pets or for 4-H or other farm-related projects. Several horse farms--notably Trout Brook Farm (#105) on Tiffit Road and Acres Wild Farm (#77) on Pound Hill Road, reflect the latest fashion in gentlemanly "farming." Horse barns and white rail fences are a departure from the unpainted farm buildings and stone walls of the local agricultural tradition.

Only a few small tracts of the original rural landscape, such as the Smith Farm and the Grange Road Area (#3) are preserved today as reminders of the town's agricultural heritage, but numerous barns and outbuildings survive, albeit no longer related to their original use. The Aldrich Farm (#20), on Comstock Road, contains an excellent grouping of outbuildings, including a vertical-board-sided barn, corn crib, and sheds. The former Blackmar-Wing Farm (#91) on Providence Pike also has a fine vertical-board



Barn, Blackmar-Wing Farm: 2338  
Providence Pike. (#91)



Outbuildings, Aldrich Farm:  
Comstock Road. (#20)



Barn, Cyrus Arnold Farm: Woonsocket Hill Road.  
(#109)



Wright's Dairy: 217 Woonsocket Hill Road. (#107)

barn and several other outbuildings. Some of Grange Road's fine outbuildings include a c. 1780 wood-shingled barn with an 1880 wood-shingle addition, a former blacksmith shop, and a privy, at the Bailey's Place (3-F), and several fine outbuildings, including a large barn, on the John Durrans Farm (3-B). Union Village boasts two handsome Victorian carriage sheds--one with a cupola, at the Stephen Brownell House (6-D), the other on the Walter Allen House lot (6-I). One of the finest barns in North Smithfield--a large, Victorian structure, with a truncated gable roof and a central belfry-like vent--is located on the former Cyrus Arnold Farm (#109) on Woonsocket Hill Road. Sited along the east slope of Woonsocket Hill, this fine barn is a conspicuous local landmark. Nearby, Wright's Dairy (#107), with its cluster of white farm buildings, some with metal ventilators, typifies early twentieth-century working farms. The few remaining tracts of open farmland, and the surviving barns and other outbuildings, is an irreplaceable reminder of the town's heritage. The buildings, constructed to fill a functional role and never intended to be fine architectural monuments, are venerated today for their historical association and significance and for their grace and quiet charm. They were as important to the rural areas as the mills were to the mill villages.

#### SUMMARY

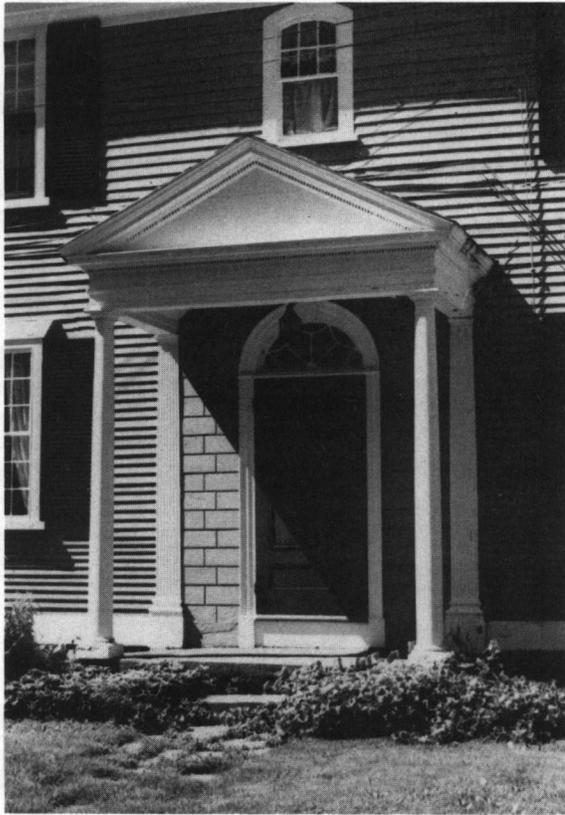
North Smithfield today is essentially a mixed community--residential, manufacturing, and commercial. Manufacturing, an important component of the nineteenth century, is still important, but plastics are now more important than textiles, and the new industries, no longer tied to water power, have located away from waterways, although the Woonsocket Industrial Park in Slatersville, the town's major manufacturing area, is still in the valley of the Branch River.

The town has changed considerably over the centuries. Agriculture, once the mainstay of the economy, is now a minor occupation at best, with a few acres in orchards, dairy farms, and horse farms. Although the many houses built along the town's roads present a picture of dense development, the hilly land beyond is mostly forested, with some relatively wild areas, especially at Nipsachuck in North Smithfield's southwest corner. Despite the fact that the town is no longer agricultural, the legacy of the rural past is preserved in many surviving farm buildings and a few areas still farmed. The rural areas also contain some interesting and historically significant relic features, including former whetstone and granite quarries, sawmill sites, old roads, Indian battle sites, cellar holes and other artifacts of old homesteads, and endless miles of stonewalls crisscrossing forested land once in cropland and pasture.

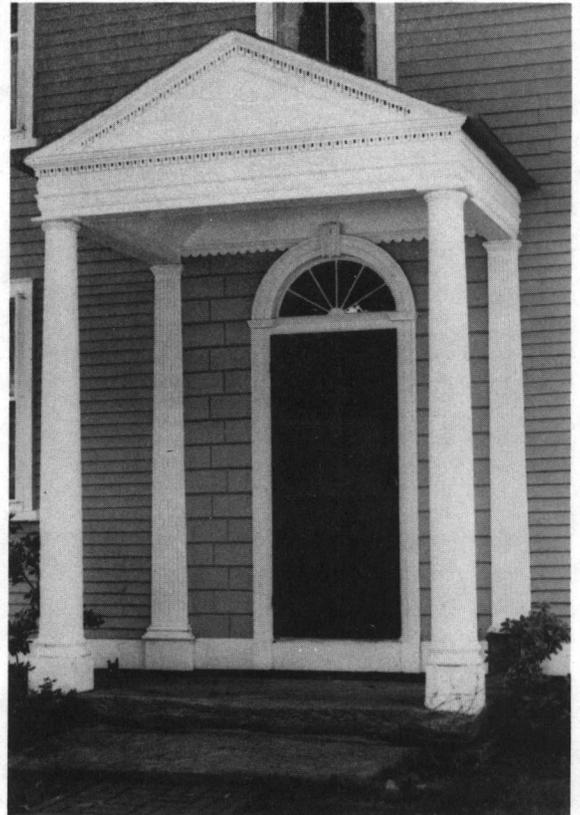
In contrast to the relatively sparsely settled hinterland, there is a ribbon of dense population stretching from about the Park Square area to Slatersville. Within this strip are three historic villages entered in the National Register--Union Village, Forestdale, and Slatersville.

Union Village, a residential community, boasts a fine collection of early nineteenth-century homes and taverns (including the Peleg Arnold Tavern). Branch Village, an early industrial site, now includes two manufactories residences, and a modest commercial strip. Nearby Forestdale, its mill lost to fire several years ago, contains good examples of mid-nineteenth-century mill housing, a fine commercial block, and a charming, former, one-room schoolhouse. Slatersville's green, fronted by fine early nineteenth-century mill houses and a handsome Greek Revival church, retains an air of quiet grace. The village also boasts nineteenth-century mills and commercial blocks, reminders of the era when manufacturing was most important to the town's economy and industry was concentrated in such factory villages. Although Union Village, Forestdale, and Slatersville have grown considerably in the twentieth century, their core sections--the oldest parts--still retain a measure of historical integrity. Waterford, in the northeastern corner, once a busy manufacturing center, is now a quiet, residential area, oriented to adjacent Blackstone, Massachusetts, and Woonsocket.

Overall, North Smithfield's cultural resources, as reflected in this report, display a rich variety of historic districts, structures, and sites. Originally an agricultural town, this rural base was overlaid in the nineteenth century with a pattern of industrial settlements and in the twentieth by residential, commercial, and industrial development. Today, the town's most important legacy is its historic districts. Slatersville, one of the first mill villages in America, Forestdale, another early manufacturing center, and Union Village, an important social and educational center in the early nineteenth century, are entered in the National Register. These early urban settlements have their counterparts in several rural districts, notably the Grange Road Historic District, a well preserved "slice of time," and Smithfield Road, once part of the old Great Road connecting Providence and Worcester. Within the villages and scattered about the rural areas are outstanding individual structures and sites, including fine homes, churches, farms, taverns, bridges, schools, roads, mills, quarries, family burying grounds, milestones, miles of stone walls, and an Indian battleground. These cultural resources, important to an understanding of the town's history, deserve special consideration in planning future development.



Portico, Joel Aldrich House: 76  
Great Road, Union Village Historic  
District. (#6-C)



Portico, Daniel Arnold House:  
71 Great Road, Union Village  
Historic District. (#6-B)



Entry, John Slater House (c. 1810):  
16 School Street, Slatersville  
Historic District. (#4-V)

## II. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is a record maintained by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service within the United States Department of the Interior. It includes structures, sites, areas, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture. It is the official inventory of the nation's cultural and historical resources which are worthy of preservation. National Historic Landmarks, the nation's most historically important buildings and sites, are included in the National Register of Historic Places as well as other properties of national, state, and local significance. Most properties entered are nominated for inclusion by state historical agencies like Rhode Island's Historical Preservation Commission. All properties must be reviewed and approved by the State Review Board and then by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior prior to their entry on the Register.

Placement in the Register affords a limited form of protection from potentially damaging federal programs through a review process and establishes eligibility for certain tax benefits and for federally funded matching grants-in-aid for restoration. As a result of this survey, a number of structures, sites, and districts have been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Descriptions of these properties can be found in the Inventory.

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites entered in or approved for the National Register (a more complete description of each property appears in the Inventory which follows):

- Forestdale Historic District (#2)
- Slatersville Historic District (#4)
- Union Village Historic District (#6)
- Peleg Arnold Tavern; Woonsocket Hill Road (#6-P)
- Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm, 670 Farnum Pike (#27)
- William Mowry House, Farnum Pike (#34)

ERRATUM  
For National Register  
Recommendations see  
pages 20 and 21.

### III. PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

This inventory is an annotated key to the preliminary-survey maps of North Smithfield. The numbers refer to the map at the back of the report (for example: 1--Branch Village Historic District). A more detailed map at a scale of 1":1000' (which locates properties more fully and precisely) is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the North Smithfield Town Hall; copies have also gone to the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning, and the Department of Community Affairs. The large-scale maps use the same property-identification numbering system which appears here.

Material in this inventory is presented in numerical order and alphabetically, first by districts (page 18), then by historic areas (page 43); finally, other properties are listed in alphabetical order by roads (page 46). Dates and names which appear in parenthesis at the end of notations refer to their identification on nineteenth-century maps. In each case, the earliest map on which the structure or site appears has been used. Dating of structures, or their historical-architectural period, is occasionally determined on the basis of plaques, written material, maps and knowledgeable residents--but more often is based on style and construction. Unless otherwise noted, all structures are wood-frame.

Properties on or approved for the National Register are indicated with two asterisks. Properties recommended for nomination to the National Register are identified by one asterisk. All other properties listed here are significant; upon further investigation and review some of these may be deemed eligible for nomination to the National Register and may be nominated. It should be understood that the properties listed represent the results of a preliminary survey. Further investigation would uncover other properties worthy of consideration, and, possibly of nomination to the Register.

Following is a list of the architectural-period designations used in this report:

Colonial: From the time of European settlement to 1775

Federal: 1775-1835

Greek Revival: 1825-1860

Early Victorian: 1840-1870

Late Victorian: 1865-1900

Early 20th century: 1900-1945

Mid-20th century: 1945-1975

Late 20th century: 1975 to the present

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS

1. Branch Village Historic District: A district on Great Road at the Branch River, in the north-central part of town, contains two industrial areas, two groups of mill houses, a bridge, a restaurant, a fire station, and a variety of early-to-middle-20th-century commercial buildings.

The development of Branch Village began as early as 1795, when Elisha Bartlett, an iron manufacturer, began producing scythes and other edge tools here. In 1805, after Bartlett's death, a small cotton factory was started in conjunction with the scythe works. Thereafter, the scythe works and textile mill (which spun both cotton and woolen goods) worked at irregular intervals. In 1869, according to a map legend, there were about one dozen houses, an old mill, and some "pretty romantic scenery" along the river. Later acquired by James A. Pitts and Son, the factory was run as a flocking mill until 1913, when the textile mill was torn down and replaced by the Andrews Mill. Since the 1950s, the old mill has been part of the Tupperware complex. The greatest change in the history of Branch Village occurred in 1924, when ground was broken for a new mill, which became the Branch River Woolcombing Company. The sprawling mill--a contrast to older factories--covered more than two acres. Along with the mill, houses for workers and supervisory personnel were built on Branch Avenue and Andrews Terrace. The new mill, and improvements to Great Road, also resulted in the building of a grain store, a furniture store, and a gasoline station and diner, among other commercial shops. The town's first volunteer fire company was established here in 1937. In the mid-1950s, the Tupperware Company occupied the Andrews mill site, and established an office and laboratory for its nationally known plastics industry. The Branch River Woolcombing Company closed its operation here in 1973, but soon after, the plant reopened, tenanted by a number of small firms and renamed Branch River Industrial Park. Today, Branch Village contains many industries, numerous dwellings, a fire company, and a variety of commercial establishments. (1851- Branch Village.)

### ANDREWS TERRACE

- 1-A. Supervisor's Houses (c. 1924): A short street off Great Road, along the Branch River, contains a row of four, 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story, gambrel-roof houses, set close to each other on small lots. These houses were built for supervisory personnel shortly before the Branch River Woolcombing Company mill was constructed.

### BRANCH AVENUE

- 1-B. Mill Houses (c. 1924): On both sides of Branch Avenue, a short, dead-end street off Great Road, are about a dozen, 2-story, hip-roofed tenement houses. Set close together, on small lots, these

multi-family tenements were built to house mill workers in the nearby woolcombing mill. These "two-deckers" are a rare phenomenon in North Smithfield, whose other mills and villages were created in the 19th century, but are common in nearby Woonsocket.

#### GREAT ROAD

- 1-C. Former Branch River Woolcombing Company Mill (1924), Branch River Industrial Park: A large, sprawling factory, built in several sections, including a 1-story, brick unit in front; a 1-story cinder-block section, with sawtooth windows behind; and a 2-story, brick addition, with concrete trim, at the rear. The factory, designed by Lockwood, Greene and Company of Boston, is part of a large tract bounded roughly by Great Road, a railroad, and the Branch River.

The establishment of the mill here resulted from the visit of Aram Pothier, a dynamic and aggressive business leader of Woonsocket, to the Paris Exposition in 1898. While in Paris, Pothier persuaded some wool manufacturers from Roubaix, France, a leading textile-manufacturing center, to establish mills in Woonsocket. The Branch River Woolcombing Company was an "off-shoot" of the Woonsocket mills. The company bought a tract of land in Branch Village, and in 1924-1925, built a large, 1-story building (measuring 392 by 238 feet, covering more than two acres) and other buildings. The water quality of the nearby Branch River was good for the wool-washing operation, and nearby Woonsocket, easily accessible by streetcar, provided an abundant labor supply. Most of the workers, who numbered 600 at one time, were recruited in Woonsocket. In 1973, the mill closed its doors here when it moved to another location, but, in that year, the plant site was purchased and eventually became the Branch River Industrial Park. It now houses about a dozen different firms.

- 1-D. Kennedy's Lunch: A small, 1-story, early 20th-century structure, at the intersection of Great Road and St. Paul Street. This lunch stand has been a popular eating and meeting place for about a half century. A gasoline station, which stood nearby, is now gone. The lunchroom and gasoline station, located on what was a major north-south highway, were characteristic roadside phenomena of the early automobile age.
- 1-E. Branch River Bridge, Number 108 (1920, 1930): A reinforced-concrete, modified open-spandrel bridge, carrying Great Road over the Branch River. In the late 19th century, a narrow, Warren pony-truss bridge spanned the river. In 1920, it was replaced by a modified arch-type span, which was considered one of the best examples of modified-arch design, and which carried a large volume of automobile traffic as well as the tracks of a street

railway. In 1930, Great Road was reconstructed to four lanes through Branch Village. The bridge was widened to fifty-five feet to provide a 40-foot roadway and two sidewalks. This alteration consisted of an extension of the existing bridge abutments, reproducing the original design with slight modifications.

- 1-F. Tupperware Office and Laboratory: Site of Scythe Works and Textile Mills: The Tupperware Company facilities here consists of a modern, 1-story, flat-roofed office building along Great Road, a large brick building (the former Andrews Mill) containing the laboratory, at the rear, dating from the early 20th century, and a late 1970s research and development building nearby.

Manufacturing probably started at this site in 1795, when Elisha Bartlett, an iron manufacturer, moved here and began the manufacture of scythes and other edge tools. Upon his death in 1804, his sons and son-in-law continued operating the factory. The next year, 1805, some of these men, and several other men, set up a small cotton-spinning operation in a building near the scythe works; both cotton and woolen goods were produced here sporadically throughout the 19th century, and the mill changed hands several times. At the end of the century, it was run by Fred J. Pitts as a flocking mill until his death in 1913. Soon after, the existing complex was torn down and the Andrews Mill, a brick factory with a short, squat tower and sawtooth windows, was constructed. This building now comprises the rear part of Tupperware (the lab facilities). The Tupperware Company also owns the large mill reached only through nearby Blacstone (see #13), where most of its plastic manufacturing is carried on. (1851-Scythe Works.)

- 1-G. Mill House: A 1½-story, 19th-century, cross-gabled dwelling, with an entrance porch centered in the 5-bay facade. Set close to the road, this simple house is, perhaps, the only extant residence identified with the early manufacturing enterprise here.

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites which deserve consideration for entry in the National Register:

- Grange Road Historic District (#3)
- Aldrich Farm, Comstock Road (#20)
- Mowry-Connolly House, Iron Mine Hill Road (#47)
- House, Iron Mine Hill Road, (#48)
- House, Iron Mine Hill Road (#49)
- Westacres, Louisquisset Pike (#58)
- Metcalf Marsh House, Mechanic Street (#65)
- Andrews Tavern, Old Great Road (#75)
- Old Sayles Hill Road Historic Roadway (#78)
- House, Pound Hill Road (#84)
- Former Nathan Staples Farm, Providence Pike (#93)
- Blackmar-Wing Farm, 2338 Providence Pike (#96)
- Former Cyrus Arnold Farm, Woonsocket Hill Road (#108)

This list of possible National Register properties should not be considered final and absolute. As new research is conducted, as the town changes physically, and as perceptions of the community's history and what cultural properties are worth saving evolve, other potential candidates for the Register may be identified.

#### ST. PAUL STREET

- 1-H. North Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department: A 1-story, cement-block structure, near the corner of Great Road, contains one of North Smithfield's two volunteer fire companies; established in 1937, this was the first in town. Reportedly, the original building was moved here from the brick yard at Slatersville. The building is also the home of the North Smithfield Ambulance and Rescue Association.
- \*\* 2. Forestdale Historic District: This former mill village, entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, is located along the Branch River in the north-central part of town. The district includes the riverside site of the mill (destroyed by fire in 1978), the mill office, a commercial block, several dozen houses, and a former school house. They stretch out along Main Street for a distance of about a quarter mile east and west of Maple Avenue. The district also takes in a short section of Maple Avenue extending to the former mill superintendent's house. Forestdale, beyond this immediate area, is essentially a 20th-century community. Forestdale began in 1824 when Newton Darling established a scythe manufactory here. A relatively small industry, its impact on the area was slight at first, and the business changed ownership several times. In mid-century, after being rebuilt and refitted, the scythe works employed fifty men, manufacturing 72,000 scythes annually. A handsome commercial block, similar to the one in Slatersville, was built in 1858. In 1860, the most important event in the history of the village occurred when Mansfield and Lamb built a large, stone, cotton mill next to the scythe works. Construction of the cotton mill was accompanied by the building of a stone house, a large boarding house, and several mill houses. The ethnic makeup of the formerly Yankee village changed in the 1860s also with the recruitment of French-Canadians to work in the cotton mill. In 1872, the firm of J. & W. Slater, owner of the nearby Slatersville mills, expanded their operation into Forestdale when they purchased this property. At that time, the village had a population of about 360, mostly French-Canadians. A large brick addition was made to the cotton mill in the latter part of the 19th century, and the village was provided with streetcar and railroad service in the 1890s. After the turn of the twentieth century, the village was sold and resold several times. The scythe factory, which had ceased operation some time before, became dilapidated and was eventually torn down. The cotton mill continued to function, but by the 1970s work was sporadic and soon

ceased altogether. Scheduled for conversion to another use, the mill was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1978. Destruction of this handsome mill was a severe loss to the village, not only in economic terms, but visually and historically as well. Nonetheless, interesting and important extant buildings associated with 19th-century Forestdale have interest in themselves and form a still-cohesive village center. (1851- Mansfield & Lamb Scythe Works.)

- 2-A. Mill Tenements (c. 1865; 2-10 Main Street): A row of 2½-story, duplex houses--former mill tenements--each with a pair of interior chimneys and a central, double-door entry, set on a terrace behind a stone wall and fronting on Forestdale Pond. Built about the time the cotton mill was built, this group of five workers' houses has been altered, to varying degrees, by the addition of composition siding and porticoes. (1869- Forestdale Co., tenements.)
- 2-B. Stone House (c. 1865; 21 Main Street): A 1½-story, company-built double house, noteworthy for its unusual and handsome ashlar walls, laid in alternating courses of gray-stone block and narrower blocks of a darker color. The colorful, patterned stonework makes this one of the most interesting buildings in North Smithfield. Once used as a mill official's residence, it is now a private residence. (1869- Forestdale Co.)
- 2-C. Former Mill Office (c. 1860; Main Street): A 1½-story, mid-Victorian, bracketed structure set near the street, with a central entry in a 5-bay facade; corner quoins; and fine detailing, including double brackets and a modillion course. Now vacant and deteriorating, the mill office stood in front of and near the old cotton mill, which was accessible via a wooden walkway. (1869- Forestdale Co.; office.)
- 2-D. Commercial Block (1858; Main Street): A 2-part, 2½-story, brick-and-stone structure at the corner of Maple Avenue. The larger section, at the right, has a stepped parapet fronting its gable end. The left section is oriented flank-end to the street. Both sections have a continuous, 1st-story storefront whose large windows are framed by massive granite posts and lintels. The brick street front has been painted white, but the handsome, stone, side walls remain unpainted. This building, very similar in style (but smaller in scale) to the Slatersville commercial blocks, contains a post office, which has been serving the public for more than a century, in the right side; the left side, originally the village store, has been used for a variety of commercial purposes. (1862- Store.)
- 2-E. Mill Houses (c. 1850; 33-42 Main Street): A row of 1½-story, Greek Revival double houses, each with two, small, brick, interior chimneys and paired, double-door entries in the center. Some

have been altered by the replacement of original windows and by the substitution of composition siding for the original clapboards. (1870- Forestdale Manufacturing Co.)

2-F. Former Forestdale School (1877; Main Street): A 1½-story, bracketed, end-gable structure, with two, separate, bracketed-hooded entries in front. Set on an ample grassy lot, this structure was built as a schoolhouse in 1877 on land given by the Forestdale Manufacturing Company at the east end of the village. Originally this one-room school was known as the Branch School in District Number Three; later, it became the Forestdale School. The Eleanor Howard Kindergarten was transferred here from the Kendall Dean School in 1958. The kindergarten, established in memory of Eleanor Howard Palmer (who spent her girlhood in Slatersville), was established in the Kendall Dean School in Slatersville in 1936. In 1975, the kindergarten class was transferred back to the Kendall Dean School and the schoolhouse was leased by the town to the North Smithfield Heritage Association. The historical association restored the building and now uses it as the Association headquarters. (1895- School.)

2-G. Former Mill Superintendent's House (c. 1860 ; 24 Maple Street): A 2½-story, end-gable, Bracketed structure, with entry within the porch, which runs across the front of the house. There is an ell at the rear. Built for the superintendent of the Forestdale Mills, and set on an ample, shady lot on a rise above the village, facing the mills, the house is easily recognizable as different from worker houses below by its relative isolation, spacious setting, size, and more ornate detailing. (1870- G. W. Holt.)

\* 3. Grange Road Historic District:† The District, 18th century in origin and agricultural in aspect, comprises the section of Grange Road, roughly seven tenths of a mile long, north of Providence Pike, and a short section of Rocky Hill Road where the two roads meet. Within the district are four 18th-century farm complexes, including farmhouses, barns, and other outbuildings; a former schoolhouse; a grange hall; three historical cemeteries; fields bounded with stone walls; and the two, little-altered, narrow roadways. This bucolic area is a very good and rare example of Rhode Island's rural agrarian landscape.

Grange Road and Rocky Hill Road are part of the first system of roads established in North Smithfield. Rocky Hill Road and the north part of Grange Road led from the Providence area to nearby Oxford, Massachusetts, and were once known as the Old Oxford Road. The southern end of Grange Road led, via today's Brayton Road and Forge Road (among others), to Greenville and villages to the south. The Blackmar-Wing House (#91), was built just south of today's Grange Road about 1690, while the Malavery House on Grange Road, just north of the district, was built

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† All properties listed below are on Grange Road.

between 1700 and 1720. The John Durrans House (#3-B) a gambrel-roofed, mid-18th-century structure is the oldest house in the district; the other three farmhouses were built in the last two decades of the 18th century, when the agricultural economy was at its zenith. Outbuildings were built and fields cleared and set off by stone walls. Several family burying grounds were established during the 18th century. In 1838, a school was built near the junction of Grange and Rocky Hill roads. Known as the Andrews School, it was moved to another site and replaced by a new building, which in turn was moved across the road when it ceased its use as a school in the early 20th century. A grange society was organized in the Primrose area, and a building, now the Primrose Grange, was constructed in 1887. It still serves as a place for meetings and social gatherings. The Providence Pike (originally Slater's Turnpike) connected Douglas Pike with Slatersville. Built in 1820, it took the through traffic in this part of town, leaving Grange Road a quiet neighborhood.

Within the district, a house was built along Rocky Hill Road in the early 20th century. Several houses were built north of the Grange in mid-century, and in 1966 a new high school was built at the north end of Grange Road. With its large expanse of open recreation fields, it is compatible with the pastures across the road. Otherwise, there have been few modern intrusions.

- 3-A. Grange Road: Grange Road, probably originally established in the 17th century, has been little improved over the centuries. Its narrow, serpentine course, in part lined with stone walls, is a fine example of our early rural roads. Rocky Hill Road, another early road, retains its winding course and stone walls in many sections, including the western end, where it joins Grange Road.
- 3-B. John Durrans Farm: A relatively large tract of land consisting of woods and fields and containing a farmhouse, outbuildings, a portable sawmill and a cemetery. The house is a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, mid-18th century structure, set end-to-road, with a small, brick, center chimney and a wing at the rear. A large barn, another outbuilding and the sawmill are nearby. Beef cattle are raised in the adjacent fields. Behind the fields is Historical Cemetery Number 20, an 18th-century burying ground with about ten marked stones, including that of Thomas Sayles, one of the early settlers, who was buried here in 1754. (1870- J. Durrans.)
- 3-C. Primrose Grange Patrons of Husbandry, Number Nine (1887): A 2-story, end-gable structure. Originally one story, in the early 20th century it was raised and a cement-block first story added. The Primrose Grange, one of two grange societies in town, has been the scene of social gatherings, meetings, and dinners for almost a century. At the rear of the small lot is an historical cemetery. (1895- Hall.)

- 3-D. Farm House (c. 1780): A 1½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the right wide, rear. The house is set on a large lot, which includes a grassy front yard, fields behind, and stone walls. Part of the house was once used as a butcher shop, and a tannery once stood on the property. Nearby north of the house, is the former Andrews Schoolhouse, now an outbuilding on the adjoining property. (1851- H. Carpenter.)
- 3-E. Grayson-Phillips Farm (c. 1790): A large tract of land along both sides of the road, consisting of woods and fields and containing a house, barn, and a cemetery, comprise the Grayson-Phillips Farm. The house is a 1½-story structure, set close to the road, with a small, brick chimney near the center; an off-center entry, with transom lights, in an assymetrical 5-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. The surrounding fields are bounded by stone walls. The barn, which is used for beef cattle, is close to the road opposite the house. Historical Cemetery Number Thirty, a Grayson family burying ground, is east of the road, atop a slight rise. (1851- N. Baker.)
- 3-F. N. Baker Farm (c. 1780): A 1½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; an off-center entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1962 wing at the left side, rear. There is a well in front, still used, on the original well site. A notable series of outbuildings include an 1880 wood-shingled barn with a c. 1780 shingled shed attached which was moved here in 1890. A small building behind the house, built into a stone wall, was once used as a blacksmith's shop. Nearby is a 3-hole privy. The land is open around the house. Mrs. Phoebe Nickerson, of Pawtucket, purchased this place with a Civil War widow's dowry after her husband died at Andersonville. (1851- N. Baker.)
- \*\* 4. Slatersville Historic District: The Slatersville Historic District, on the Branch River in the northwestern part of North Smithfield, was entered in the National Register in 1973. The district includes the Slatersville reservoir, dams and water-power systems, and 19th-century mills, commercial blocks, mill houses, churches, and other buildings along Main Street, North Main Street, Green Street, School Street, Railroad Street and several side streets.

The history of the village dates back to at least 1800. Around that time, this locality, known as Buffums's Mills, contained several dwellings, a hatter's shop, a gristmill, and a sawmill. Most of present-day Slatersville was owned by the Buffum family. In 1805, after a reconnaissance of northern Rhode Island by Samuel and John Slater, who selected the Slatersville site, William Almy and Obadiah Brown of Providence began purchasing land in the area under the firm name of Almy & Brown. Samuel and John Slater joined the partnership in 1806, and a cotton mill, the

first in Smithfield, began operating in 1807. Almy, Brown & Slater's mill, one of only fifteen cotton-spinning mills operating in the United States, was the nucleus of a small village, one of the first industrial villages created in this country. John Slater became the resident manager of the business, until his death in 1843, when his sons John F. and William acquired the property; it remained in the Slater family until 1900. The original cotton mill burned in 1826 and was immediately replaced by the present mill, and other mills were later added. A store was established in 1806; eventually, a post office, a bank, a hotel, a school, a blacksmith shop, churches, and houses were added to the village. Amos Lockwood, a resident mill manager for about a dozen years, made important contributions to the village. He was partly responsible for the church and the common, and probably for the 1850 commercial block.

Exemplifying the typical mill village pattern of growth and development, the simple mill workers' houses were built near the mill; the supervisors' houses were established along the green, or common; and the owner's house was a fine residence set on a large lot, physically separated from the other houses. A Yankee community for much of the century, a profound change was effected after the Civil War by the influx of large numbers of French-Canadians who came to work in the mills. By 1872, two-thirds of Slatersville's population was of the Roman Catholic faith, a fact visibly expressed in St. John's Church, built in that year.

In 1900, James R. Hooper, a Boston banker, purchased the mills and village. His Slatersville Finishing Company used the pure and soft water of the Branch River to bleach, mercerize, and dye cotton cloth. A streetcar line and a railroad servicing the village, combined with the transformation of the mill, resulted in some village residents seeking employment outside Slatersville for the first time. In 1915, Henry P. Kendall purchased Slatersville, and, with his manager, Arthur Beane, modified the appearance of the village to more closely reflect his idealized conception of a New England village. He planted trees, moved buildings, and modified the mill houses to make them more individualistic and "private" looking. In 1921, a town hall was built in the center of Slatersville, and a consolidated school was built in the 1930s. Although under Henry Kendall the Slatersville mills continued manufacturing textiles, Kendall, like many other New England mill owners, transferred his operation to the south in 1956. About this time, the company also sold its ownership in the village; for the first time in some 150 years houses and other buildings became individually owned, most of the residences acquired by their occupants. Glass-Kraft purchased the old Slatersville mills in 1959 and began the manufacture of asphalt-laminated, glass-fiber, reinforced paper. Much of the Slater's 19th-century village is extant today and relatively intact, despite some 20th-century intrusions, and includes a number of architecturally and historically interesting and significant structures. (1851- Slatersville.)

## CHURCH STREET

- 4-A. St. John's Church and Rectory (1872): St. John's Church, a gable-roofed, vaguely Gothic, frame edifice, was erected to serve a sudden influx of Roman Catholics. Land was given by the Slaters on a site known as "Independence Hill" or "Liberty Hill," where July Fourth celebrations had long been held. Originally the church had a 90-foot steeple. Between 1935 and 1946 major renovations were made; the steeple was removed, the entire facade altered, and the interior completely overhauled. The Rectory, next to and contemporary with the church, a 2-story, Second Empire building, with a mansard roof, was also extensively altered. (1895- R. C. Church.)

## GREEN STREET

- 4-B. Dr. Elisha Bartlett House\* (c. 1850; 2 Green Street): A 2½-story, Greek Revival house with a Doric portico and side porch. By far the most imposing house in the village, it is raised up on a walled and terraced site commanding the intersection of Main and North Main streets. At the village's center and overlooking the mills, this site was originally occupied by John Slater's House. That was relocated to make way for this residence, built by Dr. Elisha Bartlett and his wife, Elizabeth, John Slater's daughter. Dr. Bartlett was born in 1804 in North Smithfield (then Smithfield) to parents who were respected members of the Society of Friends; he was educated under the auspices of the Society. Following a classical education in New York, Elisha Bartlett graduated as an M.D. from Brown University in 1826. In 1827, he settled in Lowell, Massachusetts, which became his home for about two decades. Here, he established his practice. In 1836, because of his intellectual achievements, wide renown, and popularity, he was elected the first mayor of Lowell. In 1840, he was elected to the Massachusetts legislature. Bartlett held professorships in various branches in nine medical schools during his career, beginning in 1832. Compelled by failing health to retire, he settled in his hometown in the mill village owned by his wife's family. Bartlett died in 1855 and was buried in the nearby Slatersville Cemetery. Elisha Bartlett was celebrated for his teaching and writing. His book, The History, Diagnosis and Treatment of Typhoid and Typhus Fever, published in 1842, contained the first complete account of typhoid in the English language. An Essay on the Philosophy of Medicine, published in 1844, showed remarkable insight, including the recognition of the relationship

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\*This account of the Bartlett House is based on an article in the Newsletter of the North Smithfield Heritage Association, October, 1979, pp. 4-11.

of environmental factors and human illness. Dr. Bartlett's house, the most elaborate Greek Revival residence in North Smithfield, is a fine legacy of this important and well known physician, scholar, and humanitarian. (1862- Mrs. R. Slater.)

- 4-C. Mill Houses (c. 1810-1820; 4-40 Green Street): A row of six Federal houses, each with a large, brick, center chimney and an early 20th-century central portico entry in a 5-bay facade, each is set on a well landscaped lot fronting on the Slatersville Common. These well preserved buildings were altered by Henry Kendall in the early 20th century to their present form and were used to house mill supervisors. (1862- J. & W. S.)
- 4-D. Slaterville Congregational Church (1838) and Slatersville Common: A Greek Revival church with a colossal, tetrastyle Doric portico, full entablature and pediment, surmounted by a 3-stage belfry and octagonal spire (a diminished version of the original spire which toppled in the 1938 hurricane). The church has a basement addition at the left side, its above-ground portion screened by a row of evergreen shrubs. The church fronts on the Slatersville Common, a triangular, tree-planted greensward set on a plateau overlooking the mill complex. The Congregational church was formed in 1816 with eight members. For many years this was a small, Yankee parish served by visiting ministers. The Slaters supported the group financially, though they were Episcopalians. In 1838, the Slaters erected the church building, which subsequently underwent a number of enlargements. It was most recently renovated in 1966. (1851- Church.)
- 4-E. Old Parsonage (c. 1810; 52-56 Green Street): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney and central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade. Now a private residence, it once served as the Congregational parsonage. (1862- J. & W. S.; Parsonage.)
- 4-F. The Old Meetinghouse (c. 1808; 55-57 Green Street): A 2½-story structure, with two small, brick, interior chimneys and a central, double-door, portico entry. Built as a meetinghouse for worship and public use with money raised through a lottery, this building was moved in 1816 to School Street, where it became the village school. In 1887, it was moved to its present site to make room for another school and was converted into a 2-family house. (1861- School (on School Street).)
- 4-G. Kendall Dean School (1936): A 2-story, brick, neo-Georgian structure. Its slightly projecting, pedimented, central pavilion has a central, double-door entry. There is a rather unscaled cupola at the center of the hip roof. Built in 1936, this building replaced the school on School Street. The Kendall Dean School and the contemporary Union Village School (built as consolidated

schools, with modern facilities) replaced the one-room school-houses which were scattered throughout the town.

- 4-H. William Holt Residence (c. 1890; 66 Green Street): A 2½-story, cross-gabled, Queen Anne structure, with wood-shingle and clap-board siding and entry in an open porch at the left front corner. This house was the residence of William Holt, supervisor in the Slatersville Mills. (1895 (lithograph) -Residence of William Holt.)
- 4-I. Union Grange (1897): Built in 1897 as a chapel for St. Luke's Episcopal Missionary, several years later the building was sold and, as Lincoln Hall, became a community gathering place for social events, including dances. In 1920, it became the Union Grange hall. The grange in Slatersville, organized in 1887, met in private houses until this became its permanent home. The gable-roofed building has a truncated foretower and, despite alterations, retains its "churchy" appearance.
- 4-J. Slatersville Cemetery: A large burying ground at the east end of the historic district. Established in the early 19th century, this relatively large cemetery, bounded by wood picket fences and stone walls, contains many gravestones, including some of prominent Slatersville persons such as John Slater and Dr. Elisha Bartlett. (1870- Cemetery.)

#### MAIN STREET

- 4-K. North Smithfield Town Hall (1921): A 2-story, brick, neo-Georgian structure, with a colossal tetrastyle portico, full entablature, and pediment. Built on the site of a long-established hotel and boarding house, the North Smithfield Town Hall achieves a measure of dignity by virtue of its appropriately civic, monumental facade and its situation atop high ground at the center of the village.
- 4-L. Commercial Blocks (1850, 1870; 7-9 and 11-13 Main Street): An identical pair of commercial blocks in the center of Slatersville, one built in 1850, the second in 1870. Each is three-and-a-half stories, of stone-rubble construction, with brick on the street elevation above the ground floor and monolithic granite piers and spandrels forming the storefront framework on the ground-floor elevations. These blocks have held a variety of commercial uses, including stores, banks, barber shops, a post office, a hardware store, among others, mostly on the first floors. The upper stories were used for offices and for social and recreational purposes. Today, these buildings still carry on a commercial function. (1851- Bank.)
- 4-M. North Smithfield Public Library: A long, low, 1½-story, mid-19th-century, stone-rubble building, set close to the road. Formerly a storehouse, this building served recreational and other uses in

the early 20th century. The first library in town was established in Slatersville in 1848, and eventually was housed in the bank building. Later, public libraries were established in the town's public schools. In 1966, this building, once part of the Slatersville Mills complex, was converted into a public library. (1894- Store Ho. (for the Slatersville Mills) .)

- 4-N. Mill Houses: A row of six, 2½-story, gable-roofed, 4- and 5-bay houses along the north side of Main Street west of the commercial blocks; they are all different. Some--perhaps all--pre-date the establishment of Slatersville as a textile mill village, but all belonged to the company and were used as workers' housing. (1862- Co.)
- 4-O. House: A 1½-story, 18th-century dwelling with a large, brick, center chimney and a simple entrance in an asymmetrical 5-bay facade. This was once used to house mill workers. (1862- Co.)
- 4-P. Richard Buffum House (1786; 95 Main Street): A 2½-story house, with two, large, brick, interior chimneys. Although its architectural significance has been compromised by extensive alterations and additions, the building is important historically at the local level. Richard Buffum, who built the house, once owned most of what is now Slatersville. Buffum ran a sawmill and a gristmill and had a large farm, until the village was purchased by Almy and Brown in 1805-1806. Behind the house is a granite quarry which provided stone for the construction of the Slatersville Reservoir dams and for walls and foundations in the village. (1862- Co.)

#### NORTH MAIN STREET

- 4-Q. Mill Houses (32, 42, 54, and 64 North Main Street): A row of four company-built early 19th-century, 1½-story residences along the west side of North Main Street near the center of the village. Now altered, they were originally identical. (1862- Co. (the first three houses); Stable (the fourth house).)
- 4-R. J. H. Parkis House (c. 1885; 177-179 North Main Street): A large Queen Anne house, with an irregular plan and complex detailing, including mock framing, patterned shingles, spindle work, and an octagonal turret. Built about 1885 by J. H. Parkis, proprietor of the Slatersville Post Office and general store, it is the finest Queen Anne building in North Smithfield. (1895- Ira Parkis Res.)
- 4-S. Carpenter House (253 North Main Street): A 1½-story, Federal house with a large, brick, center chimney; a simple, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the right side, rear. The house is on a small, neat, terraced lot behind a stone wall of massive, dressed, granite blocks, topped with a picket fence. Located at the north end of the village, this house was never part of the company's domain. (1851- J. Andrews.)

## RAILROAD STREET

- 4-T. Slatersville Mills (1806 and later): The complex of industrial buildings along the Branch River focuses on the 1826 Mill, also known as the Center Mill, or Number 1 Mill. A 4-story structure, it has dressed-granite walls; a central, projecting, 5-story stair tower; a flat roof; and additions at the rear. It replaced the original 1806 cotton mill which was destroyed by fire. Along the river, the long, 1½-story, clapboard-sided 1806 Office Building--is all that remains of the original mill complex. Its trap-door monitor-roof windows are characteristic of early mill buildings. Behind the 1826 mill is the 1843 Granite Mill, or Number Three Mill, with a 4-story, square, projecting stairtower near the center. It was used as a weave shed and as a storehouse. Along the mill trench, or power canal, near Railroad Street, is the 1894 Weave Shed, a long, 2-story, brick structure. West of Railroad Street is the site of the Western Mills, including two extant stone buildings, a mill trench, and two stone dams. The lower dam holds back water in a relatively small reservoir. The upper, or Middle Dam, was built in 1849. With a 20-foot fall of water, it is 300 feet from shore to shore, with a 160-foot rollway, and is constructed of solid masonry of superior stone cut in very large blocks, from a local quarry. The dam forms a pool of from 150 to 175 acres. A third dam, the Upper Dam, was built later in the century (see Main Street, #59).

Cotton manufacturing began at this Slatersville site in 1806 when a mill was built here. In 1821, the mill operation was expanded with the construction of the Western Mill along the power trench west of Railroad Street. This western complex was subsequently expanded considerably. The 1806 Mill burned in 1826 and was immediately replaced by the present stone building, presumably on the same site. A stone building behind the 1826 Mill burned in 1842 and was rebuilt in stone the following year as a cotton mill. In 1894, a brick weave shed was built along the mill trench.

In the early 20th century, with a change from cotton manufacturing to bleaching, the Western Mills went unused and eventually were destroyed. Only two structures associated with these mills survive, the present library building and another 1-story stone structure along the power canal, once used as a picker house, and most recently as a foundry; it is now empty.

In 1915, the village was purchased by Henry Kendall, a philanthropic mill owner. In addition to resuming textile manufacturing, Kendall, with an idealized concept of what a New England village should look like, revitalized the appearance of Slatersville. He repaired and reconstructed the mill houses, maintained the upkeep of the village, and is responsible for the present state of preservation of buildings in Slatersville.

In 1959, after the Slatersville Mills were purchased by Glass-Kraft, the manufacturing of asphalt laminated glass fiber reinforced paper began. Most of the manufacturing today is carried on in the 1894 building. The office building is also used, but the 1826 and 1843 mills are used only for storage.

The former Slatersville mill complex is an important part of Rhode Island's manufacturing history, and the buildings document changes in 19th-century industrial architecture. Overall, this manufacturing site, the scene of industrial activity for more than 170 years, is one of the most significant in the United States. (1831- Almy, Brown & Slaters Mills & Cotton Factories.)

- 4-U. Slatersville Stone Bridge (c. 1855): A twin-arch, ashlar bridge--150 feet long and 29 feet wide--carrying the Providence Pike over the Branch River. The arches have a span of 40 feet and a rise of 20 feet above the river. A sidewalk on the west side was added in 1940. Built in about 1855, it replaced a wooden bridge. This masonry bridge, a good example of its type, remains in excellent condition today.
- 4-V. The John Slater House (c. 1810; 16 School Street): A 2½-story structure; center-chimney residence with its pedimented entry centered in a 5-bay facade. There is a 2½-story wing at the left rear. This house was built about 1810 for John Slater at the corner of North Main and Green streets; it was moved here in 1843. A handsome picket fence bounds the front yard. Although built for the resident manager of the mills, this relatively unpretentious house was quite similar to the village's worker housing. (1862- J. & W. S.)
- 4-W. House (20 School Street): A 2½-story, Federal residence with a large, brick, center chimney and a central entry in its 5-bay facade. The whimsically primitive entrance detail is widely known, chiefly because it is illustrated in several articles and books. Like the neighboring John Slater House, this dwelling was moved here--from Green Street, east of the Slatersville Cemetery. (1862- J. & W. S.)
- 4-X. George Johnson House (c. 1859 ; 30 School Street): A 2½-story, cross-gabled, Bracketed residence with a trelliswork piazza across the front. This 5-bay elevation has a central entrance; a triple, roundhead window in the central bay of the second story, and a single roundhead window in the bracket-trimmed central cross gable. There are bracketed windows on the sides; the other windows have typical projecting lintels and louvered blinds. The paneled corner pilasters in vestigial Greek Revival detail. The house was built by George Johnson, owner of a store in the village. His daughter Evelyn married James S. Slater, and eventually they took up residence here. James Slater (who was not related to the

mill owners) was a leading, early advocate of the celebration of Rhode Island Independence Day. He helped celebrate the day publicly in North Smithfield in 1906 and 1907. In 1908, largely through his efforts, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed a law providing for the observance of Rhode Island Independence Day on the fourth day of May of each year in all the public schools of the state. James Slater served as North Smithfield's town clerk from 1903 until 1914 and later served the town in the General Assembly. (1862- G. Johnson.)

4-Y. Slater Estate Caretaker's Cottage (c. 1855; 49 School Street):

A 1½-story, cross-gabled, Early Victorian Gothic cottage with a trelliswork front porch--now somewhat altered. According to one source, this was originally the caretaker's or gardener's cottage on the William Slater Estate. The Slater mansion, built in 1854, stood to the west; it was destroyed in the early 20th century and the site is now occupied by a housing development. Like the main house, this cottage on the Slater estate grounds was probably designed by noted Providence architect Thomas Tefft. (1870- W. H. Seagraves.)

5. Smithfield Road Historic District: The Smithfield Road Historic District, in the eastern part of town, consists of a seven-tenths-mile section of Smithfield Road (originally Great Road) north of the Manville Road. There are six noteworthy houses, two cemeteries, stone walls, an apple orchard, fields, woods, and two brooks.

The original Great Road from Providence to Worcester, Massachusetts, was laid out in the late 17th century. In this part of town, the route went over Sayles Hill to the west, but the highway's course was altered in about 1741 to follow what is now Smithfield Road. In 1733, a tavern was established here near a farm complex. Both survive in altered form. The remaining features in the historic district are 19th century in origin. The old road remained one of the principal routes between Providence and points north until about 1923, when the Old Louisquisset Pike to the west was improved and extended to Woonsocket. Thereafter, this became a lightly traveled road. Today, the character of this early highway is preserved in its narrow roadbed and winding course, lined in places with stone walls, passing through a quiet and pleasant landscape of houses, fields, and woods. Although none of the houses, individually, merits National Register consideration, the district is recommended for inclusion in the Register because it exhibits the best preserved and unchanged segment of Old Great Road in the town today, and because, overall, the area preserves much of the serene and rustic charm of yesteryear.

5-A. Smithfield Road (Old Great Road): A relatively narrow and winding roadway which in the district is lined in part by stone walls and which passes through a rural landscape of fields, woods, and

houses. The Great Road connecting Providence with Worcester and Boston was originally laid-out in the 17th century. In this part of town it ran over Sayles Hill to the west. By 1733, it had not improved much beyond a cart path, and a petition at that time to have it relaid was not granted. Another committee, in 1741, was successful in turning the Great Road around Sayles Hill, and this section came into use as the main north-south route in this area. Typical of other parts of Great Road, it was narrow and followed an irregular path to avoid topographical irregularities. Traversing an agricultural hinterland, much of its course was lined with stone walls. This section served as the main highway until about 1923, when the Louisquisset Pike was cut across country a short distance west of Smithfield Road, taking the through traffic and thereby helping preserve the old road's quiet charm and beauty. Although macadamized, the Old Great Road, now Smithfield Road, still retains the flavor of an earlier period in the history of North Smithfield.

- 5-B. Allen House: An altered, 1½-story, 18th-century, 5-bay, center-chimney house, probably the oldest in the district, it is set back from the road, atop a slight rise. (1851- I. Allen.)
- 5-C. Historical Cemetery Number Thirteen: A small burying ground, just south of the Allen House, containing eighteen inscribed headstones, dating from 1820 to 1888, memorializing members of the Mann and Holley families.
- 5-D. Sly Tavern (956 Smithfield Road): This much-added-to and altered 18th-century, center-chimney, 5-bay residence stands well back from the road on a large lot. It is said to have been licensed as a tavern by Stephen Sly in 1733. (1851- Wilkinson.)
- 5-E. Charles H. Smith House (957 Smithfield Road): A very retardataire, 2½-story, 5-bay residence, with a portico central entrance and a wing, with veranda, at the left side of the house. (1895- Chas. H. Smith.)
- 5-F. Hendrick Farm (c. 1811; 1034 Smithfield Road): A 2½-story, Federal, center-chimney house, with several additions at the rear. There is a large barn on the well landscaped lot, and a six-foot-high stone wall and white picket fence along the road. (1851- D. Hendrick.)
- 5-G. Historical Cemetery Number Ten: A small burying ground bounded on three sides by stone walls. It contains inscribed stones dating from 1821 to 1889, mostly for members of the Morrison family.
- 5-H. W. Tucker Farmhouse (c. 1860; 1111 Smithfield Road): The farm complex includes a 1½-story, late Greek Revival residence, with a brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. There is a barn on the property. (1870- W. Tucker.)

5-I. Francis Guertin House (56 Smithfield Road): This simple, L-plan, porch-fronted Queen Anne cottage stands on a neat lot behind a recently constructed stone wall. (1895- Francis Guertin.)

\*\* 6. Union Village Historic District: The Union Village Historic District, entered in the National Register in 1978, is a half-mile-long section of Great Road (Route 146A), from Woonsocket Hill Road to a point just beyond Westwood Road. Union Village includes fifteen 18th- and early 19th-century structures and twelve compatible late 19th- and 20th-century buildings.

Here, one of North Smithfield's first settlers lived--James Arnold. His house, built about 1690 and much expanded later, is still standing. The Quaker Arnolds erected a meetinghouse nearby in 1721, on Great Road. It served northern Rhode Island's substantial Quaker community. Union Village is fundamentally, however, a highway village. A crossroads settlement, its history is founded in its site at the juncture of a major north-south thoroughfare linking Providence to Worcester and an east-west route running from Boston to Connecticut. Highway use prompted the establishment of several inns here. The first was opened in 1733 by Joseph Arnold. In 1739, his brother Thomas opened a second tavern, which was later run by his son Peleg. The tavern gained renown during the Revolutionary War and was enlarged in about 1790.

The first decades of the 19th century were the Golden Age of Union Village. Within about ten years, almost a dozen buildings were erected. Union Village was then an important transportation nexus for northern Rhode Island, a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural hinterland, a gathering place and center of education and religious services. In about 1804, two new taverns were built: the Seth Allen Tavern, at the corner of Pound Hill Road, and the George Aldrich Inn, across the road. These two taverns maintained a lively competition for highway trade for a number of years during the stagecoach era, and several notables visited, including the Marquis de Lafayette during his 1825 trip to this country. In 1805, the Smithfield Union Bank was incorporated. The first bank in northern Rhode Island, it operated here for forty-six years, until its business was transferred to Woonsocket in 1851. Originally named as Woonsocket because of the nearby hill, the village was renamed Union Village after the bank, probably when the post office was established. A schoolhouse was erected on Pound Hill Road in 1807, and in the following year the Smithfield Academic Society was incorporated. Built in 1810, the academy attracted students from all parts of New England and more distant areas. Union Village's period of prosperity was short lived, however. Without waterpower, it had no industry. Woonsocket and other surrounding villages became industrialized and urbanized. The completion of the Providence and Worcester Railroad in 1847, by-passing Union Village, dealt a severe blow to the stagecoach trade. Taverns began to close, the bank moved in 1851, the academy closed in 1852, and the post office was moved

to Woonsocket. In the second half of the 19th century, Union Village sank into a genteel decline as a secluded hamlet. During the first half of the 20th century, the village became a residential suburb of Woonsocket with the construction of a street railway from Woonsocket to Pascoag through the village and, later, with the full flowering of the automobile age and associated highway improvements. Traffic along Great Road remained moderately heavy until the North Smithfield Expressway, built in 1960, absorbed all the through traffic. Today, the well preserved and maintained village again is a quiet, residential community, its major buildings along Great Road registering more than two centuries of the history of North Smithfield. (1851- Bank Village.)

#### GREAT ROAD

- 6-A. The Cyrus Arnold House, or Gray's Homestead (1810 et seq; 53 Great Road): A 2½-story, monitor-on-hip-roofed, Federal structure with Greek Revival and Queen Anne alterations. It has a central entrance in a 5-bay facade and a veranda across the front and right side. (1851- Dr. Briggs.)
- 6-B. Daniel Arnold House (1714 et seq; 71 Great Road): A 2½-story, center-chimney dwelling with a 5-bay facade and central entrance. One of the oldest buildings in Union Village, the house was extensively remodeled by Arnold in the Federal style in the early 19th century when a delicate, pedimented portico was added and the house enlarged and otherwise updated. (1851- W. Pierce.)
- 6-C. Joel Aldrich House (c. 1808; 76 Great Road): A 2½-story, 5-bay, Federal house, with two, interior, end-wall chimneys. The central entry, with an elliptical fanlight, is surrounded by rustication. The delicate pedimented portico, very like that of the Daniel Arnold House, is highly regarded. There is a 2-story lateral ell. The Aldrich House is one of the finest early 19th-century houses in Union Village. The building was used for a time as a dormitory for the Linden Grove Seminary, a school for young ladies, before the school moved to Pawtucket in the 1850s. (1851- C. C. Mowry.)
- 6-D. Stephen Brownell House (1806; 86 Great Road): A 2-story, hip-roofed structure, with a portico entry in a 5-bay facade, and a large wing at the rear. The Brownell House was built in two sections; the rear portion is probably the older. The large, Late Victorian barn at the rear of the house once served as a school for the village. (1851- S. Brownell.)
- 6-E. Jacob Morse House (c. 1851; 101 Great Road): A 2½-story, 3-bay, Italianate Bracketed residence, with two paired, interior, brick chimneys. The central entrance has a massive bracketed portico. The paired windows have deep, bracketed lintels and louvered blinds. There are bay windows on the side elevations and round-

head windows beneath the broad eaves of the end gables. The Morse House, suitably surrounded by a picket fence, was the last of the large, architecturally significant 19th-century dwellings in Union Village. (1862- J. Morse.)

- 6-F. Seth Allen Tavern (c. 1804; 120 Great Road): A 2½-story structure, with a central entry with transom lights, under a balustraded portico, in a 5-bay facade. The building has a broad piazza across the front with a rusticated and arcaded basement.

The Seth Allen Tavern, one of the major Union Village stagecoach stops, was designed by Walter Allen, a local builder. The inn remained in lively competition with the George Aldrich Inn across the street throughout the stagecoach era and served such notables as the Marquis de Lafayette during his 1825 visit to this country. In spite of the village's decline as a transportation center, the building remained in use as a tavern until converted into a private residence in the early 20th century. (1862- A. Spear.)

- 6-G. The George Aldrich Inn (c. 1804; 127-129 Great Road): This large, much altered, 2½-story Federal structure has an eccentric, Late Victorian, 3½-story, central, cross-gabled pavilion. The right half of the building dates from the mid-19th century. The tower-like central pavilion dates from 1898. Originally used as an inn, it was later occupied by James Bushee, the headmaster of the Smithfield Academy, who used this structure for classes from 1843 until 1852, when the academy closed. James Bushee, who left Union Village to teach elsewhere, returned to his residence in 1879 and taught classes for several years thereafter. Today, the former inn is an apartment house. (1851- Geo. Aldrich.)

- 6-H. Dency Wilbur House (1812; 137 Great Road): A 2½-story, 5-bay, center-chimney, Federal house, its pedimented entrance has a semi-circular fanlight. This house was constructed by John Osborne, son-in-law of Union Village's master builder, Walter Allen. (1851- Judge Buffum.)

- 6-I. Walter Allen House (1802; 138 Great Road): A 2½-story, 5-bay dwelling, with a central entrance and two interior chimneys. The entrance has a fanlight and is elaborated with rustication and a large, pedimented portico borne by slender fluted columns. Although the northern ell of the house was built in 1710 by Hezekiah Comstock, one of the village's pioneer settlers, the main house was built by Walter Allen, Union Village's early 19th-century master builder, as his own residence. The Allen House is the earliest structure within the Village associated with Allen and demonstrates characteristics related to his work, such as the rustication around the entrance and the pedimented portico. There are five similar porticoes in the village, two with rustication.

The Allen House was the site of the first Roman Catholic services in the area, held in 1839, and it later functioned as a tavern. Colonial Revival alterations were effected by a former resident, Edgar M. Slocomb early in the 20th century. On the well landscaped lot, along Pound Hill Road, is a handsome, wood-shingled carriage shed with cupola. (1851- J. Osborn.)

- 6-J. Captain Landers House (c. 1835; 171 Great Road): A 1½-story, Greek Revival cottage with a flank-gable roof, two small interior chimneys, a 5-bay facade with central entrance, and a 1-story wing at the left side. Miss Southwick, a mistress at the nearby Linden Grove Seminary for young ladies, built this house. It was soon thereafter occupied by Captain Landers, a supporter of Thomas Dorr during the Dorr Rebellion of 1842. According to tradition, Landers kept a cannon on his front lawn as a memorial to the Dorr struggle for equal suffrage. (1851- W. Pierce.)
- 6-K. Almy-Marble House (c. 1805; 178 Great Road): A 2½-story Federal dwelling, with two, small, paired, interior chimneys and a central, pedimented, portico entry in a 5-bay facade. Christopher Almy built this house in the early years of the 19th century, and it served as the post office until 1844. Around mid-century, the house passed to Almy's daughter, Phoebe Marble, who taught reading, chemistry, and minerology at Rhode Island Normal School for many years. Mrs. Marble made several additions to the house, including a new kitchen built around the original well. (1851- C. Almy.)
- 6-L. Anson Arnold House (188 Great Road): A 1½-story, mid-19th-century house, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story wing, with veranda, on the left side. Anson Arnold was a whetstone finisher. (1851- S. Sayles.)
- 6-M. House (c. 1860; 202 Great Road): A 2½-story, Bracketed residence, with a central entry under a pedimented portico, in a 3-bay facade. The paired front windows have projecting lintels. There is a 2-story ell at the left rear. (1895- Geo. F. Varney.)
- 6-N. Lapham House (1790; 212 Great Road): A 1½-story house, with a large, brick, center chimney, a central entry, with side and transom lights, in a 5-bay facade, and a small ell at the left side, rear. This well preserved house remained in the Lapham family until the 1940s. (1851- Lapham.)

#### POUND HILL ROAD

- 6-O. Former Smithfield Union Bank (1803; 21 Pound Hill Road): This much revised building was erected at the corner of Pound Hill Road and Great Road. The building was used as a dwelling and store by Walter Allen before he built his house at 138 Great Road. In 1805, the Union Bank, from which the village takes its name, opened in this building and continued to operate here until 1851,

when the bank transferred its facilities to Woonsocket. Then, this building was moved to its present location and converted into a dwelling. (1851- Bank (on Great Road))

#### WOONSOCKET HILL ROAD

\*\* 6-P. Peleg Arnold Tavern (1690, c. 1790; 4 Woonsocket Hill Road): This unusually large, 2½-story structure has two, brick, interior, chimneys and a central entry in a 7-bay facade. The original portion of this structure was the twenty-foot-square Richard Arnold House, built in 1690. Arnold's grandson, Peleg, expanded the building to its present size toward the end of the 18th century. The first building in Union Village, the Richard Arnold House, began to function as a tavern in 1739. In 1765, it became the home of Peleg Arnold--patriot, delegate to the Continental Congress, and chief justice of both the Rhode Island Superior Court and Supreme Court. The building remained a tavern into the 20th century but has since been converted into apartments. The Arnold Tavern is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (1851- Jos. Arnold.)

7. Waterford Historic District: Waterford is a mill village in the extreme northeastern corner of North Smithfield, straddling the state line. The Rhode Island section encompasses St. Paul Street and several side streets west of the railroad and parts of Canal and Mill streets east of the railroad. It includes a Roman Catholic church and school, a former public school, a mill site, and several dozen residences. The history of Waterford is linked with that of neighboring Blackstone, Massachusetts, where the initial industrial development in the area began in 1808 with the construction of a textile-mill village financed by the newly formed Blackstone Manufacturing Company. In 1824, Welcome Farnum purchased a tract of land on the southeast bank of the Blackstone River, opposite Blackstone. Farnum was the creator of Waterford. He built a dam and power canal, a mill, and some houses, the latter on the Massachusetts side of the state line. In 1828, the Blackstone Canal was completed through Waterford, and, in that year also, the firm of W. & D. D. Farnum (Welcome and his brother Darius) built a new mill astride the state line and began the manufacture of cotton warps. In 1836, the Farnums began to erect yet another mill southeast of Mill Street, entirely in Rhode Island. After 1840, the Waterford mills manufactured only woolen goods. Following the death of Darius Farnum in 1845 Welcome became the sole owner of the mills. He increased his holdings; when he retired his manufacturing business and interests were said to have comprised the largest woolen manufacturing business in the United States owned and controlled by one man.

In 1852, St. Paul's Church was built in Waterford to serve the predominantly Roman Catholic population. During the 19th century, mostly in the last several decades, a number of houses

were built in the community. By the end of the century, most of the buildings now included in the historic district were built. The 20th century was a period of slow growth. Only a few houses were added to the community. The large woolen mill, which had burned in 1864 and immediately rebuilt, continued to operate for some years as the American Woolen Company Division of the Saranac Mills but was destroyed about 1930, thus ending Waterford's manufacturing era. Today, the district is almost entirely residential, a quiet suburb of adjacent Blackstone, Massachusetts. (1831- Farnham Factory.)

#### CANAL STREET

- 7-A. Blackstone Canal (1828): What remains of the Blackstone Canal parallels Canal Street. The broad, open ditch frequently contains overflow water from the river. The 45-mile Blackstone Canal linking Providence and Worcester, Massachusetts, was built between 1824 and 1828 as an inexpensive way to transport freight. But, for a variety of reasons, the canal proved a failure and a petition to abandon it was granted in 1849. Although the canal stopped moving goods, it remained important to mill owners along its route who used the water to power their factories. In Waterford, the canal's waters were diverted to serve the Mammoth Mill in 1836. In about 1930, the Mammoth Mill was torn down, and the canal, in this section, was unused, overgrown with vegetation, and littered with trash. It remains unused today.
- 7-B. Site of Mammoth Mill: At the southeast corner of the intersection of Canal and Mill streets, in a relatively large, overgrown lot, are the ruins of the largest of three woolen mills formerly in the area. Construction of the first mill at this site was begun in 1836 by W. & D. D. Farnum (Welcome and Darius D.). The four-story brick mill, measuring 400-by-51 feet, was known as the Number One mill, or the "Mammoth Mill" because of its size. It was said to have been the largest mill in the United States upon its completion. The waters of the nearby Blackstone Canal were diverted and ran under the mill through three trenches, where three large breast wheels supplied power. In 1864, the Mammoth Mill burned, and was immediately rebuilt (four stories, 350-by-50 feet) on the site by Evans and Seagrave. The mill operated until about 1929, in the early part of the 20th century as the Saranac Mills of the American Woolen Company Division. In about 1930, the mill was destroyed and the site has since been neglected and become overgrown. Today the site is threatened by encroachment from an adjacent automobile-salvage yard. (1870- Evans & Seagrave, Mills No. 1.)

#### MILL STREET

- 7-C. Mill Houses (c. 1827): Along the north side of Mill Street, near the state line, are several altered, but early, mill houses--2½-story

structures, with large, brick, center chimneys and central entries in 5-bay facades. These houses probably are contemporaneous with the first Waterford mills. (1870- E & S.)

#### SAINT PAUL STREET

- 7-D. St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church (1852): An Early Victorian, stone, Gothic church with a square, projecting tower and a wing at the left side, rear. The state line runs through a corner of the building, but most of the building is in Massachusetts. It was built on land donated by mill owner Welcome Farnum. A recent newspaper article suggests that it was designed by the noted Gothic architect Richard Upjohn. It was dedicated in 1852 and today is the second-oldest house of worship in the Diocese of Worcester. The octagonal spire was added in 1872, and the old church remodeled and enlarged in 1883. A rectory was added in 1902. On March 29, 1932, the interior was completely destroyed by fire, but the church was rebuilt and rededicated on June 25, 1933. Today it is still an active church, serving parishoners in both states. (1954- Catholic Church.)
- 7-E. St. Paul's School (1927): A brick, 2-story, flat-roofed parochial school with an ornamented central pavilion. It is next to St. Paul's Church and was built to house eight grades. The Convent for the Sisters of Joseph was built at the time, on the other side of the church (entirely in Massachusetts). Most of this building, astride the state line, lies in Rhode Island.
- 7-F. Tevlin House (c. 1875; 83 St. Paul Street): An altered but interesting Bracketed cottage with a portico entry in a 5-bay facade.
- 7-G. House (c. 1900; 86 St. Paul Street): A 2½-story, end-gable, Late Victorian, Bracketed house, with two entries in hip-roofed porches; a 2-story bay window in front flanks the entrance porch. This is one of several, late 19th-century houses of this type in the district.
- 7-H. Kelley House (c. 1845; 94 St. Paul Street): A 1½-story, Greek Revival house, with a central portico entry in a 5-bay facade; there is a wing at the right side, rear. This house was one of the first built along St. Paul Street. (1870- M. Kelley.)
- 7-I. Former St. Paul Hill School (97 St. Paul Street): A 1½-story building end-to-road, with a roundhead window in the gable end and heavy window lintels in the Bracketed taste. Originally the St. Paul Hill School, a 1-room school serving eight grades and located on Mendon Road, it was moved to this site sometime before 1895, when a new school was built, and then converted into a residence. The front yard retains a once very characteristic wood-picket fence. (1870- S. H. (at former site).)

## HISTORIC AREAS

8. Blackstone River/High Rocks Natural and Historic Area: Along the northern border of town, where the Blackstone River enters Rhode Island, is a beautiful, undeveloped section of river. Flowing through a deep, hemlock-lined ravine, the river with its surrounding rocks, and forests, provides one of the most beautiful wild settings in the state. Just below the High Rocks area, the Blackstone River is joined by the Branch River, which also contains a wooded and rugged stretch of scenery below Branch Village. A few hundred feet north of the state line is the Rolling Dam; constructed in the 19th century, it diverts Blackstone River water through a long canal system to a mill site in nearby Blackstone. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the High Rocks area was popular with Blackstone and Waterford residents. The high rocks along the east side provide good vantage points for sightseeing. One overlook, "Lovers Rock," is perhaps the best viewing spot and is associated with a legend which maintains that a pair of lovers were dropped into the river when a large piece of rock broke off, forever trapping the lovers underneath. At the "Three Corners," where the rivers meet, clambakes were regularly held by local mill villagers up to World War I. The High Rocks area, the most rugged and least-developed part of the Blackstone River in Rhode Island, is recommended for inclusion in a proposed Blackstone Linear Park by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.
  
9. The Cedar Swamp Natural and Historic Area: A relatively large swamp, about two-thirds of a mile wide and about one and a third miles long, along Cherry Brook in north-central North Smithfield. The swamp is mentioned in several early deeds, including one of the first land grants in 1669. In addition, to being a convenient landmark, it was important as a source of lumber. In 1680, a town resident requested that the town resolve the question of rights to the "Wainsocitt Cedar Swampe" as he was interested in cutting wood. It was used as a source of timber in the following centuries, as well as for hunting and trapping of animals. Originally more extensive, it has been subject to much filling-in. In 1959-1960 it was bisected by the North Smithfield Expressway (Route 146). Although reduced in size and compromised by landfilling, it has interesting historical associations with the town and still serves as a wildlife habitat today. (1855- Cedar Swamp.)
  
10. Mattity, or Mattetokomitt Meadow Natural and Historic Area: A relatively extensive swamp in the southwestern part of town, at the headwaters of the Woonasquatucket River. The swamp is shown as the Mattetokomitt Meadow on a 1689-1690 map, the earliest known map showing lands in present North Smithfield. During the first period of settlement, these swamps, or meadows--grassy areas where animals could be grazed--were parceled out to several families and were vital to existence. Long unused for agricultural purposes, the Mattity Swamp is botanically important today as a cedar swamp containing rare northern species such as northern white cedar and white spruce.

11. Nipsachuck Natural and Historic Area: Located in the extreme southwestern corner of North Smithfield, south of Lake Bel Air and west of Nipsachuck Hill, is an area known as Nipsachuck. During the last ice age, large quantities of outwash material were deposited here, creating a swamp and an area of irregular topography known as kame-and-kettle forms. An esker--a long, narrow, steep ridge--was also created, perhaps the best example of this landform in Rhode Island. It was in and near the swamp, and the nearby hill, that two battles occurred during King Philip's War. In August, 1675, a skirmish took place between Philip's men and a force of Providence and Rehoboth men who had pursued the Indians here. About thirty Indians were killed, but delay permitted the surviving Indians to escape to the Nipmuc country. In July, 1676, a force of men under Major Talcott assaulted the Indian camp at Nipsachuck. This well planned attack resulted in the death or capture of 171 Indians. In the 18th century a small settlement, known as "Rankin Village," was established. Long-since abandoned, the site of this former community is evident today in cellar holes, stone walls, and a small burying ground on the esker. The Nipsachuck area today, accessible only by trails, is a pleasant, relatively wild area, little frequented by man.
  
12. Woonsocket Reservoir Number 3 Natural and Historic Area: North of Rocky Hill Road and west of Woonsocket Reservoir Number Three, in the southeastern corner of North Smithfield, is a watershed owned mostly by the City of Woonsocket. Forested and hilly, it contains a rich mixture of cultural features--stone walls, the remains of two farmsteads, cemeteries, granite quarries, an earthen dam, and stone bridges along Crookfall Brook. At the foot of Sayles Hill this area was cleared for fields and pastures in the late 17th and 18th centuries and remained farmland until the late 19th century, when Woonsocket acquired it and created a reservoir in 1895. Purchase of the land, and subsequent flooding, displaced several families; since then, the open land has reverted to forest. Uninhabited, and protected by the city, many cultural remains here are well preserved.
  - 12-A. Mowry-Connelly Farm Site: The site of the Mowry-Connelly Farm lies astride the Smithfield town line. It consists of a house foundation, with its center chimney base still standing, foundations and walls associated with outbuildings, and granite corn-crib posts. Nearby is a Mowry family burying ground and an old, stone-wall-lined roadway. (1851- Mowry.)
  - 12-B. Paine Farm Site: Near the northwest corner of the reservoir are the remains of the Paine Farm, including house and outbuilding foundations, corn-crib posts, and several old wells. (1851- Obed Paine.)
  - 12-C. Stone Walls: The historic area contains many stone walls of different types. Most common are the typical, crudely-laid-up walls, where a single width of fieldstones are stacked at random. Some of

these walls were used to contain sheep, as evidenced by a series of notched stones set at intervals into the top of the wall. The notched stones held rails and served as an effective barrier to the sheep. Another type of wall, a "two-layered wall," is also generally crudely built, but is wider. Some are broad at the base and narrower at the top, and capped with flat stones. One wall is unique: measuring up to nine feet wide and extending about 600 feet, it has been dubbed the "Great Wall," and runs parallel to the reservoir shoreline. All of these walls are located within a small area between the present fire road and the reservoir and between the two farms sites.

- 12-D. Granite Quarries: Two rock outcrops with water-filled depressions, used perhaps as early as the 18th century and active in the 19th century. Large quantities of cut stone were taken from the granite ledges. The bases for the columns of the Arcade Building in Providence were quarried here.
- 12-E. Dams and Bridges: Along the Crookfall Brook is a large, breached earthen dam, whose dammed waters were probably used to irrigate fields below (there are remains of a ditch leading from the Crookfall below the dam). Upstream are several small, crude bridges constructed of large slabs of granite, bridging the brook.

## HISTORIC STRUCTURES, SITES, AND FEATURES

### ANDREWS TERRACE

(See Branch Village Historic District, #1.)

### BRANCH AVENUE

(See Branch Village Historic District, #1.)

### BUTLER STREET

13. Tupperware Factory (1904): A 3-story, brick mill, with a full basement; a square tower; many large, multipaned windows; and a 2-story addition. There are several assessor buildings, including an office building and a power house. The complex was built as a cotton mill by the Blackstone Manufacturing Company after the tax assessment on their mills in Blackstone, Massachusetts, was raised. The mills on the Massachusetts side, dating from about 1808, were torn down in retaliation and this massive structure was erected across the state line, in Rhode Island, only 1000 feet from the site of the old mills. The existing power canal was altered, and a new, 500-foot canal, with concrete walls, was constructed; it led to the new electric power house which was capable of developing 1200 horsepower with four turbines. In the mid-1950s, the mill was sold to the Tupperware Company, which also purchased a large tract of land to the west, extending to Great Road and including the site of the Branch Village mills (see #1-F). The Blackstone Mill is now the principal plastics manufactory for Tupperware's nationally known plastic kitchen products. In 1955, the power plant was abandoned, and the plant relied on purchased electric power. However, in 1979 the Tupperware Company started a project to rebuild the hydroelectric plant to once again generate electricity by waterpower.

### BUXTON STREET

14. Wardle House (c. 1880; 36 Buxton Street): A 2½-story, 3-bay, side-hall plan, end-gable dwelling, with a hooded entry and a 2-story bay window on the left side. There is a fine, picket fence in front and a barn behind the house. (1895- Joshua Wardle.)
15. House and Christiansen Orchards (109 Buxton Street): A much altered 1½-story, 18th-century residence. Around the house are several acres of apple orchards. Christiansen, the largest apple grower in town, has a sales and storeroom on nearby Victory Highway (see #106). (1851- Sprague.)
16. House (251 Buxton Street): A 1½-story, brick, mid-19th-century farmhouse with two, small, stuccoed-brick chimneys; a central, enclosed entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the right side.

There are several barns on the relatively large lot. Nineteenth-century masonry houses are very rare in rural Rhode Island. (1851- Smith.)

17. Roberts Farm: The farmhouse is a gable-roofed, 5-bay cottage with central entrance and a kitchen ell at the side. A large, shingled, 19th-century barn stands behind the house. (1870- Mrs. Roberts.)
18. George Bartlett House (c. 1855): A 1½-story, Greek Revival house, with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; a kitchen ell at the left side, flush with the facade; and an addition at the rear. (1870- G. Bartlett.)

#### CANAL STREET

(See Waterford Historic District, #7).

#### CENTRAL STREET

19. Paine-Maynard House (c. 1865, c. 1890): Probably dating to the 1860s, this 2½-story, end-gable house was updated around 1890 in the Queen Anne fashion. It boasts a vergeborad, window hoods, bay window, turned-posts, a pedimented portico, and ornamental shingling. (1870- A. Paine; 1895- H. & M. Maynard.)

#### CHURCH STREET

(See Slatersville Historic District, #4)

#### COMSTOCK ROAD

- \* 20. Aldrich Farm: A farm complex consisting of a house and several outbuildings at the end of a private lane off Pound Hill Road. The house was built in three stages. The original part, in the center, was built about 1775; the 2½-story section at the left end was added about 1815; and a short, 1-story part was put on at the right end about 1825. The front is bounded by a wood picket fence. Nearby outbuildings include a large barn, a corn crib on stone posts and slabs, two sheds, and a privy. The Aldrich Farm has been in the same family for about two centuries. During that time the farm operation was typical of many small, essentially subsistence farms in the area, raising a variety of crops and animals. At one time, the farm was quite extensive, extending from the north slope of Woonsocket Hill down to the Branch River. In 1979, the lower tract, which includes the family cemetery, was sold, reducing the old farm to a several-acre parcel around the farm complex. Nonetheless, what remains comprises the finest extant farm complex in North Smithfield. (1851- O. Aldrich.)

## DOUGLAS PIKE

21. Nipsachuck Farm (c. 1698 et seq): The complex centers on an externally very typical, 2½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney, 5-bay, central-entrance farmhouse, said to incorporate a late 17th-century dwelling but appearing to date largely from the 18th century. Sited near the summit of Nipsachuck Hill, from which the property derives its name, the complex includes a number of barns and other outbuildings and is set a long way from the road, on a private lane. (1870- O. Hunt.)
22. Stephen Smith Farm (c. 1815; 636 Douglas Pike): The 1½-story Federal farmhouse has a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; a small weather entry at the right side, rear; and a screened porch at the rear. There is a barn on the large lot at the corner of Mattity Road. (1851- Stephen Smith.)
23. Nichols Hotel (c. 1830): A 2½-story, late Federal structure with a central chimney and a central entrance in a 5-bay street elevation. A wide, flat entablature caps the main entrance; there are flanking sidelights and pilaster strips. The Nichols hotel and tavern served travelers on the Douglas Pike in the early 19th century. Characteristically for such a facility, the old hotel stands very close to the highway at an important intersection where Tarkiln and Pound Hill roads join the Pike. Carriage sheds and a barn form a court behind the hotel; the Nichols cemetery is nearby. (1851- Hotel.)
24. Lovell Farm (c. 1785 et seq): The house was built in two sections-- a 1½-story, 5-bay, center-chimney section constructed in about 1785, and a mid-19th-century, 2-story wing attached to one end of the older structure. This addition, 3-bays wide, has a recessed porch and vergeboards skirting its low-pitched roof. One barn survives on the property. (1851- D. Lovell.)

## FARNUM PIKE (Greenville Road)

25. Frederic S. Brown House (1939): A 2-story, vertical-board-sided, International Style house, with flat roofs and varied window openings and roof lines. It stands on a high bank above the road in a well landscaped yard. The house was designed by architect Oliver Fontaine for the owner, using ideas borrowed from the 1939 New York World's Fair. Its absence of ornament, feeling of volume, flat roofs, and smooth and uniform wall surfaces are characteristic of the International Style, fashionable in the late 1920s and the 1930s and early 1940s. (1947- F. Brown.)
26. House (c. 1959): A 2-story, "rustic," modern house, with a large stone chimney, vertical-board siding, and stone walls. There is a piazza across the front and a garage under the left side of the house. The house, designed by the owner to fit into the terrain, occupies a well landscaped site on the side of a hill.

\*\*27.

Smith-Andrews-Taft-Todd Farm (c. 1740 et seq.; 670 Farnum Pike): The most striking feature of this farm complex is the long house, with three, large, brick chimneys; several simply framed entrances; and a saltbox profile. The central part of the house is the original section, built about 1740; the two sides were added later, perhaps around 1800. There are several barns and other buildings near the house and a relatively large tract of land which includes a pond at the southern end of the Cedar Swamp.

The first owners of the land of record were members of the Smith family. In 1740, Daniel Smith got this property from his brother, Noah, and probably built the first part of the house at that time. Daniel Smith was a blacksmith, and there is mention of a sawmill and a cross-cut saw in Noah's inventory of 1746. David Andrews, of Mendon, Massachusetts, bought the place in 1821 and learned the trade of millwright. David's widow, Sarah, married Nelson Taft, and David's daughter Abigail married Albert Todd. During the middle-and-late 19th century the farm was owned in several parcels by members of the Andrews, Taft, and Todd families. Nelson Taft, a house carpenter, employed Albert Todd; Todd later became a printer, working for the Woonsocket Patriot and the Providence Journal. Albert's son, David Chauncey Todd, also worked for Nelson Taft as a carpenter, then went into the lumber business and, according to historical accounts, erected a sawmill at the old homestead in 1879. It probably replaced the earlier sawmill erected by David Andrews. During the late 19th century, an icehouse was erected along the shore of Todd Pond. After Nelson Taft's death in 1892 the property became identified solely with the Todd family. The old farm is now owned by Louise Cole Todd, an artist.

The sawmill, icehouse, and original outbuildings are gone, but the venerable house--rich in historical associations--and later outbuildings around the house still provide a quiet, rural atmosphere. Through the Andrews, Taft, and Todd interconnections, the farm has belonged to one extended family for more than two centuries.

28.

Ananias, or John Mowry Farm (c. 1700 et seq.; 841 Farnum Pike): This historically important property contains an early house, a whetstone quarry, and a family cemetery. The 2½-story, south-facing dwelling, has two entries on its south side. An open porch rings the building's south and west sides. The original 1700 house was smaller. Two large rooms were added about 1800, and around 1900 the large center chimney was removed and the porch, kitchen ell, and a second floor were added. Although the building has been considerably altered it is noteworthy historically. It was probably built by John Mowry II, son of the original settlers of North Smithfield and grandson of Roger Mowry who settled in Rhode Island about 1643. There are four descendants with the name Ananias Mowry. A daughter of Ananias Mowry III married Amasa Smith and since the mid-19th century the property has been owned by the Smith family.

George A. Smith and George R. Smith were formally educated men who were actively involved in town affairs. Paul Smith, who died in 1978, was a pioneer in military-aviation history. He was also associated with the Woonsocket Call, starting as a reporter in 1921 and retiring as the managing editor in 1962.

A short distance south of the house is a depression in the side of a hill. Now overgrown, it was the site of a whetstone quarry abandoned about 1875. Whetstone manufacture was an important local industry. A barn and cider mill once stood across the road, but in the 20th century they fell victim to highway widening and neglect. A family burying ground is several hundred feet north of the house.

The Mowry-Smith property is important historically because it has been in the same family for about three centuries, a record few other farms in Rhode Island, or the nation, could claim. (1851- A. L. Smith.)

29. North Smithfield Junior-Senior High School (1966): A 2-story, stone-and-brick-clad school on a 36-acre campus. The first secondary school built by the Town of North Smithfield it was designed by William R. Black to accommodate 1,116 pupils.
30. School Superintendent's Office, or the former Primrose School : Built as the 2-room Primrose School, this 1-story brick building has an above-grade, ½-story basement. The hip-roofed building has more-or-less Georgian Revival trim. Converted to office use, it now serves the town's school department.
31. Primrose Pond Dam and Sawmill Site (18th Century et seq.): A rock-fill and earth dam at the headwaters of the Woonasquatucket River creates 64-acre Primrose Pond. At the south end of the pond, below the dam, are two concrete bridges; they mark the original course of Greenville Road which was abandoned when the highway was reconstructed in the early 20th century. Near the westernmost bridge is a mill trench. It indicates the site of a sawmill built sometime between 1750 and 1780 and operated into the early 20th century. Also known as Crystal Lake, the pond was a source of ice; an icehouse, now gone, stood for many years along the pond's western shore. (1851- S. Mill.)
- \*31-A. Richard-Angell-Lester-Mowry House (c. 1810; c. 1915): A 2½-story structure, with a small, brick, off-center chimney; a double-door entry at the center of a 5-bay facade, in a hip-roof porch across the right side of the front; and a 1-story ell at the right side. The house was probably built by Richard Mowry about 1815. Later it went to his son Angell, and to Angell's son, Lester, all of whom owned the farm and nearby sawmill (see #31). Upon Lester's death in 1939 the property went to his daughter, Marion Humes, thereby remaining in the Mowry family until for about 170 years, until its

recent sale. Originally a "cape" type, the lower part was raised in about 1915 and a new first story built. (1851- D. Mowry.)

32. The Blunders: A short distance west of Farnum Pike is a beautiful, hemlock-lined, rocky ravine known as the Blunders, where an old road crosses a small brook and swamp on a stone-walled embankment. This was one of the earliest roads in today's North Smithfield. Long-since abandoned, the road is still readily recognizable in the wooded landscape.
33. House (c. 1935): A rare example of the Mission or Pueblo Style inspired by the adobe buildings of the American Southwest. The 1-story, stucco-covered house has a stepped roofline in front. It is set atop a steep bank, close to the road; a garage is built into the hill below the front of the house.
- \*\*34. William Mowry House (c. 1802-1805): The typical, 2½-story, center-chimney farmhouse, sited gable-end to road, has its 5-bay front entrance oriented to the south. A shed stands near the house on this still largely open tract. It is one of many Mowry houses in the Smithfield-North Smithfield area. (1851- U. Mowry.)
35. William Mowry, or Smith Mowry Farm (c. 1800): The 1½-story, 5-bay, center-chimney farmhouse has a very simple Federal entrance with sidelights. A large oak stands in front of the house. There are two outbuildings, and fields surround the complex. The house was probably built by William Mowry around 1800. It was owned and farmed until recently by William Mowry's descendants, including Smith Mowry, by whose name the farm is commonly known. (1851- Wm. Mowry.)

#### GRANGE ROAD

(See also Grange Road Historic District, #3).

36. Malavery House (c. 1700 et seq): A 2½-story, center-chimney, largely mid-18th-century house, with a plain, central entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; there is a 1-story ell at the right side. One of the early homes of North Smithfield, a portion was reportedly built in about 1700 by a Malavery. The house retains two noteworthy early details--a stone chimney stack which extends up through the second story, and a chamfered summer beam in a first-floor room. Once part of a 100-acre farm, the house was in the Mowry family for many years. Morton Mowry, a mid-19th-century occupant, was active in local government and once president of the town council. (1851- Moulton Mowry.)

#### GREAT ROAD

(See also Branch Village and Union Village Historic Districts, #1 and #6).

37. House (c. 1930; 33 Great Road): A 2-story, hip-roof, neo-Colonial structure, with a classical, central entry; asphalt shingle and brick walls; and a small, flat-roofed wing, with balastrade, at the right side. This house and adjacent Number 37 Great Road are set on small, landscaped lots at the southern edge of the Union Village Historic District.
38. House (c. 1920; 37 Great Road): A 1- and 2-story, brick, "Spanish-Colonial" house, with tiled hip roofs and an irregular plan. This house, the finest of its type in North Smithfield, was built in a style that became popular in the United States following the Panama-California Exposition at San Diego in 1915.
39. Dr. Harry L. Halliwell Memorial School (1957): A large, sprawling, campus-style grouping of buildings housing upper elementary grades.
40. William Buffum-Andrews Homestead: (c. 1775; 383 Great Road): An altered, 2½-story, 18th-century residence. Although lacking architectural integrity, the house is important historically as the residence of William Buffum, a leader in the 19th-century anti-slavery movement. His daughter, Elizabeth Buffum Chace, spent some time here as a girl. Later, she became one of the most important women in Rhode Island's history as a leader of various humanitarian and women's movements, as well as carrying on the family anti-slavery cause. In 1838, the place was purchased by Thomas Andrews, and it remained in the locally important Andrews family into the 20th century. Byron A. Andrews served as North Smithfield Town Clerk for eighteen years and was also in the State Senate. (1851- T. Andrews.)
41. Amasa Taft House (c. 1830; 829 Great Road): A large, 2½-story, late Federal house, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; and a late 19th-century porch across the front and right side. There is a large, complex addition at the rear. This house was once the residence of Fred J. Pitts, who owned the mill at nearby Branch Village. (1851- Amasa Taft.)
42. House (872 Great Road): A 2½-story, center-chimney, 5-bay house with a late 19th-century porch. (1851- S. Phetteplace.)

#### GREEN STREET

(See Slatersville Historic District, #4).

#### GREENVILLE ROAD

(See Farnum Pike)

#### IRON MINE HILL ROAD

43. Sayles Farm: This 2½-story, wood-shingled, 18th-century farmhouse has a large, brick, center chimney and a plain entrance in its asymmetrical facade. Two barns complete the complex. (1851- C. Sayles.)
- \*44. Mowry-Connolly Farm (c. 1800): A 2½-story, Federal house, with a large, brick, center chimney and a pedimented central entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a small ell at the right side. The house and adjacent barn are set back from the road on a private lane. Owned by the Mowry family through most of the 19th century, it was later the home of Joey Connolly, top hitter of the World Champion Boston Braves of 1914. Connolly retired to the family farm after his sports career and served as a Senator in the General Assembly. (1851- Elisha Mowry.)
- \*45. A. Aldrich Farm: There are several outbuildings and a 2½-story, center-chimney, 5-bay farmhouse on this former farmstead. (1851- A. Aldrich.)
46. E. Brown's Stone House, and Quarry (c. 1830): A 1½-story Federal-style house built of granite ashlar, with a 5-bay facade with a recessed central entrance and two, small, interior, brick chimneys. A granite quarry across the road was probably the source of the building material for this rare stone house. (1851- E. Brown.)
- \*47. Ananias Mowry II House (c. 1764): The existing complex includes a large barn and a 1½-story, mid-18th-century, center-chimney house with a 5-bay facade and a small ell at the right side. (1851- B. Mowry.)

#### IRONSTONE STREET

48. Buxton Cemetery (Historical Cemetery Number One): A relatively large burying ground along Ironstone Street, bounded by stone walls. It contains early and mid-19th-century graves of several locally important families, mostly Buxtons, but also Buffums and Mansfields.

#### KNOLLWOOD DRIVE

49. Knollwood: A middle-and-late, 20th-century housing development off Woonsocket Hill Road, along the north shoulder of Woonsocket Hill, with a dozen or more houses, many built in contemporary "modern" styles. Most are large, well built homes on ample, well landscaped lots. Reflecting the suburban trend in town (which began in the early 20th century), this housing tract is perhaps the finest in North Smithfield in terms of architectural quality, landscaping, and planning.

## LOUISQUISSET PIKE

50. Fogarty Memorial Hospital (1966): The brick-clad and ever growing private hospital near Park Square and the Woonsocket city line was named for the Late Congressman John F. Fogarty, a legislator known for his interest in humanitarian causes, including health care and medicare. He died suddenly in 1967, and the hospital, formerly Mercy Hospital, was named in his honor. Mercy Hospital was first founded by several Roman Catholic doctors on an old estate in Woonsocket in 1955. A new hospital, providing more space (there are now 116 rooms), designed by the firm of Castellucci and Galli, was built here in 1966. Fogarty is a general hospital.
51. Caleb Aldrich Milestone (1774): Now divorced from the section of Great Road that it marked, this milestone stands in a triangular plot between Route 146A, Louisquisset Pike, and the entrance to Fogarty Hospital. It is inscribed "12 Miles from Providence, Caleb Aldrich, 1774." Caleb Aldrich was a local resident who probably had the stone erected.
52. Hiram Thayer House (1878), and Site of Rock Cliff Farm: The Hiram Thayer House is a 2½-story, flank-gable dwelling with a central entrance in a symmetrical, 3-bay facade. The entrance is sheltered by a broad portico. There is a 2-story bay window at the right side and an ell at the rear. The house was built in 1878 by Hiram Thayer on the site of an 18th-century farmhouse, at what was known then as Rock Cliff Farm. Hiram Thayer ran a dairy farm--a thriving milk business carried on by his sons into the 20th century, when dairying was discontinued. (1895- Hiram F. Thayer.)
53. J. H. Bradford House (c. 1845): A 1½-story, Greek Revival house with two, small, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side, rear. The house is set behind a cemented stone wall, close to the road. (1862-J. H. Bradford.)
54. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (1975): A 1-story, shingle-sided, meetinghouse with arched openings. The road facade is treated as three pavilions with mock mansard roofs sloping all the way down to the ground. For many years located on South Main Street in Woonsocket, the Jehovah's Witnesses moved to this spacious structure in 1975.
- \*55. Westacres (c. 1730 et seq): A 2½-story, 18th-century house, with a large, brick, center chimney, it has a central entry, with a fanlight and sidelights, with a pedimented portico, in a 5-bay facade. There is a wing at the left side. This house was used as a tavern in the 18th century and later belonged to freed slaves Isaac and Prince Aldrich. (1862- D. P. Hammond.)

56. House (c. 1930; 784 Louisquisset Pike): A 1½-story, multi-gabled bungalow of complex plan, with a garage connected to the house by a breezeway. With its urn-capped gateposts, this is a characteristic suburban house of the day, probably built shortly after Louisquisset Pike (Route 146) was extended through North Smithfield to Woonsocket.
57. Highview Motel (c. 1960): Located on a high bank above the roadway, a mid-20th-century ranch house-office and a long, 1-story motel structure behind comprise the Highview Motel. It is one of many businesses along a section of Route 146 in North Smithfield and Lincoln where access is not limited. This commercial strip began when the Pike was extended north from Lime Rock to Woonsocket in the 1920s. It remains a typical modern commercial strip, with gas-line stations, automobile sales and service places, a drive-in theater, and other businesses catering to both highway travelers and local residents.

#### MAIN STREET

(See also Forestdale Historic District, #2, and Slatersville Historic District, #4).

58. The Upper Dam: A Branch River dam, constructed of large, dressed-granite blocks, and creating the Upper Slatersville Reservoir. The dam was built before 1876, along with a long trench, north of the river and Lower Reservoir, leading to a turbine in a power plant at the Slatersville Mills.
59. Smith-Curliss House: This 1½-story, center-chimney, Federal dwelling was built at the base of the small hill in the early 19th century and moved up the hill to this site in the latter part of the century, probably when the upper dam and mill trench were constructed. It was owned for about 100 years by the Curliss family, one of the few Black families in North Smithfield. (1851- Chad Smith.)

#### MAPLE STREET

(See Forestdale Historic District, #2).

#### MATTITY ROAD

60. The Lake Bel Air Community: A small community of several dozen houses, off Mattity Road in the southwestern part of town, by Lake Bel Air. Originally farmland, a lake was created and several summer homes were built about 1940. Later, other houses were added. The original summer houses were winterized and more, all-weather homes built. Today, Lake Bel Air residents reside here year-round. This is a characteristically northern Rhode Island lakeside community, recreational and suburban in cast.

61. West Wind Farm (c. 1815): This complex comprises several out-buildings, the farmhouse, and a large tract of land. The residence is a typical 1½-story, 5-bay, center-chimney building with a small side ell. (1851- C. Chace.)

#### MECHANIC STREET

- \*62. Metcalf Marsh House (c. 1820): A 1½-story, Federal house with two, medium-sized, end-wall, interior, brick chimneys; a simple central entry in an asymmetrical, 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side. The house, set back from the road on a private drive, was the residence of Dr. Metcalf Marsh, who was active in the social, intellectual, and religious life of the community. Concerned about unequal legislative representation as well as the matter of extension of suffrage, Marsh was an active supporter of Thomas W. Dorr's movement in the 1840s. After Dorr's defeat, Marsh went into temporary exile in Massachusetts. (1870- Mrs. Marsh.)

#### MENDON ROAD

63. House (300 Mendon Road): A 2-story, A-frame house, with a stone front. This house, on a well landscaped lot along the Woonsocket city line, is the finest of a dozen or more A-frame houses in North Smithfield.
64. Hospice St. Antoine (1941): A large, 4-story, yellow-brick structure with a central entrance of dressed stone in a projecting Art Deco center pavilion. Dressed-stone blocks are also used for trim in other sections. The building is set back from the road behind a simply landscaped front lawn. There are several auxiliary buildings, including a boiler house, at the rear. Built as a home for the aged by the Providence Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, the Hospice St. Antoine was dedicated in 1941.
65. Coblin, or Cobble Rock: A large granite boulder, or glacial erratic, on a bedrock of mica slate in a wooded area near the Woonsocket city line. The area was formerly a scythe-stone quarry. Cobble Rock has long been regarded as a geological curiosity. It is noted in Jackson's 1839 geological report and in a 19th-century newspaper article and appears on many early 20th-century postcards. Long perched in a precarious-looking position, the rock was knocked over in the late 1970s.

#### MILL STREET

(See Waterford Historic District, #7).

#### NORTH MAIN STREET

(See also Slatersville Historic District, #4).

66. Charles Seagrave House (c. 1875): A 2½-story, mansard-roofed, Second Empire house, with bracketed trim. The 2-bay entrance front is dominated by a 2-story bay window. (1895- Chas. S. Seagrave.)
67. John Mansfield House (c. 1875): A 1½-story, mansard-roofed, Second Empire house, with a symmetrical, 3-bay front and a large side ell with a porch. The house has bracketed trim, and two single-story bay windows flank the main entrance. (1895- John F. Mansfield.)

#### OLD GREAT ROAD

68. House (64 Old Great Road): A 1-story, flat-roof, mid-20th-century residence, built in a contemporary style, set on a well landscaped lot. It is one of three similar houses here (see following entries).
69. House (1948): A 1-story, shed-roof, contemporary residence, with vertical-board sides and large windows, designed by Samuel Glazer, a Boston architect, who also designed a synagogue in Woonsocket. The house is set on a well landscaped lot next to another Glazer-designed house (see next entry).
70. Guerin House (1948): A 1-story, flat-roof, contemporary-style residence, with redwood, vertical-board sides and large windows, designed by Samuel Glazer (see previous entry). It is set on 5 acres of landscaped land designed by Homer K. Dodge.
71. House (c. 1825): A 1½-story, early 19th-century residence, with a large, brick, center chimney and a central entry in the gable end. This building was reportedly the servant's quarters for the tavern next door (see next entry). (1870- I. C. Haswell.)
- \* 72. Andrews Tavern (1825): A 2½-story, brick structure, with three, brick, interior chimneys; a fine, arched, recessed entry in a 5-bay facade; and decorated window caps. This handsome structure, located at the intersection of Old Great Road and a road which linked Slatersville to Great Road, served as a tavern and stage-coach stop in the early 19th century. (1851- T. Andrews.)

#### OLD SAYLES HILL ROAD

- \* 73. Old Sayles Hill Historic Roadway: A rutted pathway through a wooded area, bounded by crude stone walls, marks the original route of Great Road. It is the part of the 17th-century road which ran over Sayles Hill. In the early 18th century another route for Great Road was laid out to the east across flatter terrain, and the earlier route was abandoned. Today, although covered with a light growth of trees and shrubs and eroded by the rain of many decades, it still gives a good sense of the character of early highways. One of the oldest little-altered roads in Rhode Island, it is recommended for the National Register.

#### OXFORD ROAD

74. Former NIKE Site; 102nd Tactical Control Squadron, Rhode Island National Guard: This air-defense base and support facilities occupy three separate locations. Off Oxford Road, atop Black Plain Hill, is the former missile site--a complex of mid-20th-century, 1-story, flat-roof, cinder-block structures; a large metal building; and other structures housing offices and work spaces of the 102nd Tactical Control Squadron of the Rhode Island Air National Guard. Along Pound Hill Road, just west of Black Plain Road, is another cluster of mid-20th-century buildings associated with the NIKE operation. West of that, there are about a dozen "ranch house" type residences which housed military families. This base was one of many established in Rhode Island and throughout the United States in the 1950s, when the Cold War was at its greatest intensity. Intended to destroy enemy missiles near America's large cities, the NIKE system was the last line of defense. In North Smithfield a large tract of land was acquired by the government. The missile-launching site atop Black Plain Hill included the missiles and radar scanners; the site on Pound Hill Road was the command center. In the 1970s, as our military weapons systems evolved, the NIKE bases were phased out. Declared excess property by the government, the site and facilities were taken over by the Rhode Island National Guard in the 1970s.

#### PARK SQUARE

75. Park Square Area: This unattractive but vigorously active business district at the intersection of Louisquisset Pike (Route 146A) and Park Avenue, Woonsocket, lies partially in Woonsocket and partially in North Smithfield. Here, in a sea of parking lots, are a Howard Johnson's restaurant, a large pharmacy, other restaurants, doctors' offices, a gasoline station, two supermarkets, a church, a school, banks, a playing field, and other businesses and offices. Fogarty Hospital is very close by. The Park Square area, once occupied largely by Oak Knoll Farm, formerly contained only a gasoline station, a diner, and a small amusement park in North Smithfield, and, in Woonsocket, a trolley barn and a fairground--the site of an annual fair held by the Woonsocket Agricultural and Horticultural Society, beginning in the 1860s.

#### POUND HILL ROAD

(See also Union Village Historic District, #6).

76. Augustine W. Eddy House (c. 1935: 89 Pound Hill Road): A complex, 2½-story house, with a large, stone, exterior chimney; a central, arched entry in a stone tower; and grouped multi-paned windows. This English-manor-like house occupies an ample, well landscaped lot.

77. Acres Wild Farm (260 Pound Hill Road): Established after World War II, Acres Wild Farm provides riding instruction, boards horses, and has indoor and outdoor training facilities. It was one of the earliest, and is one of the largest, horse farms in North Smithfield.
78. Comstock House (c. 1868): A 2½-story, Second Empire house, with an addition at the rear. (1870- W. Comstock Est.)
- \*79. House (c. 1810; 485 Pound Hill Road): A 2½-story, 5-bay, Federal house, with two, large, brick, interior chimneys; a central, entry, in a 5-bay facade; and a wing at the left side, rear. The house is at the end of a private drive that was once part of Pound Hill Road; the latter was relocated in 1960. (1851- Geo. Andrews.)
80. William Green House (c. 1910- 1920): A fine, 1½-story, L-plan, shingled house, with two fieldstone chimneys, in a pleasant, rustic-rural setting. The owner is a part-time farmer, raising beef cattle and some other animals. There is open land, and a small orchard, near the house.
81. Taber Hill: (late 1970s): A residential development of about a half dozen houses, set on ample, well landscaped lots in hilly terrain. The houses are built in a contemporary style, most with shed roofs and vertical-board siding. This tract bespeaks the continuing suburbanization of North Smithfield, with house lots carved out of former farm or forest land. Taber Hill is one of the town's better-planned developments.
82. D. Phillips House (c. 1840): A 2½-story, early 19th-century dwelling with a low-pitched gable roof, deep eaves, and two exterior chimneys--one at each end. There is a small side ell. The symmetrical entrance front is 5-bays across; tall window-doors flank the entrance within a 1-story porch. (1851- D. Phillips.)
83. House (1979-1980; 1078 Pound Hill Road): A 2-story, stuccoed, Pueblo-Mission Style dwelling, with an irregular plan and profile; a red tile roof; a large, round-head, multi-pane window in a large wall expanse at the right front; and three arched openings in a flat-roofed left side, which contains a garage. The exposed, projecting vigas--the ends of roof beams--are a detail peculiar to Pueblo architecture.
84. Euclide Tremblay House (1951): A long, low, 1-story, hip-roofed, contemporary house, with two stone chimneys; a projecting central pavilion; and large windows. The house, set on a large, secluded landscaped lot, was designed by architect Harold Ramsey of Boston, who built several expensive houses in the Woonsocket area in the last forty years. The bull's-eye window used here was Ramsey's trademark.

85. W. Phillips Farm (1182 Pound Hill Road): The complex includes a farmhouse, barn, and other outbuildings. The 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, 18th-century residence has a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a large addition at the right side, ending in a garage. (1851- W. Phillips.)

#### PROVIDENCE PIKE

86. Woonsocket Industrial Park (1958 et seq.): South of Slatersville Village, along the north slope of Taber Hill, is an industrial park containing several large factories. Typical of many other industrial parks which proliferated after World War II, the Woonsocket Industrial Park is characterized by clean-lined, low buildings, covering a large area, on landscaped lots. The original site, a 32-acre tract, was purchased in 1955 by the Industrial Development Foundation of Greater Woonsocket for the development of industry. At first, and until recently, it was known as the Woonsocket Industrial Park. In 1958, the first tenant, Edgecomb Steel, built a plant here, and in 1960, Plastics Materials, Inc., and Amperex Electronics Corporation, a nationally known firm, built factories here. Other buildings were added later. Development of the park, which is serviced by a spur of the Providence and Worcester Railroad, was helped by construction of the North Smithfield Expressway in 1960, and by the Industrial Highway, which, built in the early 1970s, linked Providence Pike at the Industrial Park with the expressway, about one mile to the east.
87. Staples School (c. 1860): A 1½-story, mid-19th-century structure, with a simple entry at the right side of the 3-bay gable end, it stands at the corner of Pound Hill Road. Originally the Staples School served the local school district, it was transformed into a residence in the 20th century. (1862- School.)
- \* 88. Nathan Staples Farm: The center of this farm complex is a 2½-story farmhouse with two, brick, interior chimneys and a simple, central entry, in a 5-bay facade. It has a large ell at the rear, terminating in a barn. The house was reportedly built in several different periods. The original section, a 1½-story structure, with an unusually tall brick chimney, was built during the colonial period. The ell dates from the late 18th century and the large section of the house from about 1810. The house occupies a large lot at the southwest corner of Pound Hill Road and Providence Pike. (1851- N. Staples.)
89. S. Sheldon Farm (pre-1730 and later): The remains of this farm complex include a barn, outbuildings, and a 1½-story residence. It has a brick center chimney; a veranda across the south-facing front; and a recent addition at the west end. The house and several outbuildings are set back from the road on a private drive. Once a farm devoted to food crops, part of the land is now used to grow Christmas trees. (1851- S. Sheldon.)

90. Ethan Harris Tavern (c. 1810): A 2½-story, 5-bay, center-chimney, Federal structure, with a central entry with sidelights. There are two ells: The building stands on a triangular lot at the south end of Grange Road. It was once a tavern and store. (1851- E. Harris.)
- \*91. Blackmar-Wing Farm (c. 1690 et seq.; 2338 Providence Pike): This well preserved complex includes a family cemetery, a large tract of farm land, agricultural outbuildings, and an early house. The house, possibly dating to the late 17th century, is 1½ stories and has a large, brick chimney and two simply framed entries in a 7-bay facade. The house was originally five bays wide and had its chimney in the center; an addition, two bays wide, was built onto the right side of the house. (1851- H. Wing.)
92. Smith Farm: One of North Smithfield's last working farms, the Smith Farm, along the Smithfield-North Smithfield town line, includes an altered farmhouse, a barn, a family burying ground, and a large expanse of open land. The house, in two parts, was moved here; the first part in 1835, the other in 1880. The rye barn was moved here in 1835. The entrance to the Smith Farm is through an unusual wooden gate, with a stone-filled box at one end permitting easy opening and closing. Backed by the wooded slopes of Nipsachuck Hill to the west, the Smith farm provides a now rare glimpse of agricultural activity and a fine rural landscape. (1870- S. Smith.)

#### RESERVOIR ROAD

93. Sayles Farm: Along the north slope of Sayles Hill, near Woonsocket Reservoir Number Three, at the end of a long private drive, is a farmhouse and several outbuildings surrounded by open land, constituting one of North Smithfield's last remaining working farms. The house is a 2½-story, wood-shingled, Federal structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade; a wing at the west side; and a flat-roofed piazza around the east and south sides. The outbuildings include a 19th-century, wood-shingle barn and an attached, cement-block, cow barn. (1851- R. Sayles.)

#### RAILROAD STREET

(See Slatersville Historic District, #4).

#### RIVER ROAD

94. Woonsocket Water Works Pumping Station (1884) and Reservoir Number 1: The waters of Reservoir Number 1 are held by a fine "steppingstone" dam (c. 1884). West of the dam and reservoir is a square corner tower and square smokestack; now unused, it was built as a pumping station to send water to nearby Woonsocket. The

Woonsocket Water Works Company, a private corporation, was formed on January 19, 1882, and in 1884 built the first city pumping station, and a dam here, and a stand pipe on Logee Street. On April 1, 1885, the water company was purchased by the City of Woonsocket and has been owned by them since. (1895- Woonsocket Water Works; Pumping Station; Reservoir No. 1.).

#### ROCKY HILL ROAD

95. Rocky Hill Roadscape: The western end of Rocky Hill Road in North Smithfield, is a meandering, narrow route, bounded in parts by stone walls. It is one of the town's earliest roads, and was part of the old Oxford Road. Today, albiet macadamized and widened a bit, it retains much of the character of the town's early highways.
96. Log House (c. 1979): A new, 1-story, log cottage, with a brick center chimney and a roof overhanging the front porch. It is set back from the road, in a clearing in the woods. The owner of this house is also a builder of log houses, which have become popular lately. There are about a dozen, all built in the 1970s, scattered about the town. They are an indicator of the rustic character many new residents see in this setting and wish to preserve.

#### ST. PAUL STREET

(See Branch Village Historic District, #1, and Waterford Historic District, #7.)

#### SAYLES HILL ROAD

97. Sayles Hill Rod and Gun Club: A 1½-story, gambrel-roof, wood-shingle, early 20th-century structure. The exterior was recently remodeled to resemble a barn. Rod and gun clubs are a common feature in the rural areas of Rhode Island, and, like many others, the Sayles Hill Rod and Gun Club has been active since the early 20th century. Behind the clubhouse, used for social activities, is a recreation area for picnics and other activities.
98. T. Mowry Farm (c. 1825): A well preserved, 2½-story, 5-bay, late Federal house with two, interior, brick chimneys and a small wing on the right end. Externally in virtually original condition, this dwelling is noteworthy for its handsome, late Federal, flat-headed, panelled, pilastered and sidelight central entry. The overdoor panel contains a characteristically Federal patera and the door itself is a very good 6-panel model. (1851- T. Mowry.)

#### SMITHFIELD ROAD

99. Tenczar Studios (c. 1930; 95 Smithfield Road): This neo-Colonial house, now a photographer's studio, overlooks busy Park Square. Well landscaped and beautifully maintained, four, 2-story Doric

columns have been set up beside the house as a backdrop for wedding pictures.

100. Bushee School (c. 1925): The school, a brick single-story elementary school, has an exposed  $\frac{1}{2}$ -story basement. The flat roof is screened by a parapet and the building is dressed with handsome classicizing detail executed in copper. The school is named in honor of James S. Bushee, a renowned mid-19th-century educator who taught in nearby Union Village.
101. House (419 Smithfield Road): A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, shingled bungalow, with a sweeping gable roof extending over the front porch. The porch has thick, tapered, square posts on brick piers. This is a good example of the bungalow type, so popular between about 1910 and 1930.
102. Union Village Cemetery: A large burying ground on Great Road containing the graves of many locally important people and families. The stones present a rich variety of monument types and carving styles. The stone wall along the road is picturesque; an 18th-century milestone (#103) is set into the stoneworks.
103. Peleg Arnold's Milestone (1774): An old milestone, embedded in the the wall of the Union Village Cemetery along Smithfield Road nearly opposite the Friend's Meeting House. This milestone, which marked a distance of fourteen miles from Providence, was one of many which were set up along the route of Great Road. Another milestone is near the entrance to Fogarty Hospital (see #51).
104. Augustus Aldrich Farm (1621 Smithfield Road): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, transitional Greek Revival-Early Victorian structure, with central entry in a 5-bay facade, and a wing at the rear. There is a garage-barn on the property. The farm was owned and occupied by several generations of the Aldrich family. (1851- M. E. Smith.)

#### TIFFT ROAD

105. Trout Brook Farm: Located on the western shore of a pond on Trout Brook, this horse farm includes a house, barns, a large stable, and open land fenced with wood-rail fences. Trout Brook Farm, where Morgan horses are raised and trained, is one of several horse farms in North Smithfield--a post-World War II phenomenon. Horses are boarded, trained, and shown, and professional riding instruction is available here.

#### VICTORY HIGHWAY

106. Christiansen's Apple Sales and Storage (1950): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, cinder-block and wood-shingle structure is the sales room and is used for apple storage for Christiansen's Orchards. There is a small orchard behind this building, but most of the apples sold here are grown

in the Buxton Street orchard (see #15). The first orchard was planted before 1900 by the Christiansens, on Buxton Street. Ellery Christiansen started a full-fledged business here in 1920, at first selling apples and products from a stand across the street; the present stand was erected in 1950.

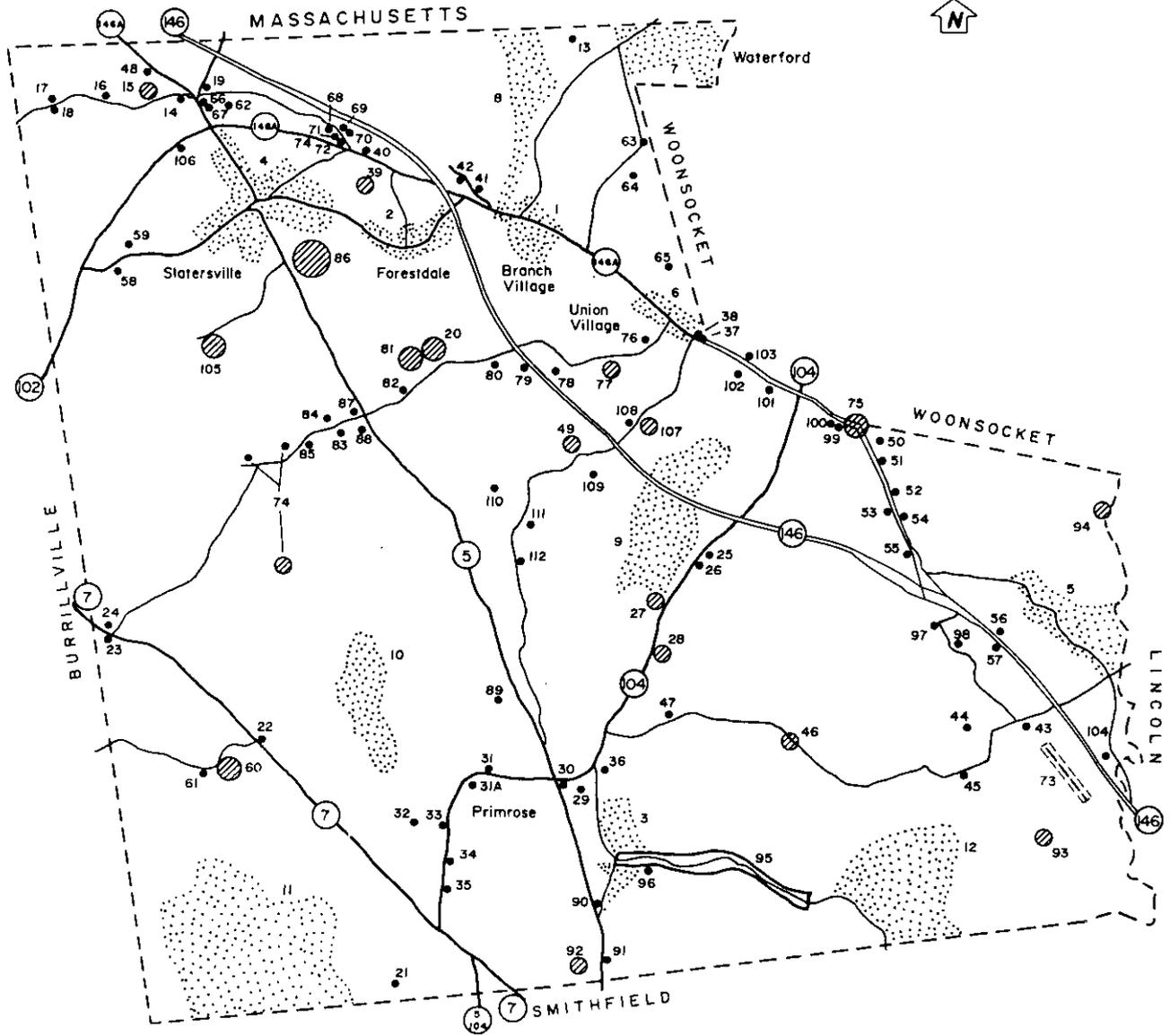
#### WOONSOCKET HILL ROAD

(See also Union Village Historic District, #6).

107. Wright's Dairy (217 Woonsocket Hill Road): A small cluster of white, clapboard-sided, early 20th-century farm buildings comprise Wright's Dairy. The centerpiece is a large barn with two small, belfry-like ventilators. Along the road is a 2½-story, c. 1900 house. There are open fields (behind and north of the house and barns) which extend to Cherry Book and the Cedar Swamp. Wright's Dairy, still a working farm, attracts nearby residents here to buy their milk and eggs. (1895- Jos. Mason (house only).)
108. D. B. Mowry House (c. 1860): A 2½-story, Early Victorian, Bracketed house, with two, medium-sized, brick, interior chimneys. Despite its bracketed trim, the simple, flank-gable roof, symmetrical 5-bay facade with central entry, and small side ell make this a very retardataire building architecturally. (1870- D. B. Mowry.)
- \*109. Cyrus Arnold Farm (1815, c. 1890): The former Cyrus Arnold Farm includes a farmhouse and barn. The house, built in 1815 by Cyrus Arnold, has two, medium-sized, brick, interior chimneys; an atypical 3-bay facade; and a Late Victorian porch. There is a wing at the right side. The large late 19th-century barn, an outstanding building, has clapboard sides, a hip roof, and a central cupola with a weathervane. Set in a field atop a hill, this white-painted barn is a conspicuous landmark, especially striking as seen northbound on the North Smithfield Expressway. (1851- Cyrus Arnold.)
110. Woonsocket Hill: A 586-foot hill in the center of town, with a fire tower at the summit. The hill, referred to in 1659 as "Niswasocket" by Roger Williams, was, until the turn of the 20th century, believed to be the highest elevation in Rhode Island. Although not the highest, it is one of the most dramatic because of its steep sides and height above the surrounding area. The summit affords long views in all directions; Mt. Wachusett, in northern Massachusetts, is visible from the top on clear days. A fire tower was established here in the early 20th century, and is still manned during dry periods. The rocks at Woonsocket Hill were a valuable natural resource in the 19th century. Because of their good refractory properties, they were used as hearth stones for furnaces in all the Atlantic states. In the latter part of the 19th century, the hill was frequented by numerous excursion parties. Nearby

Union Village was once known as Woonsocket because of its proximity to the hill; the name of the hill was later applied to northern Rhode Island's largest city.

111. Philip Mowry House (c. 1768): A 2½-story residence, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central, enclosed entry in a 5-bay facade, and a simple entry at the right side of the gable end, along the southern flank of Woonsocket Hill. (1851- D. Mowry Place.)
  
112. House (c. 1810; 914 Woonsocket Hill Road): A 2½-story, 5-bay, early 19th-century residence, with two, small, interior, brick chimneys and a central entry, with a small, Late Victorian, Bracketed hood. There is a wing at the left side and a later addition in front of the wing. (1851- P. Mowry.)



- LEGEND:**
- DISTRICTS
  - AREAS
  - MORE THAN ONE STRUCTURE
  - STRUCTURES, SITES
  - MAIN ROADS
  - OTHER ROADS

**NORTH SMITHFIELD, R.I.**  
 HISTORIC DISTRICTS, STRUCTURES  
 & SITES  
 SEPTEMBER, 1980

0 1/2 1  
 Scale of Miles

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Grange Road Historic District (#3) near the N. Baker Farm