

Historic and Architectural Resources of West Warwick, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report



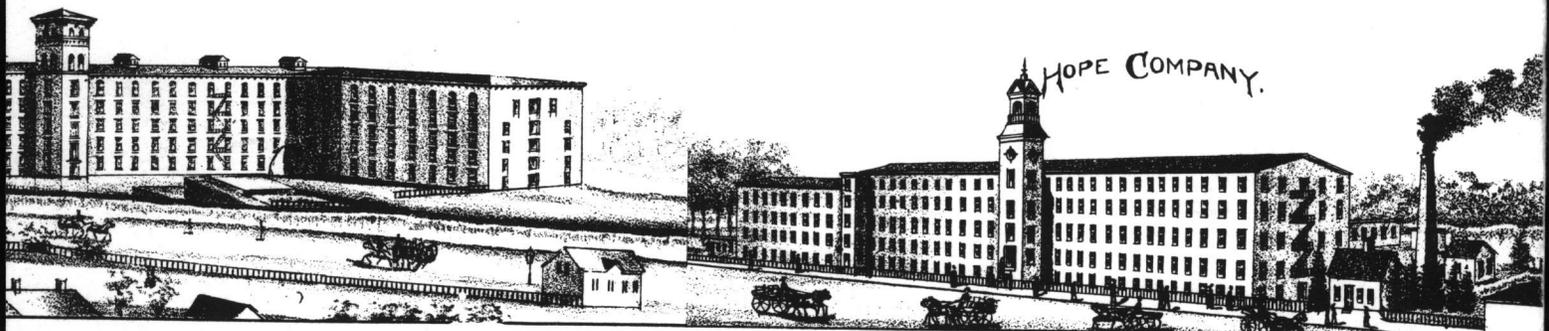
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT
TOWN OF WEST WARWICK

1987

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It has not been corrected or updated.

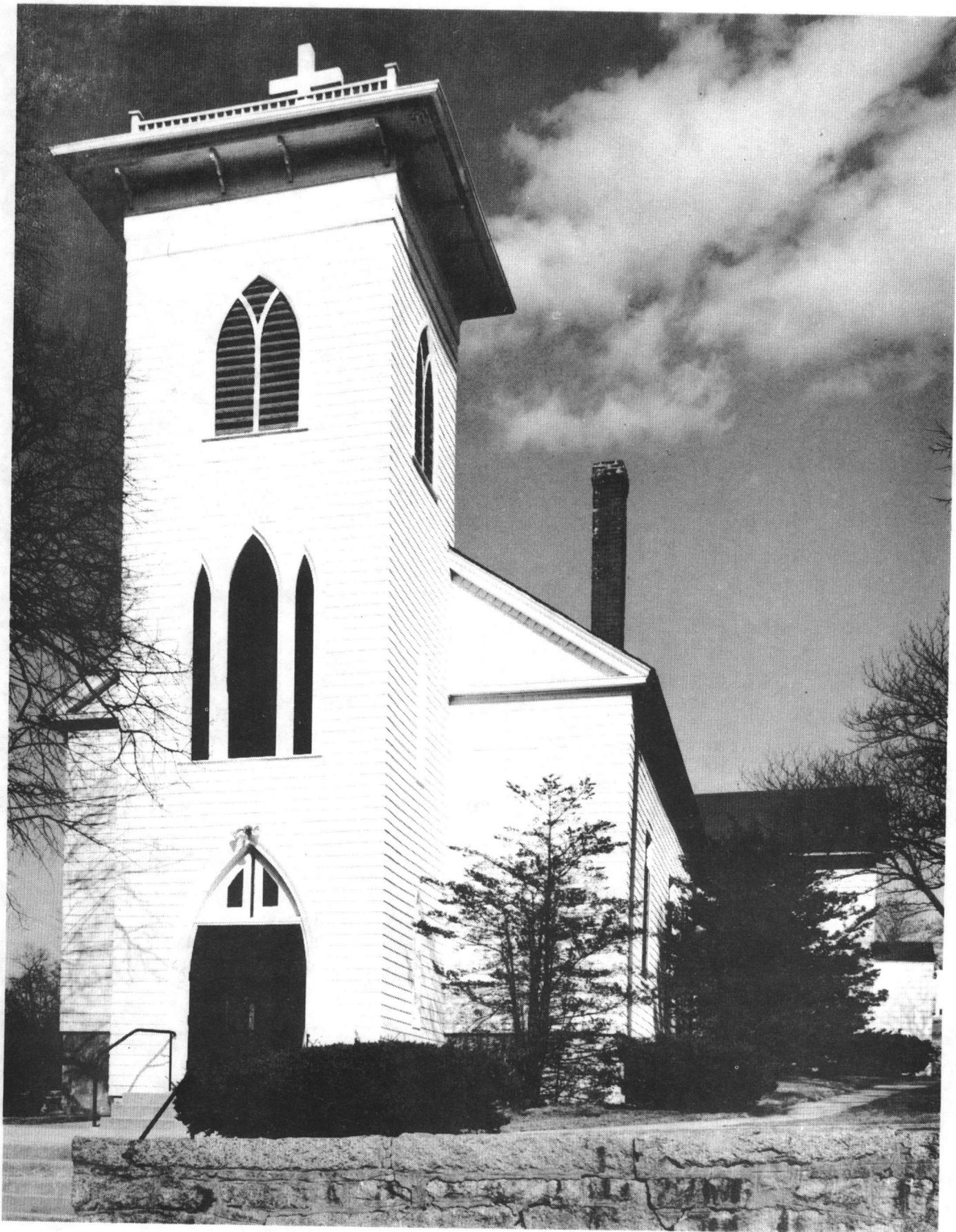
Since the original publication:

- >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.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
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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.



Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church (1844-45); Church Street, Crompton

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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. To provide an overview of the physical record of this heritage, the Preservation 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, archaeological resources are treated in a separate survey effort being conducted by the Preservation Commission. The preliminary surveys are designed to identify districts, structures, and sites eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (see Section III), and suggest priorities for historic preservation.

Upon completion of the survey, finished maps are drawn and a brief report written. The resulting documentation provides essential information for local, state, and federal preservation planning 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 if additional funds and staffing become available.

METHODOLOGY

A preliminary survey is conducted by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on an appropriate map each building or site of apparent architectural, visual, cultural, or historical 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. Properties which appear to meet the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places are identified for future study and review. Known archaeological sites are mentioned only incidentally in these studies to provide historical context. The emphasis of the West Warwick survey and report is on existing historic buildings.

Research for this survey was undertaken at several libraries, principally the Rhode Island Historical Society Library and the Providence Public Library. The Robert H. Champlin Memorial Library in West Warwick was also consulted. Nineteenth-century maps were especially useful in providing insights about the growth and development of the villages. Readily available sources of information, such as town and county histories, reports, gazetteers, and newspaper and travel accounts, were examined; they provided most of the information used in the report and are listed in the Bibliography. Particularly useful sources of information were Oliver Fuller's The History of Warwick, Rhode Island (1875); Henry Rousmaniere's "Letters from the Pawtuxet," which appeared in the Providence Daily Journal in 1859-60; Noah Arnold and William B. Spencer's accounts of the Pawtuxet Valley published in the Narragansett Historical Register between 1888 and 1891; and the several books dealing with West Warwick and the Pawtuxet Valley area by Mathias P. Harpin.

INTRODUCTION

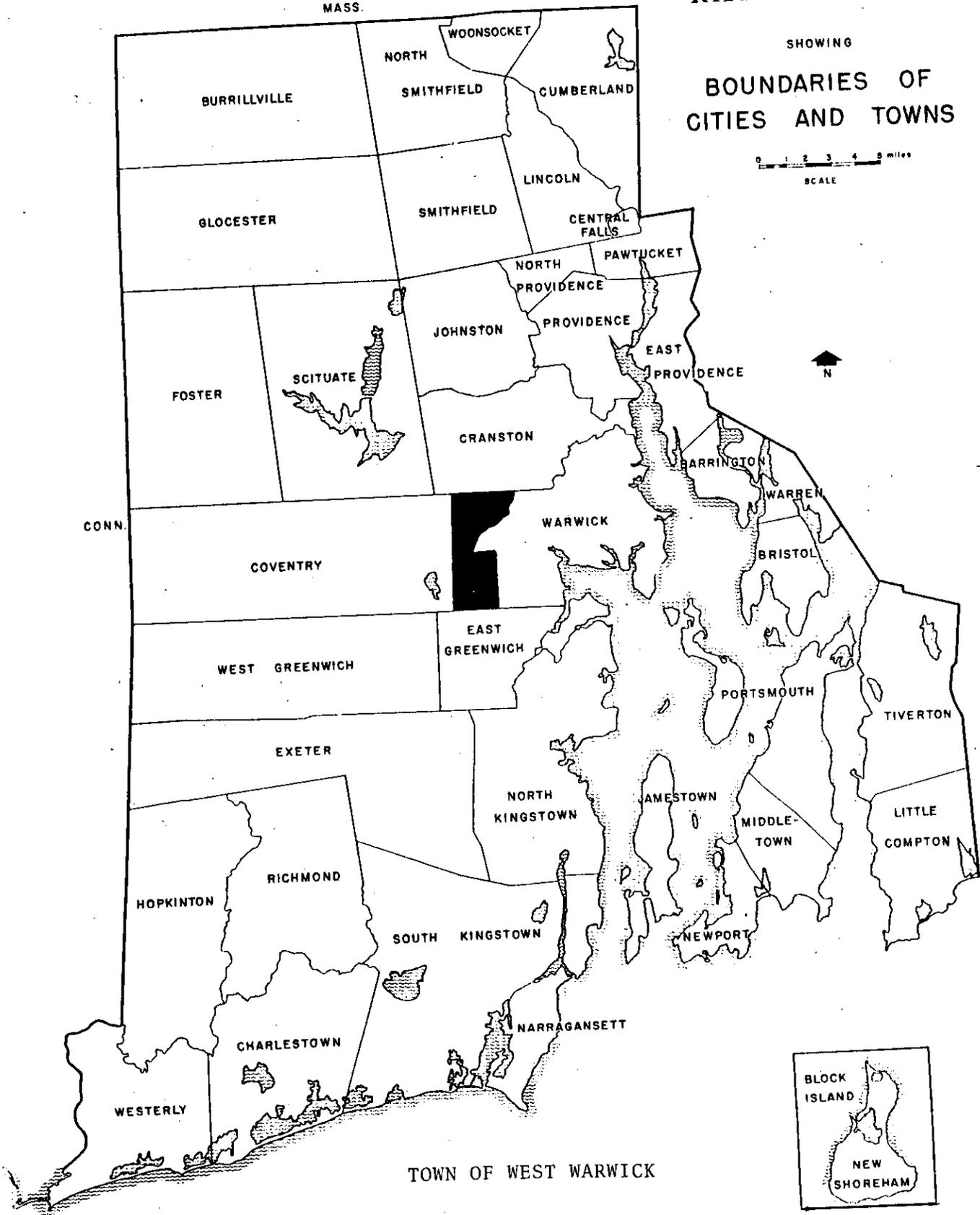
The following preliminary study covers the historical and architectural resources of the town of West Warwick. The report includes a description of the town's physical and social setting in Section I and a short, illustrated account of West Warwick's historical development in Section II. Section III is a list of properties in West Warwick which are listed in or suggested for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Section IV is an annotated inventory of properties of historical and architectural importance in the town. For the location of properties, reference should be made to the large-scale survey map prepared by the Historical Preservation Commission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pawtuxet Valley Preservation and Historical Society and its members--among them Rita Boisciare, Paul Bowen, Chet and Janice Browning, Mabel Gebler, Mae and Dan Johnson, Bob Kershaw, Henry Lemoine, Alice Morton, Muriel Powers, and Marion Rose--were especially helpful in aiding with the survey and providing information on buildings, people, and places. The assistance of Joseph Coduri, Irene S. Demers, and Louis McGowan is also appreciated. David Chase added useful insights regarding significant and interesting West Warwick buildings. This report was reviewed by Antoinette F. Downing, Edward F. Sanderson, Wm. McKenzie Woodward, and Robert Owen Jones of the Historical Preservation Commission staff, and by Paul Bowen, Muriel Powers, Alice Morton, Mae and Dan Johnson, Marion Rose, and Joyce Riebe of the Pawtuxet Valley Preservation and Historical Society. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission also thanks the Rhode Island Foundation and the Pawtuxet Valley Preservation and Historical Society for financial support for this survey.

RHODE ISLAND

SHOWING
BOUNDARIES OF
CITIES AND TOWNS



OVERVIEW

West Warwick has a long and varied history. Colonists moving out from Samuel Gorton's Warwick first settled in the area in the seventeenth century. In the eighteenth century, the town was home to a thinly scattered farming population. During the nineteenth century, West Warwick was transformed from a farming area into one of Rhode Island's most heavily industrialized towns. Drawn by the usable water power of the town's rivers, textile manufacturers moved into the Pawtuxet Valley, dammed the river falls, built mills and workers' housing, and transformed West Warwick into a bustling manufacturing area. The mill villages, which began as small hamlets, acquired many of the accoutrements of urban life--schools, churches, post offices, stores, and banks--and became the focus of the area's economic and social life. New immigrant groups joined the earlier Yankee families. In 1913, West Warwick was separated from Warwick and became an incorporated town. The textile industry declined in the twentieth century and manufacturing became less important. Increasing use of the automobile and highway and commercial improvements have diminished the dominance of the mill villages, while suburban housing has filled in much of the space between the villages.

I. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL SETTING

LOCATION AND POPULATION

The town of West Warwick is located in Kent County, near the geographical center of Rhode Island. It is bounded on the north by Cranston, on the west by Coventry, on the south by East Greenwich, and on the east by Warwick. West Warwick was part of Warwick until 1913, when it was incorporated as a separate town. The town's boundaries roughly resemble an inverted triangle set upon a rectangle; from its greatest width, about two and one-half miles along the Cranston line on the north, the bounds gradually narrow to a width of about three-quarters of a mile at Centerville, then widen to about one and three-quarters mile, a distance they maintain south to the East Greenwich line. The western boundary with Coventry is about four and three-quarters miles, while the zig-zag eastern boundary with Warwick extends for a distance of more than six miles.

West Warwick has a population of 26,975 (1980), making it one of the most densely populated towns in Rhode Island. The population is concentrated in and around a series of villages, the largest of which is Arctic. Since the 1950s the greatest growth has occurred in the more open areas outside the villages, where large tracts of land have been platted as housing developments. Today only a small area north of the Pawtuxet River in the north central part of town, where the land is least suitable for building, remains sparsely populated.

TRANSPORTATION

Two major highways run along the southern and southeastern borders of West Warwick. Interstate Route 95, the state's major transportation artery, crosses the extreme southern part of town. State Route 2, known locally as Bald Hill Road and Quaker Lane, forms part of the town's eastern border with Warwick. Once the major route from Providence to the southern shore, Route 2 today serves the dense commercial and residential neighborhoods along its path.

Several other numbered highways--State Routes 3, 33, 115, and 117--pass through the town, linking the villages along the rivers and providing connections to points outside the town. There is public transportation and, a few miles to the east in Warwick, the state's major airport. A railroad line crossing the town now provides only freight service.

LANDFORMS

West Warwick sits astride the rough boundary between the two major landforms of Rhode Island: the lowlands along the bay and ocean, and the interior uplands. The upland section, underlain mostly by granite, consists mostly of gently sloping, round-topped hills. Along the northern boundary with Cranston, elevations rise to 280 feet at Natick Hill. St. Joseph's Cemetery, on Gough Avenue, also lies at an elevation of about 280 feet, while across the valley, Prospect Hill, the site of the West Warwick High School, reaches a height of 261 feet. The town's highest elevation--about 390 feet above sea level--is at Andrews Hill, near the East Greenwich line. The lowest elevations in town occur along the rivers. Both the north and south branches of the Pawtuxet River enter West Warwick at elevations of slightly under 150 feet. At the Warwick line, the Pawtuxet River is less than fifty feet above sea level.

West Warwick's rivers have been primarily responsible for determining the community's pattern of historical development. The town is dominated by the Pawtuxet River, one of the state's largest streams, which is created by the junction of its two major tributaries, the North Branch and the South Branch, at Riverpoint. The North Branch begins at the Scituate Reservoir and flows through the villages of Phenix, Lippitt, and Clyde before meeting the South Branch. The South Branch begins at the Flat River Reservoir and passes through Crompton, Centerville, and Arctic before reaching Riverpoint. From Riverpoint, the Pawtuxet flows through Natick and then on to Narragansett Bay. In addition to these major rivers, there are some small seasonal brooks.

A number of small ponds exist in West Warwick, the largest of which are Matteson Pond and Flat Top Pond, both near the Coventry town line. Other ponds have been created by dams along the rivers. Most of these dams were constructed in the nineteenth century to create water-power supplies to run the machinery in the town's many mills. With the advent of steam power, the use of water power slowly diminished. Today, a new awareness of energy sources has resulted in a return to the use of water power. In 1984, for the first time in nearly fifty years, the waters of the South Branch were once again used to generate power from a new hydroelectric turbine at the Arctic Mill.

II. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

LAND DIVISION AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

The land which now forms West Warwick was included in Samuel Gorton's original purchase from Rhode Island's Native Americans. In 1642, the Indian sachems Miantonomi and Pomham sold a tract of 107 square miles to Gorton and his eleven followers. Called Shawomet, later Warwick, this original purchase extended from Warwick Neck to the Connecticut line.

Gorton and his band settled and built on the edge of the bay at Old Warwick and made little use of the great outlands to the west which they had bought. For the first three decades after settlement in 1642 the Warwick colonists clustered on the bay, and ventured into the unsurveyed interior reaches of West Warwick only rarely, to cut wood and take the plentiful fish in the area's streams.

By the 1670s, however, Warwick's settlers began to make more intensive use of this undeveloped backwoods. Three land divisions, in 1673, 1684, and 1692, opened the land which is now West Warwick and provided additional farmland for the growing population of Warwick.

In 1673, the Natick Lands, in the northern part of West Warwick, were surveyed and opened for settlement. The large tract was divided among five Warwick men. The 1684 division was called the Cowesett Farms and included the southern part of modern West Warwick. Members of the Greene family, who later played important roles in the development of the town, were among those granted lands. The Wecochoaconet Tract, surveyed and opened in 1692, was divided among five Warwick families and was bounded by the Pawtuxet and South Branch Rivers and the Apponaug-Centerville Road.

As the need for defense against the Indians diminished and as the need for more farmsteads grew with the increasing population, Warwick families moved into these newly opened tracts, cleared the land, planted crops, and built houses. Settlement of the land, rather than occasional use, began in earnest. None of the houses built by these first-generation settlers survive and our knowledge of their lives is refracted by time, but it seems likely that most lived on relatively isolated farmsteads, remote oases in a heavily wooded landscape, where they grew and produced for their own needs and intermittently traveled to the coastal settlement at Warwick.

The water-power potential of West Warwick's rivers was recognized early. In 1677, the proprietors of Warwick made a

land grant on the South Branch to a company of men for the construction of a sawmill. Lumber was a pressing need for the eighteenth-century settlers, but the location of this mill or even whether it was actually built is not known.

ROADS, FARMS, AND MILLS

The opening of West Warwick for settlement by second- and third-generation Warwickites and by newcomers to Rhode Island was encouraged by the laying out of several roads in the eighteenth century. A rudimentary transport network began to connect the outlands of Warwick to the large settlement at Providence, to Connecticut, and to Narragansett Bay.

The Country Road led from Apponaug through Centerville, Quidnick, and Washington, and over Bowen's Hill in Coventry to Connecticut. Another road linking the interior to Narragansett Bay ran from Cowesett through Crompton, Tiogue, and Maple Root, to Hopkins Hollow in Coventry. In the second half of the eighteenth century, northern West Warwick was served by a road which passed over Natick Hill, through the Lippitt and Phenix areas to Coventry. This matrix of roads connected isolated farmsteads to larger centers on the bay and also encouraged further settlement in West Warwick. Several of these eighteenth-century roads remain, though later development has obscured their character as country ways.

Agriculture remained the principal economic activity in the town through the eighteenth century as the large land divisions of the 1600s were broken up by succeeding generations of early Warwick families and as newcomers to the town purchased lands.

Eighteenth-century farms in West Warwick were largely subsistence-level operations. Farmers grew crops such as beans, grains, squash, corn, and potatoes, and raised livestock such as cows, swine, and oxen, for their own consumption. While a small trade in stock and produce probably existed, most farms were as self-sufficient as possible with only necessities, such as sugar, salt, coffee, tea, and iron implements, being routinely purchased. Most of the materials used by the colonists--such as stones for foundations, chimneys, and walls and wood for heating, cooking, and building--were found close at hand. Several popular fishing areas, such as Salmon Hole near Clyde, supplied various and abundant fish.

Despite intensive development in later centuries, West Warwick is fortunate in having several houses which suggest

what life was like for these early settlers. Although they are no longer surrounded by farm fields and have been somewhat altered, at least three eighteenth-century houses remain. The Carr-Levalley House (c. 1722) at 42 Fairview Avenue is probably the oldest structure remaining in West Warwick; it was built by a descendent of Caleb Carr, at one time governor of Rhode Island, but early in its life it passed into the hands of the Levalley family. A small house, only one and one-half stories, the Carr-Levalley House exhibits the center chimney and gambrel roof characteristic of early eighteenth-century houses. The Nathaniel Arnold House (c. 1760) at 101 Quaker Lane was constructed on one of the Cowesett Farms and has a similar size and roof shape.

The James Greene House (late 18th century) at 75 West Warwick Avenue is a somewhat later and larger structure, two and one-half stories high and gable-roofed, with a fine entryway whose pilasters and pediment testify to the popularity of classical forms in the eighteenth century.

Several small milling operations processed the products of West Warwick's eighteenth-century farmers. By 1737 Joseph Edmonds was operating a saw and grist mill near the road over Natick Hill (on the site of the later Lippitt Mill), grinding grain and sawing lumber carted in from nearby farms. On the same road, William Holden erected a grist mill before 1771.

In 1794, West Warwick's first textile mill was constructed, presaging the later dominance of spinning and weaving over the town's economy and development. Only four years after the opening of Samuel Slater's successful mill in Pawtucket, a group of investors built a small stone mill at Centerville and began to spin cotton thread on a scale hitherto unknown in the Pawtuxet Valley.

The 1794 Centerville Mill was built by West Warwick's own Job Greene, a descendant of one of the original purchasers of Warwick. His family had owned large tracts in the Cowesett Farms for several generations, had operated saw and grist mills, and played active roles in the Revolution. In 1799, William Almy and Obadiah Brown of Providence, whose company, Almy, Brown, and Slater, had been pioneers in the mechanization of spinning, bought a partial interest in Greene's then-unprofitable mill. Using knowledge and experience gained at Pawtucket, Almy and Brown turned the Centerville Mill into a successful enterprise which operated well into the next century and by 1809 was running 600 spindles. While the mill no longer stands, the revolution it began in West Warwick's economy continued through the nineteenth century.



Nathaniel Arnold House (c. 1760);
101 Quaker Lane



James Greene House (late 18th century);
75 West Warwick Avenue, Centerville



Silas Clapp House (1804);
360 East Greenwich Avenue

A REVOLUTION IN INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION: 1800-1920

In the years between 1800 and 1900, the United States became an industrialized nation; Rhode Island became the most heavily industrialized state; and West Warwick became one of the state's most thoroughly industrialized towns. The process of industrialization in West Warwick was nothing short of revolutionary--it altered the economic, social, and physical arrangements of the town, as it changed modes of production, patterns of work, skills, and the character of the population. Industrialization altered the visual character of West Warwick, transforming its landscape and townscape.

Until the nineteenth century, West Warwick was an agrarian hinterland of the coastal settlements at Warwick and Providence, dotted by farming homesteads and laced with narrow roads. Between 1800 and 1900 the town was transformed into a collection of manufacturing villages, spaced along the Pawtuxet River and the North and South Branches. Throughout the century a string of discrete mill villages appeared along these swift-flowing rivers, located at the sites of natural river falls which could be dammed for power.

In the eighteenth century, the common unit of settlement had been the family farm, separated from its neighbors by fields and woods and connected by rough roads. By the end of the nineteenth century, most houses were clustered around factories and most of West Warwick's residents no longer worked the land, but instead worked at machines in a mill. The creation of these villages--Centerville, Crompton, Natick, Lippitt, Phenix, Riverpoint, Clyde, and Arctic--gave the town its characteristic arrangement and flavor which it retains even now.

West Warwick's villages attracted new groups of people to the town. Early mills relied upon the excess labor from local farms but, as operations increased in scale, thousands of workers were needed to operate the machinery of the mills. Especially important were the Irish and French Canadians. Spurred by famine in Ireland and agricultural depression in eastern Canada, and drawn by opportunities for work in the Pawtuxet Valley mills, both groups immigrated to West Warwick in large numbers and have had a tremendous social and cultural impact in the community.

The Industrial Revolution was paralleled by a remaking of West Warwick's transportation network. Eighteenth-century settlers had used rough roads for access to Warwick, Providence, and Connecticut and, while travel and transport of goods was slow and difficult, these roads were a vital link to the centers of population and trade.

As manufacturers were required to locate on river falls at relatively remote locations, better roads became a pressing need to carry raw materials in and finished goods away from the mills. In 1811, the Natick Turnpike (now Providence Street) was opened. The Cranston and Coventry Turnpike Company, incorporated in 1813, built a highway following an old route over Natick Hill, through Lippitt and Clyde, to Anthony. One of its toll gates was set up near the Carr-Levalley House. The New London Turnpike, opened in 1820, passed through Natick, Centerville, and Crompton. Its toll gate was set up at Westcott, and taverns were established along its route. Until 1837, twice-daily stage coaches carried passengers along the New London Pike. In 1831, a road was constructed between Lippitt and Clyde, and was later extended to Riverpoint.

Even with these new roads, travel and transport remained insecure, slow, and laborious. Wet weather or snow could close a road and deliveries of raw material and finished goods could not be guaranteed with certainty. Cartage costs were an important part of every mill operator's budget. It was the railroad which was the key to promoting mass production in West Warwick, indeed in the nation as a whole. Relatively cheap and certain, the railroad dominated nineteenth-century American economic life. In 1840, the United States had only 2800 miles of track; by 1869, over 30,000 miles had been laid and by 1900, over 200,000 miles of track had been constructed. As one of the most heavily industrialized areas, West Warwick was tied into this vast network. In 1837, the Stonington Railroad line passed near the town; between 1847 and 1854, the Providence, Hartford & Fishkill Railroad line was constructed. These early railroads provided an uncomfortable ride for passengers, but they were ideal for freight--faster, cheaper, and more reliable--and they encouraged and allowed for the expansion of industries located in West Warwick. The railroads quickly absorbed the heavy freight traffic of the mills. In 1874, service was further expanded by the construction of the Pawtuxet Valley line from Riverpoint to Hope.

Passenger service on the railroads was supplemented late in the century by the street cars of the Pawtuxet Valley Electric Street Railway, which began running through several of the villages in 1894.

The Mill Villages Begin: 1800-1860

In West Warwick, as in the nation, the manufacture of textiles led the way and set the pace for the Industrial Revolution. Several developments in the early nineteenth century encouraged textile manufacture. The War of 1812 and

the embargo which preceded it offered material encouragement for industry by closing off overseas competition for the American market. After the war, a series of tariffs imposed by the federal government protected domestic cottons and woolens. Samuel Slater's spinning system (1790) and Eli Whitney's cotton gin (1793) had previously allowed for the rapid production of cotton thread. After 1817, more widespread use of the Gilmore power loom allowed weaving to keep pace with mechanized spinning.

By 1840, all of West Warwick's suitable water power sites were being used by textile manufacturers. By comparison with later counterparts, most early factories were relatively small buildings, constructed of wood or stone (and later, brick), and of several stories. Before 1860, most of West Warwick's factories numbered their employees in the tens or hundreds, rather than thousands. Their size was limited by the water power available, and by the meager capital available to their owners, most of whom were organized as partners or joint owners. Changes in ownership were fairly frequent. By comparison with the rest of Rhode Island, however, West Warwick's early nineteenth-century mills operated at a large scale. Of the seven mills in the state operating more than a thousand spindles in 1810, five were in West Warwick--a remarkable record.

By 1860, the small communities surrounding each mill (except the one at Flat Top Pond) had grown into substantial villages and were beginning to assume their present character. To house their workers, mill owners constructed dwellings, many of which survive today, though often in a somewhat altered state. These structures are, for the most part, plain in form and detail with few pretensions to architectural style, but generally have a strong visual character based on their standardized box-like shape, their simple trim, and their repetition of basic forms, which is accentuated by the almost universal practice of arranging the houses in rows or groups. Before mid-century, villagers had begun to create the institutions which would serve the needs of their communities. Most villages contained at least a church and a school; some had post offices, stores, and a bank.

Before the Civil War, the villages had developed as nodes along the rivers, but they were still set in a rural matrix. Each of the villages grew up within a rural context and open land remained to separate them and soften their industrial aspect. The gradual filling in of the spaces between some of the villages awaited the second half of the century.

Centerville: 1800-1860

In 1794, Job Greene and his West Warwick partners built a cotton mill at the river fall in Centerville, leading the Industrial Revolution in West Warwick. Set on the west side of the river, Greene's mill was the second spinning mill in Rhode Island. Before the turn of the century there were eight houses at Centerville, half of them owned by Greene.

By the end of the eighteenth century, Greene was facing financial difficulties and sold a half-interest in his mill estate to Almy and Brown, providing a much-needed infusion of Providence capital into the venture. By 1805, Almy and Brown had bought out Greene completely. Six years later the Providence firm constructed a second mill at Centerville, this one a small frame structure located on the river bank, known as the Green Mill. Several changes in ownership occurred before the Civil War and, from the 1850s, the two mills were operated by separate companies.

Schools were the first institutional buildings in Centerville. There were two by 1830. Before the 1830s a post office and bank were operating. A meetinghouse was not constructed until 1831, although a Methodist congregation had been organized earlier.

By the 1860s, Centerville had grown into a small village: houses lined the main street, several taverns served the local population, a grocery, several shops, and a few craftsmen (including a wheelwright and a cartwright) provided for the mill and its workers, and a subsidiary industry (a small acid factory producing for print works) was in operation.

Crompton: 1800-1860

Industrialization came early to this most southern of West Warwick's villages. In 1807, the Providence Manufacturing Company began spinning cotton here on the east side of the river fall, in a small mill that may have been the first Rhode Island factory built of stone. The company failed in 1816, and, after several changes in ownership, operations were taken over in 1823 by the newly formed Crompton Company. The new owners began bleaching and printing calicos at Crompton and were apparently successful, for they built two additional mills on the west side of the river in 1828 and 1832. By 1833, the Crompton Company employed 177 villagers, 69 of them children.

Two other factories were built here in the early nineteenth century. In 1815, Tiffany & Pitman built a mill



Ruins of Natick Mills, Natick



Mill Houses (early 19th century);
6-8 and 10-12 Remington Street, Crompton



Henry D. Brown House (c. 1840)
19 Fairview Avenue, Phenix

at Crompton which operated until 1844, and at nearby Flat Top Pond, a mill was constructed in 1816.

The Crompton Company built several houses for its workers. The two houses at 6-8 and 10-12 Remington Street are typical--long, one-and-a-half-story multi-family buildings embellished with Greek Revival details.

By 1860, Crompton had become a substantial village with a population of several hundred. In addition to the mills and the workers' houses, the village could boast several stores, a school, a hotel, and no fewer than four churches: two built for Baptists, one for Episcopalians, and a fourth, St. Mary's, constructed for the quickly expanding Irish Catholic community. This last is the oldest extant Catholic church building in Rhode Island.

Natick: 1800-1860

Now one of the largest of the Pawtuxet Valley villages, Natick had its origins in the 1807 spinning mill and dye house built by the Natick Manufacturing Company on the West Warwick side of the river. Never completely successful, the company was reorganized in 1815 into three separate units, and throughout the 1820s and 1830s several small, independent factories produced yarn and cloth here.

In 1821, William Sprague of Cranston bought two of the mills and quickly became the leading manufacturer at Natick. Within four years he had constructed two more mills and, in 1852, acquired yet another, thus consolidating most of the small factories at Natick into a single company.

By the 1840s, Natick was a well established village with houses lining Providence and Greenhill Streets. Several of the mill companies built housing for their workers, and by 1858 there were 160 units of company housing in Natick. The population, drawn by the opportunity to work in the mills, had reached 1400 by the late 1850s and was served by several stores, some craftsmen's shops, a school, and a Baptist church on Providence Street.

Phenix: 1800-1860

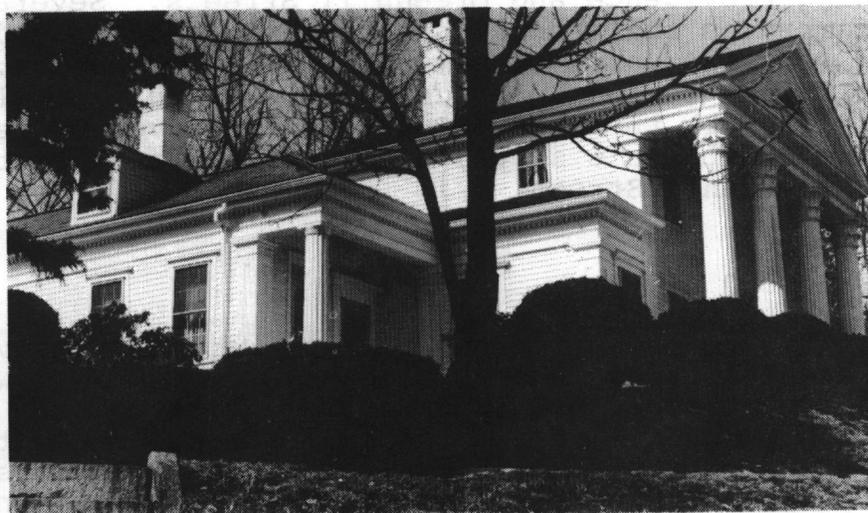
Set in the northwest corner of West Warwick, the village of Phenix had its origin when a dam and a cotton mill were built here by the Roger Williams Manufacturing Company in 1810. Following an 1821 fire, the mill was rebuilt with an improved water-power system on a site between Main Street and the river. Like so many early milling ventures, this newly



**Phenix Mill (c. 1825);
771 Main Street, Phenix**



**Phenix Mill (c. 1825);
771 Main Street, Phenix**



**William B. Spencer House, I (1847);
2 Ames Street, Phenix**

named Phenix Manufacturing Company failed, and in the 1830s the mill was purchased by Crawford and Zachariah Allen, noted mill planners and builders. Between 1839 and 1867 the mills were purchased by the Lonsdale (later, Hope) Company--the corporate successor of the old Providence merchant house of Brown & Ives. The Lonsdale Company already had wide experience in operating textile factories both in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Thus, early in their history, the Phenix Mills were tied into a corporate system which coordinated purchasing, production, and marketing for several mills.

As in the other villages, housing for mill workers was constructed in Phenix. The houses at 776-78 and 780-82 Main Street (c. 1822) are typical--plain, functional dwellings--and may be the oldest houses of their type in West Warwick. The first house of worship in Phenix was built for a Sabbath School Society in 1827; by mid-century, there were three Baptist meetinghouses. In 1857, one of these was sold to a Roman Catholic parish serving an immigrant population. By 1850, Phenix was a well established village with mills, mill housing along Main Street and the side streets north of the river, many private residences (especially on the former Atwood estate, broken up in 1825), churches, two banks, and a post office.

Before the Civil War, Phenix probably had a population of fewer than 500. While it was not the largest of West Warwick's villages, it played an important role as a commercial center, its stores serving a wide population from nearby farms and villages. Phenix's role as a center for shopping left a distinctive mark on the village in commercial buildings, such as the mid-nineteenth century store at 735 Main Street and the Spaulding Block (c. 1845 et seq.) at 9 Pleasant Street. In addition, successful merchants constructed handsome and relatively sophisticated houses in the village. Especially notable are the Brown House (c. 1840) at 19 Fairview Avenue and the Spencer House (1847) at 2 Ames Street. This last is one of the finest Greek Revival houses in Rhode Island and was built for William Spencer, one of the village's leading citizens--an undertaker, a builder of stores at Phenix and Lippitt, the local postmaster, and president of a bank.

Lippitt: 1800-1860

The tiny village of Lippitt began in 1810 when the Lippitt Manufacturing Company built its mill near the intersection of Main and Wakefield Streets. One of the earliest and best preserved of Rhode Island's textile factories, the Lippitt

Mill never became a large producer. A bleaching mill was constructed in 1830, but the mill estate remained small.

Several workers' houses were built in the first half of the nineteenth century--certainly no more than two dozen--along the north side of Main Street. A few remain. There may have been a store in Lippitt before the Civil War, but the hamlet grew no larger than its mills and workers' houses. For shopping, schooling, worship, and banking, the village's residents traveled to nearby Phenix.

Riverpoint: 1800-1860

The village of Riverpoint, centered on the area between East Main, Bridge, and Providence Streets, dates from 1813, when the Greene Manufacturing Company built a small spinning mill on the South Branch. Like so many others, this operation failed, and by 1818 was reorganized under the proprietorship of Stephen Harris of Centerville. In 1827, Harris rebuilt and enlarged the mill, and by 1832 was operating one of the seven largest cotton mills in the state. Harris added two more factories to the mill site, in 1834 and 1844, and built a new dam in 1834. He died in 1858, but his mills, still operating as the Greene Company, continued to produce coarse cloths through the Civil War.

The Greene Company built over twenty workers' houses for its mill hands--spare, functional duplexes on Providence Street in the nearby area known as Westcott. And in 1849, the Riverpoint Congregational Church occupied a meetinghouse on Providence Street constructed earlier by the mill owners.

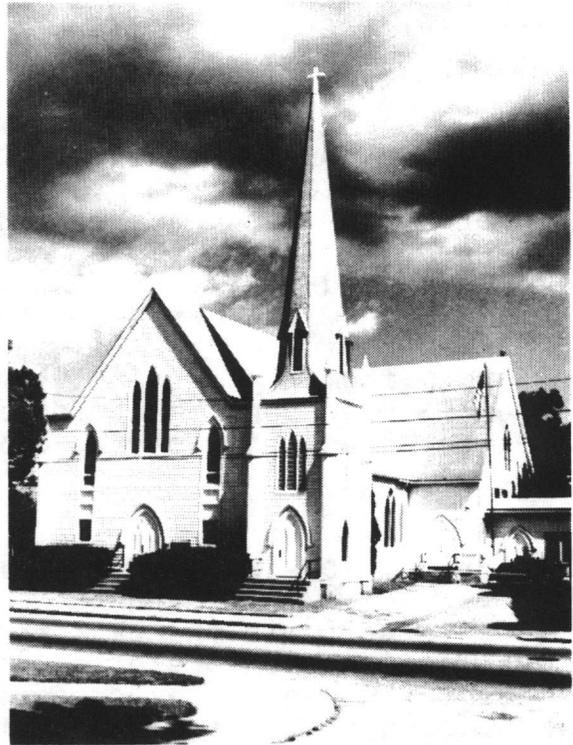
By 1862, Riverpoint was a substantial settlement with its mills, workers' houses, a store, a church, a post office, and a railway depot. Nearby Clyde provided schooling and commerce for Riverpoint villagers.

Clyde: 1800-1860

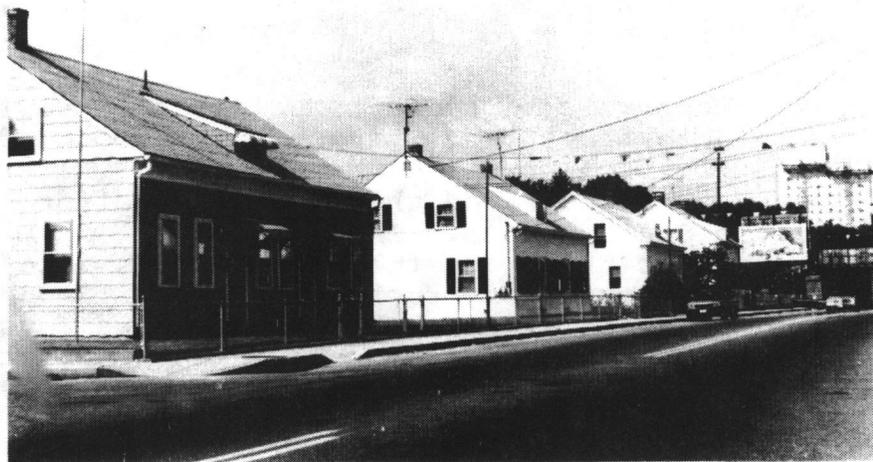
Set on the North Branch, Clyde encompasses not only the village built by the Clyde Print Works north of the river, but also an area south of the river known through the nineteenth century as Birch Hill. Unlike so many other villages, Clyde did not begin its industrial life with a spinning mill. The Greene and Pike Company built the first mill here in 1828 specifically to bleach and print cotton cloth, and printing remained the mainstay of production throughout the century.



Lippitt Mill (1810);
825 Main Street, Lippitt



Riverpoint Congregational Church
(1847-49); Providence Street,
Riverpoint



Greene Company Mill Houses (early 19th century);
East Main Street, Riverpoint

Greene and Pike (known after 1865 as Greene and Sons) embarked on a major building campaign soon after a road passed through the village in 1831. In 1832, the company constructed two new mills and some workers' houses; in 1846 and 1848, and again after 1853, new dye houses were added to the industrial plant.

In 1837, the company seems to have supported the construction of a building used both as a school and as a Swedenborgian church. By 1857, Baptists had erected a meetinghouse south of the river at Birch Hill. By the 1860s, the small village contained mills, some workers' houses, a church, and two other houses built by members of the Greene family at Clyde; at Birch Hill, there was a church, a school, and a handful of houses. By far the most impressive building dating from Clyde's early decades is the Greek Revival house (early nineteenth century) at 936 Main Street, built for Simon Greene, one of the original partners in Greene and Pike.

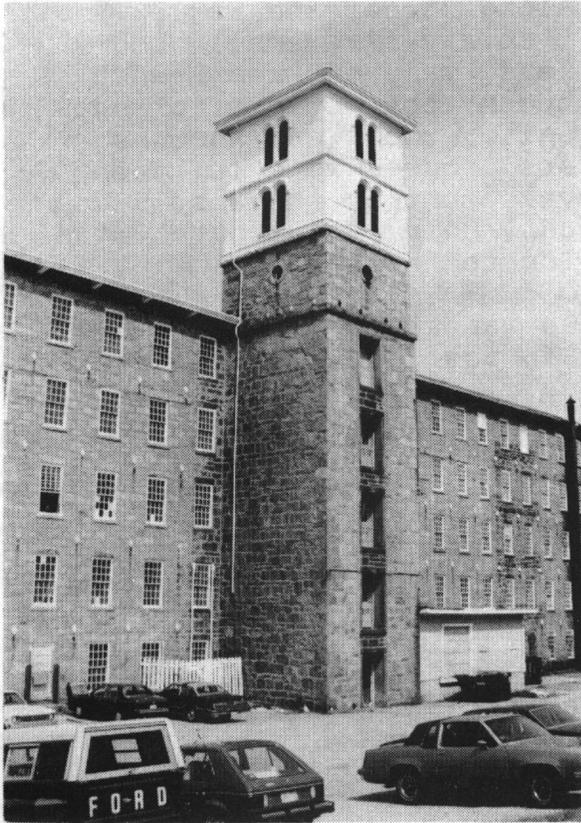
Arctic: 1800-1860

Arctic was the last to develop of West Warwick's several villages. The core of the settlement dates largely from the 1850s. The area was bypassed by the 1820 New London Turnpike, and the first factory was not built until 1834, when Rufus Wakefield constructed a stone mill here. Wakefield was not a textile manufacturer, but a builder and developer. He leased space in his mill to a number of small textile concerns which produced mostly woolens. Though there must have been a few houses here by the 1840s, an 1846 map does not even identify the area as a settlement.

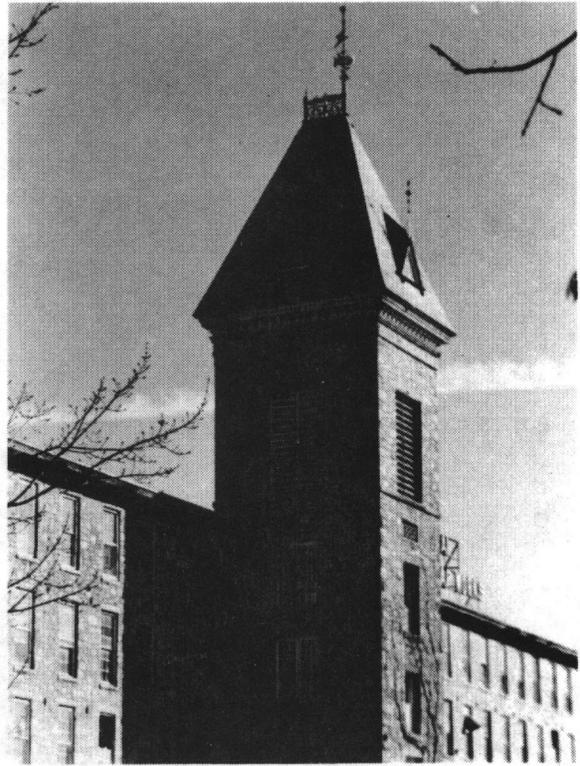
In 1852, however, Wakefield's property was purchased by the great commercial and manufacturing firm of A. & W. Sprague and development of Arctic accelerated.

As did the Lonsdale Company at Phenix, the Spragues brought to Arctic their wide experience in textile manufacture. They operated mills and villages in Natick (purchased in 1821), Quidnick, and Baltic, Connecticut. Their acquisition of Arctic added to an already growing empire of manufacturing sites, transport systems, and land.

The Spragues concentrated their building efforts on the east side of the South Branch. The substantial development west of the river is the product of the decades after the Civil War. The Spragues constructed a large mill and a new dam of locally quarried stone. Their water power system is still well preserved. The mill burned in 1865 but was rebuilt using the original walls. A company store, still



Arctic Mill (1852);
33 Factory Street, Arctic



Valley Queen Mill (1834-35, 1889);
125 Providence Street, Riverpoint



Arctic Mill Store (c. 1852);
12 Factory Street, Arctic

standing, was also constructed. Along Border and Earl Streets, the Sprague Company built thirty-five small wood-frame double houses for their workers, many of them French Canadians. Laid out in a grid pattern, this cluster of one-and-a-half-story dwellings with monitor roofs was known as Sprague Village. Additional workers' houses were built on the east side of Main Street. Development on the west side of the river was minimal before 1860--only a few houses, the company store, and a church were located here.

In 1860, the village of Arctic was still in its formative stage and still largely focussed on the mill and its attendant buildings.

Expansion and Consolidation: 1860-1920

In the six decades between 1860 and 1920, no new water power sites were developed in West Warwick, but the scale of production and development of the existing mill sites increased at an extraordinary rate. Early in the period, the Civil War increased demand for West Warwick's textiles. The economic expansion of the nation as a whole between the war and the turn of the century (slowed only somewhat by the Panic of 1873 and the ensuing depression) encouraged wholesale expansion in the Pawtuxet Valley's mills. By 1860, the Pawtuxet Valley's mill owners were thoroughly committed to textiles as their product, and it was spinning, weaving, printing, bleaching, and dyeing which propelled West Warwick's economy through the nineteenth century.

Several new factories were constructed in West Warwick in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and many additions were made to already existing mills to accommodate both increased production and refinements in textile technology. These new mills were, for the most part, built of brick and were higher, longer, and wider than their predecessors; their roofs were usually flat and their walls filled with more and larger windows. Several of these structures have prominent stair towers that make them conspicuous landmarks in the townscape, and some incorporate handsome architectural embellishments based on the popular revival styles of this era.

The scale of production carried on in these late nineteenth-century mills was prodigious. Where early factories counted their looms in tens and their spindles in hundreds or perhaps thousands, the later West Warwick mills operated hundreds or thousands of looms and numbered their spindles in the tens of thousands.

Most of the new factories still relied on water power, at least in part. Mills powered exclusively by the huge steam engines of the day came late to West Warwick--a tribute to the swift-flowing and usually reliable Pawtuxet. Even when frames and looms were driven by steam engines, bleaching and dyeing required large amounts of water, and river sites remained essential for many operations.

Several West Warwick mills continued to be controlled by single proprietorships or joint partnerships, but from the 1850s on more and more were directed by corporations, a change in management pattern which both allowed for and encouraged a heavy investment of capital in manufacturing.

The Spragues, as one of Rhode Island's largest family firms, were of special importance to West Warwick. The Sprague family's manufacturing interests began in the first decade of the nineteenth century, when William Sprague converted a grist mill in Cranston into a cotton spinning mill. Sprague purchased part of the Natick Mills in 1821, but his major factory was in Cranston, the Cranston Print Works.

After William Sprague's death in 1836, the company was run by his sons, William and Amasa. Under their leadership the Sprague mills continued to prosper and expand. Both brothers were leading figures in Rhode Island politics: each was elected to the state legislature and William also served as congressman, governor, and United States Senator. In addition to their political power, the brothers exercised considerable economic power, not only in Cranston but throughout the Pawtuxet Valley. By the mid-1850s, the Spragues had purchased mills at Centerville, Riverpoint, Crompton, and Arctic in West Warwick, as well as Quidnick in Coventry. The influence of the Spragues in the region reached its zenith in the 1860s. So pervasive was their economic and political importance that the eventual failure of their firm in 1873 sent shock waves throughout Rhode Island and the nation. The Spragues owned ten cotton mills, a streetcar company, a steamboat line, seven metal factories, five banks, timberlands, and railroads. Their bankruptcy was the largest failure yet known in American history. It was both a cause and an effect of the depression of the 1870s and set off a chain reaction of loss for the Pawtuxet Valley.

The firm of B. B. & R. Knight succeeded the Sprague Company as the Pawtuxet Valley's leading manufacturer. In 1850, Robert Knight and a partner had purchased the Clark Mill (renamed Pontiac) in Warwick, and by 1852, Benjamin B. Knight had become his brother Robert's partner in the manufacture of fine cottons. In 1882, they acquired the first of their mill properties in West Warwick, the Natick

complex. During the 1880s, they added to their West Warwick holdings with the purchase of the Arctic, Riverpoint, and Lippitt mill properties. Important as the Knights were in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, their influence spread even further. They owned mills at Jackson, Fiskeville, White Rock, and Woonsocket in Rhode Island, as well as several mill villages in Massachusetts. With the failure of the Spragues, the Knights were one of the two largest and most prosperous textile manufacturers in the state.

Textile manufacturing companies continued to build large numbers of houses for their workers. With notable exceptions, the plain, functional mode which had characterized such houses in the first half of the century persisted, and these utilitarian buildings, handsome in their simplicity, can still be seen in most of West Warwick's villages.

As the scale of production increased in the town's mills, the growth of the villages surrounding them kept pace. By the end of the century, each village could boast a church (often several), some built primarily for immigrant communities, and a school, and some of the larger villages had libraries, fire stations, post offices, banks, hotels, stores, and even a newspaper. To be sure, the expansion of the villages was not uniform: Clyde remained a small hamlet, while Crompton and Natick were much more substantial. At the end of the century, Natick was the largest of the villages, a bustling settlement with a population over 3000. The most dramatic growth, however, was exhibited by Arctic, whose 1875 population of about 1000 expanded to almost 3000 by 1895, as it became a regional commercial center for central Rhode Island.

In addition to growth within the villages, the areas between the villages also were developed. As early as 1862, an unbroken line of houses ran between Centerville and Crompton, making the boundaries of those villages indistinct. A continuous row of houses extended from Arctic through Riverpoint, Birch Hill, Clyde, and Lippitt to Phenix. This trend intensified in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By 1920, fields and forests no longer separated most of the villages from each other.

Clyde: 1860-1920

The print and dye works at Clyde continued to operate under the direction of the Greene family, who made substantial additions to the industrial plant here in 1870 (after a fire) and in 1875. By 1885, 600 workers were

employed at Clyde, and the company continued to dye and print cottons well into the twentieth century. The mills have since been demolished.

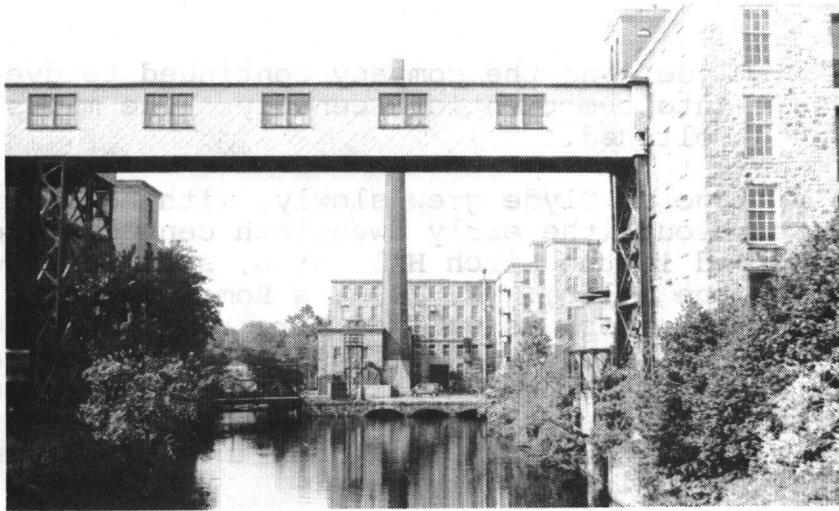
The village at Clyde grew slowly, with houses filling in its streets through the early twentieth century (greater growth occurred in the Birch Hill area, south of the river, and opposite the mills). By 1870, a Roman Catholic chapel, a store, a machine shop, as well as more houses had been built here. By 1905, the addition of still more houses, a hotel, a telegraph exchange, a telephone office, an opera house, a post office, a fire station, and a number of stores and craftsmen's shops had made Birch Hill into a substantial commercial and business center.

Riverpoint and Westcott: 1860-1920

The Greene Manufacturing Company made several additions to the Riverpoint Mills in the 1860s and 1870s, and the substantial village the company had created continued to grow slowly through that period. In 1875, 540 people lived at Riverpoint. As in several other West Warwick villages, control of the mill estate passed into the hands of the B. B. & R. Knight Company in the 1880s. The Knights divided the management of the upper and lower mills. On the lower river site, the Knights made several additions to the 1834 mill and renamed the enlarged structure the Valley Queen. This mill is used today by one of the nation's largest producers of specialty soaps. At the upper privilege, the Knights expanded the early factory into the Royal Mills to produce cambrics, sheetings, and twills. By far the larger of the two complexes at Riverpoint, the Royal Mills operated three times the number of spindles and looms as the Valley Queen. The huge Royal complex was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1921; after this rebuilding, it remained one of the largest factories in West Warwick, employing 800 workers.

Between 1875 and 1895, the population of Riverpoint rose dramatically from 540 to 2500. Largely as a result of the Knights' expansions, the village was the third largest in town, exceeded in size only by Natick and Arctic. The mill workers' houses along Branch and Central Streets appear to have been constructed by the Knights for their growing work force, as were the later houses along Junior Street.

Riverpoint's earliest workers' houses were located in an adjoining neighborhood known as Westcott. In 1921, the Royal Mills constructed another series of ten brick and stucco houses along Providence Street. These were intended to be the first units of a larger development, but no more were constructed. Riverpoint students also attended schools in



**Riverpoint Mills;
Providence Street, Riverpoint**



**Royal Mills House (1921);
Providence Street, Westcott**



**House (1921); 482 Providence Street,
Westcott**

the Westcott area. An elementary school was built in the early twentieth century and Warwick's high school of 1904 is located here.

Lippitt: 1860-1920

The Lippitt Manufacturing Company continued to produce yarn and cloth in West Warwick's smallest village through the 1870s and 1880s. A new boiler house and cloth room were constructed in 1865, and in 1871, an engine house was added to the mill estate. In 1889, Lippitt was purchased by the B. B. & R. Knight firm, which used the mill to produce sheetings until 1923. The Knights added some improvements to the mill, including a new dam (1899) and a wheel house (1901), but the Lippitt Mill remained a small producer. In 1901, for example, only 9200 spindles were operating, a number exceeded by every other West Warwick mill and a mere one-tenth of Natick's capacity.

Lippitt village also remained small. In 1895, only 402 people lived here. In the late nineteenth century, there were two stores on Main Street and a fire station was built. Some residential development did occur. About two dozen workers' houses were built about 1870 along Main Street, and in the early twentieth century houses began to fill Wakefield Street and its side streets. But as earlier in the industrial period, the larger, neighboring village of Phenix provided institutional and commercial facilities for Lippitt.

Phenix: 1860-1920

Mill operations at Phenix remained in the hands of the Lonsdale Company and its corporate successors well into the twentieth century. In the 1880s, the company built several additions which connected the older mills into a single large factory; a weave shed and several other additions date from 1902. While maintaining a steady pace of production through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Phenix mills never exceeded a moderate capacity. In 1882, for example, the Centerville, Crompton, and Arctic Mills had far greater capacity, and the Natick Mills ran over four times as many spindles as Phenix.

In 1875, Phenix was home to 615 people; by 1895, that number had increased to 1100, making the village the third smallest in West Warwick. Through the nineteenth century, the village was an important commercial center, a role it had developed early in its history. As the focus for shopping and professional services for surrounding villages, Phenix achieved an importance unrelated to its size. Several large



**William B. Spencer House, II (1689-60);
11 Fairview Avenue, Phenix**



**Mrs. S. S. Smith House (late 19th century);
26 Fairview Avenue, Phenix**



**House (early 20th century);
37 Fairview Avenue, Phenix**



Phenix Fire Station/
Harris Fire Department (1889);
701 Main Street, Phenix



David Frank & Son Building (1898);
743 Main Street, Phenix

commercial buildings in the village exemplify this role: the Phenix Hotel (1871) at 18 Highland Avenue, Duffey's Store (mid-19th century) at 735 Main Street, the Holmes Building (late 19th century) at 747-49 Main Street, and the Arnold Building (1898) at 4-12 Highland Avenue. Phenix remained a commercial center well into the twentieth century, though by the turn of the century, it was facing major competition from Arctic.

Some residential building for mill workers took place in Phenix. The pair of duplexes at 1-3 and 2-4 Sisson Street and the two boarding houses built for single workers at 20-22 and 26-30 Highland Avenue survive. Phenix's handsomest houses, however, were constructed by the merchants and tradesmen of the village. Notable are the second Spencer House (1869), 11 Fairview Avenue; the Conley House (late 19th century) at 22 Fairview Avenue, built for a liquor dealer; and the Campbell House (late 19th century) at 39 Fairview Avenue, owned by a newspaper editor.

A fire station was built in 1889 and two new churches, both Roman Catholic, served the village: Saints Peter and Paul (1892) and Our Lady of Good Counsel (1903).

Natick: 1860-1920

By the advent of the Civil War, Natick was already a substantial settlement with a population of 1400, over half of whom worked at the Spragues' mills. Into the 1870s the four Sprague mills produced steadily, employing a growing population of French Canadians.

In the 1880s, the mills and many houses were purchased by B.B. & R. Knight and added to the already extensive Knight holdings. The Knights added substantially to the mills, creating a huge 6-story structure to produce sheetings and twills. They built a new dam and power system, including a water tower, and constructed several subsidiary factory buildings. The mills operated into the 1920s. They have since been destroyed by fire.

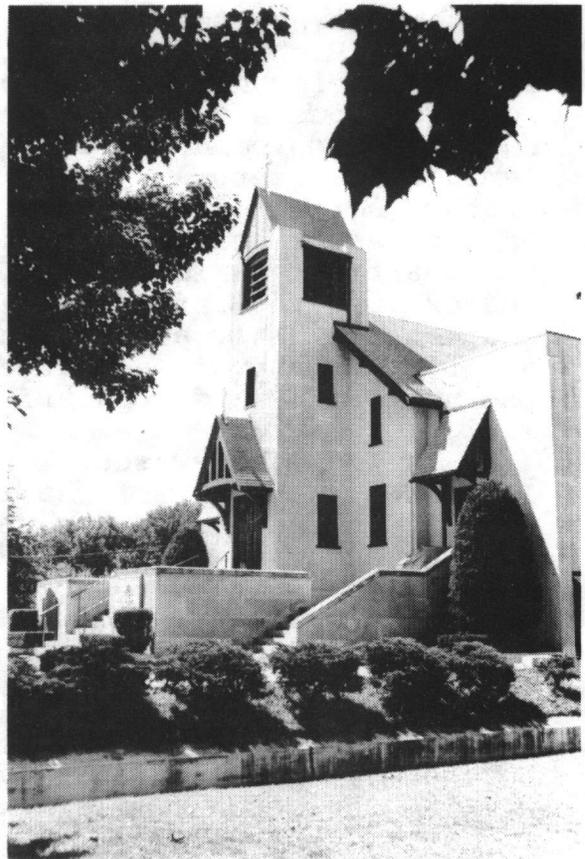
By 1895, well over 3000 people lived at Natick. The large French Canadian population attended St. Joseph's (1873), an English-speaking Roman Catholic parish. In the early twentieth century, large numbers of Italians moved to Natick to work in the Knight mills and an Italian church, Sacred Heart, was constructed in 1929. One of the finest public school buildings in West Warwick was erected in this village in the early twentieth century, a handsome Colonial Revival structure at 820 Providence Street.



Supertintendent's House (mid-19th century);
696 Providence Street, Natick



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
(1870-87);
854 Providence Street, Natick



Sacred Heart Church (1928-29);
840 Providence Street, Natick

Many new workers' houses were constructed in Natick. The multi-family houses along Providence and River Streets may have been built by the Knights; one of their superintendent's houses remains at 696 Providence Street.

Crompton: 1860-1920

The factories of the Crompton Company on the South Branch were acquired in 1866 by George Richmond of Providence, who already had extensive experience as a calico printer. His family retained ownership of much of Crompton into the twentieth century, and virtually remade the village.

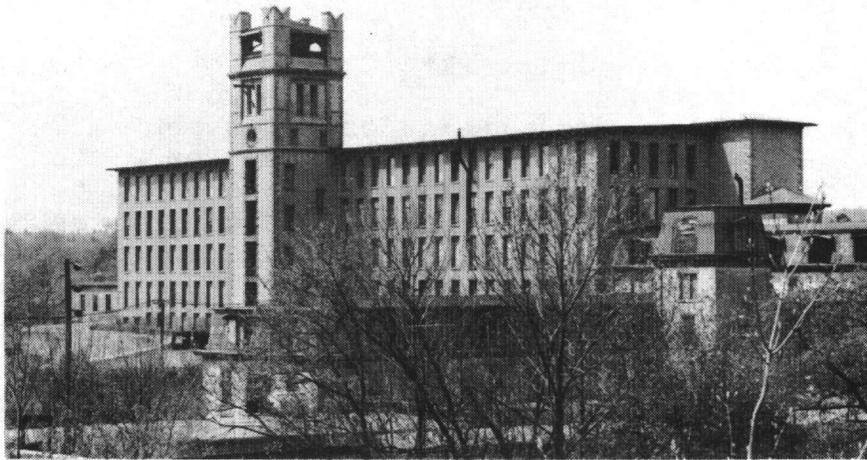
Soon after his purchase, Richmond began a major program of building. He demolished and relocated a number of mills, houses, and stores. In the 1880s he built a new mill. The company steadily increased production in the late nineteenth century and made a specialty of napped fabrics, especially velveteens and corduroys, a field in which Crompton achieved national prominence.

While Crompton did not experience the huge growth in population achieved by some other villages (its population appears to have merely doubled between 1865 and 1895), substantial new residential building did occur, largely as a result of Richmond's determination to provide pleasant living conditions for his employees. In 1876, a "New Village" of workers' houses was built on Hepburn Street, a dozen new duplexes supplementing the earlier houses on Pulaski and Remington Streets. In 1921, the Crompton Company constructed another series of houses, along the New London Turnpike and on Manchester and Hepburn Streets. These seven houses and one apartment building are faced with stucco over wire lath, and exhibit the influence of English models in their design and detail. They are set on landscaped lots with large yards and reflect the disenchantment of mill-housing builders with the uniformity and regularity of earlier houses.

In 1867, a new school was built at Crompton, and, in 1876, West Warwick's first lending library, the Crompton Free Library, opened here. In the late nineteenth century, the village acquired a hotel and a fire station.

Centerville: 1860-1920

Originally the mills on both sides of the South Branch at Centerville were in single ownership, but from the 1850s on the mills were separately owned. On the west side, William Davis ran a mill making cassimeres, employing 50 or



**Velvet Mill (1882-83); Pulaski Street,
Crompton**



**St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (1844-45);
Church Street, Crompton**



**Crompton Free Library (1876);
1679 Main Street, Crompton**

60 workers. His mill was rebuilt in the early 1870s and continued to produce woolens well into the twentieth century.

On the east side of the river, Benedict Lapham produced cotton goods from the 1850s on. A small work force of about 85 was employed here until the 1870s, when Lapham built a large new mill. Lapham's mill continued steady production through the eighties and nineties, operating 600 to 700 looms. The pace of building and production quickened in the early twentieth century when the east side cotton mills were purchased by B. B. & R. Knight in 1903. The Knights enlarged the factory, which they used to produce construction and book cloths. In six short years, the Knights quadrupled the capacity of the mill.

A third mill complex was added to Centerville in the late nineteenth century when the Warwick Mills Corporation built a moderate-sized plant off Brookside Avenue. Employing 350 workers, this was the first of West Warwick's factories operated solely by steam power. The mill includes a 1907 weave shed, with the saw-tooth roof standard for its type. All three Centerville mills continued to operate into the twentieth century and are still used to produce textiles.

Most new residential building was located along Brookside Avenue, where many workers resided in one- and two-family dwellings built in simplified versions of popular styles, and on Main Street, where mill supervisors and professionals constructed somewhat more elaborate houses.

In 1902, a Methodist Episcopal Church was built at Centerville. A Catholic Church was founded in 1931.

Arctic: 1860-1920

The Sprague Company operated the Arctic mills into the 1870s, with most of their activity centered around Main and Providence Streets. In 1865, they built a new mill on the east side of the river in the shell of the burned-out 1852 mill. B. B. & R. Knight bought the Arctic mill estate in 1884 and, as in several other West Warwick villages, made extensive improvements. Several additions were made to both the 1834 and the 1865 mills, additional mills were constructed, and improved machinery was installed. The Arctic mills continued to produce yarn and cloth into the 1930s.

The Spragues had built workers' houses just above the mill, and the Knights added to this housing stock, increasing the number of units from 86 to 103. In addition, private real estate developers constructed dozens of houses as rental



Centerville Mill (1873);
Bridal Avenue, Centerville



Dam, South Branch of Pawtuxet
River at Centerville



Centerville United Methodist Episcopal Church (1902);
Main Street, Centerville



John Greene/Sinnott House (late 19th century);
1430 Main Street, Centerville



Batchelder House (c. 1910); Legris Avenue,
Centerville



House (late 19th century); 1044 Main Street

units. In the 1860s and 1870s, most development was still concentrated around Main and Providence Streets, though a line of buildings extended from Arctic to Riverpoint.

In the 1870s, the heavily developed area of Arctic began to spread southward, out to present-day Arctic Square and beyond. In 1869, Albert Barnes established a trading post and stock exchange at Arctic Square and began to plat and sell house lots in this area. By the late 1880s and 1890s, Arctic Square had become a major commercial area. A post office and hotel were located here and several housing plats had been built up.

Several commercial blocks here document Arctic's role as a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial center: the Sinnott Building (1889) at 1249 Main Street, the Cartier Building (c. 1892) at 129-36 Washington Street, Chagnon's Drug Store (c. 1892) at 63-65 Washington Street, the Majestic Block (1901) at Washington and Main Streets, and the Newberry Store (1921) at 37-43 Washington Street. While the streets close to the main thoroughfare were filled in with two- and three-decker workers' houses, the important merchants and professionals constructed handsome houses further off the main streets. Especially notable are the DeNomme House (1904), 27 Archambault Avenue, and the Bedard House (early 20th century), 40 Curson Street.

The increasing population--almost 3000 before the turn of the century--was largely of French Canadian and Irish descent, though other groups were represented. Two new Roman Catholic churches were constructed in the village: Saint John's in 1874 (replaced in 1939), and Saint James' in 1893 (replaced in 1960). West Warwick's first synagogue, Ahareth Shalom, was organized in 1916 and purchased a building in 1919 which was remodeled in 1938.

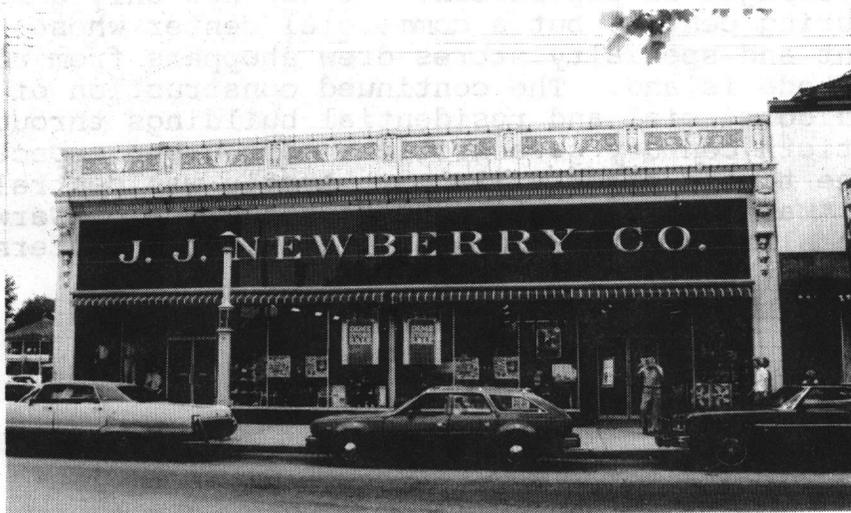
By the 1920s, Arctic had surpassed all other West Warwick villages in population. It was not only a major manufacturing center, but a commercial center whose department and specialty stores drew shoppers from all of central Rhode Island. The continued construction of densely developed commercial and residential buildings through the mid-twentieth century gave Arctic a more urban aspect than any of the town's other villages. Arctic was central Rhode Island's "Main Street" until the construction of Warwick's shopping malls in the 1960s and 1970s altered patterns of commerce in the state.



**Jean B. DeNomme House (1904);
27 Archambault Avenue, Arctic**



**Previe Bedard House (early 20th century);
40 Curson Street, Arctic**



**J. J. Newberry Store (1921);
37-43 Washington Street, Arctic**



Donant Archambault Building (c. 1910);
115-119 Washington Street, Arctic



J.J. Newberry Store (1921);
37-43 Washington Street, Arctic



St. John's Roman Catholic Church
(1939); Washington Street, Arctic

WEST WARWICK BECOMES A TOWN

In 1913 the Rhode Island General Assembly incorporated West Warwick as a separate town. The division of Warwick into two towns had been discussed for several decades, the discussion reflecting the differences in economic base and land use between the eastern part of Warwick, where farms, shore resorts, and suburban developments predominated, and the western Warwick villages, which were heavily industrialized and urbanized. With such differing interests and needs, it became clear that the town would best be served by division, but this course of action was long opposed by the Republican-dominated General Assembly, which feared that the western villages would return Democratic representatives to the legislature. Finally, in 1912, the division of the town was passed in a local referendum and in 1913 the Assembly chartered the Town of West Warwick.

The new town set up its administrative center in the Pike House, at 20 Pike Street. Development in the preceding century had not focussed on a single institutional or commercial center; the town was essentially a federation of mill villages. When a new town hall was needed in the 1930s, it was located in Arctic, a recognition that this was the most important of the several villages. The town hall was replaced in 1959 with the present West Warwick Municipal Building, also in Arctic.

The new town of West Warwick had a population of about 15,000, up from an estimated 11,000 in 1900, and was one of the most cosmopolitan of Rhode Island's communities. It numbered among its inhabitants immigrants from Ireland, England, Poland, the Ukraine, French Canada (especially in Arctic), Italy (especially in Natick), Portugal (especially in Phenix), Sweden (especially in Crompton), and several other nations. Most of these communities had created institutions to serve their religious and cultural needs. In addition, the new town could boast a bustling commercial life, focussing on Arctic and Phenix.

West Warwick's economy, based heavily on manufacturing, was generally prosperous. Its mills thrived, especially during World War I, when the town's factories operated at full capacity to meet the demand for textile products. With most of its work force employed in the mills, the town looked forward with confidence to the postwar years. The following three decades were to prove how ill-founded that optimism was.



Kenyon-Pike House/Former Town Hall (1839);
20 Pike Street



Centreville National Bank (1928);
1218 Main Street, Arctic



United States Post Office (1932);
1190 Main Street, Arctic

THE DECLINE OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The 1920s and 1930s were economically disastrous for West Warwick. Though much of the nation seemed prosperous through the 1920s, decline in the northern textile industry preceded the world-wide depression of the 1930s, and the awful succession of declining production, declining trade, cuts in wages, layoffs of employees, and mill closings came early to Rhode Island and its textile-dependent towns like West Warwick.

The industrialization of southern states had offered strong competition to northeast cotton producers before World War I; its challenge was somewhat delayed by the war, but throughout the 1920s southern competition was keenly felt. In addition, older factories, outmoded machinery, and cautious business practices further undermined West Warwick's (and New England's) reliance on the textile industry.

In 1920, textile workers experienced a twenty-two percent wage cut; in 1922 a further twenty percent cut was announced for workers in the Pawtuxet Valley and a months-long strike ensued. The tradition of providing housing for workers died out after 1920, and mill management began selling off workers' houses. Between 1920 and 1936, the number of town residents employed in industry dropped by twenty-two percent. By the end of the 1930s, the story of successive sales, cutbacks, shutdowns, and closings was familiar to most of the villages. The Natick Mills were closed in 1929, the Centerville Mills closed soon after, and, in 1935, B. B. & R. Knight closed down both the Arctic and the Royal Mills.

A few hopeful signs remained. Some mills survived by cutting employment and production, others created a new economic niche for themselves through specialization, and some concentrated on wholly new aspects of the industry. At Crompton, workers dyed cloth produced in the South; fine lace goods were made at Riverpoint, Lippitt, and the new Phenix Lace Works on Maple Avenue; and the Centerville Mills were used to manufacture textiles made of the new synthetic fibers, rayon and acetate.

The decline of the textile industry effected great physical and social changes in West Warwick, almost as great as the change from agriculture to manufacturing a century earlier. Some of the great mills are now gone, others are used for a variety of manufacturing and commercial concerns, but no manufacturer operates on the scale achieved in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. West Warwick remains a factory town (in 1970, over half its workers were employed in manufacturing), and textiles remain its principal

product, but late twentieth-century manufacturing is much more diversified, including chemicals, food products, and metal fabrication in addition to textiles.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

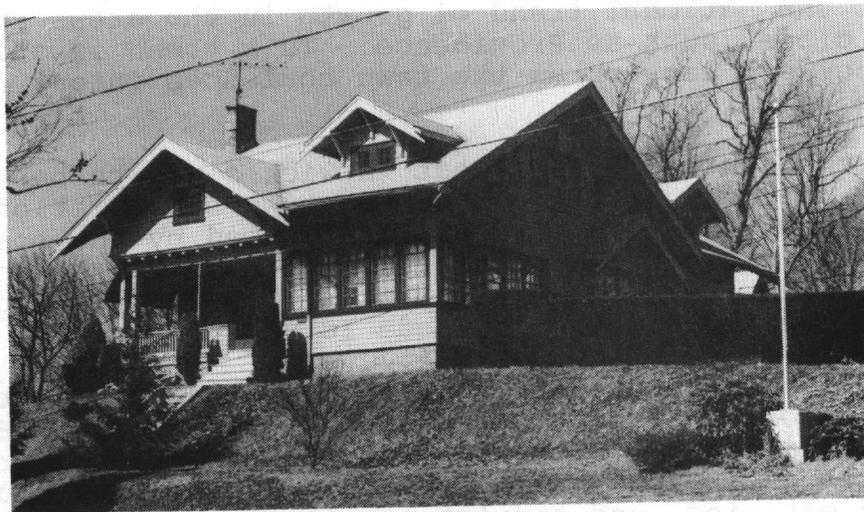
In the last few decades, West Warwick has begun to recover from the decline of the textile industry, and recent building trends suggest that the town has become more thoroughly integrated into the Providence metropolitan area. Since the end of World War II, most residential building has followed a suburban pattern, with detached single-family houses on moderate-sized lots in large single-use tracts, constructed as an improved road system and reliance on the automobile has led to greater mobility for area residents. The open spaces which once separated the mill villages are now filling up with such developments. This expansion reflects the national trend of growth in the areas around old central cities such as Providence. This trend is still reshaping West Warwick as the town coalesces into a large urbanized mass.

In the postwar years, West Warwick's growth has been slow and steady. In the 1940s, the town's population increased by only five percent, influenced by the postwar recession. Between 1950 and 1980, the town has grown by twelve percent; its density (about 3000 people per square mile) is one the highest in Rhode Island.

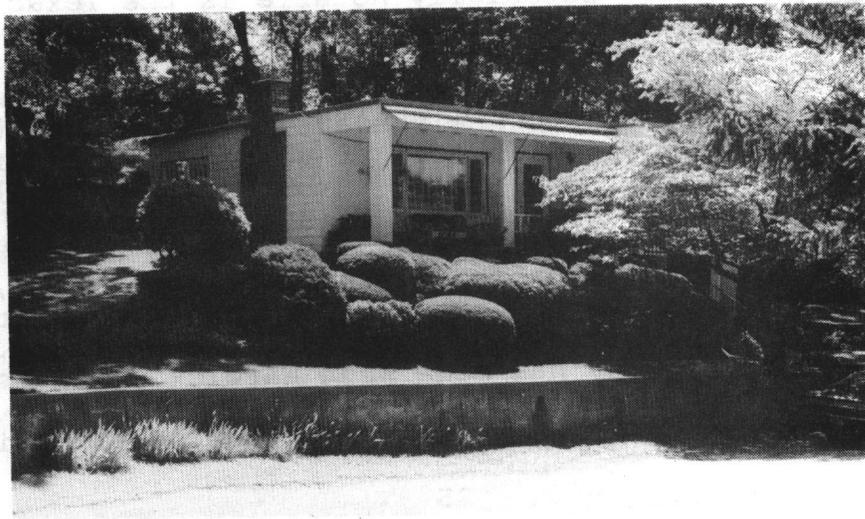
Changes in the town's highway system have been both a reflection of and an encouragement to this growth. Even before World War II, State Route 2 had become a major automobile artery, as the numbers of gas stations, auto-oriented eateries, and tourist courts along its length attest. Similarly, Washington Street in Arctic is the site of many businesses which serve a driving, rather than pedestrian, public. Especially notable is the Texaco Gas Station at 268 Washington Street, built in the 1930s and sheathed in white porcelain. However, it was the construction in the 1960s of a major interstate highway, I-95, just east of the town's border, which has had the greatest impact on West Warwick. I-95 has drained off much of the traffic which once passed through town on smaller state roads, and brought centers of activity outside the town much closer to West Warwick residents. Where once the town's workers needed to live close to their work and shops, the improved highways have brought a wider range of alternatives in working and shopping within easy driving distance. At the same time, the highway has made West Warwick more accessible, and has drawn some residents from other part of the metropolitan region to the town's new housing subdivisions.



Bowen House (1920s); 20 Calvin Street



**Bungalow (early 20th century);
44 Highland Avenue, Phenix**



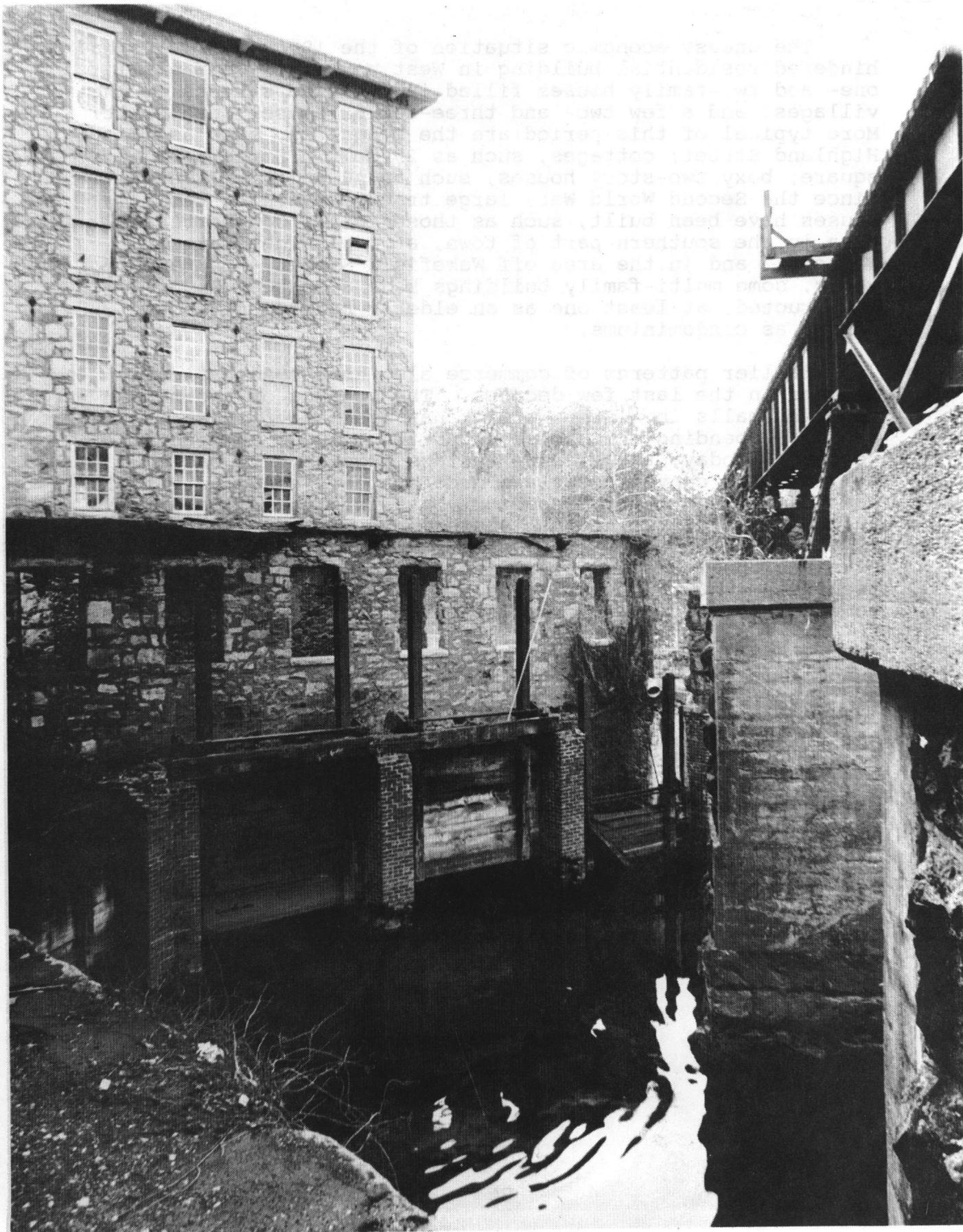
**Diana Lussier House (c. 1941);
16 Vine Street, Lippitt**

The uneasy economic situation of the 1920s and 1930s had hindered residential building in West Warwick. Some small one- and two-family houses filled in the side streets of the villages, and a few two- and three-decker houses were built. More typical of this period are the bungalows, such as 44 Highland Street; cottages, such as 20 Colvin Street; and square, boxy two-story houses, such as 40 Fairview Avenue. Since the Second World War, large tracts of single-family houses have been built, such as those in the Cowesett Farm area in the southern part of town, at the Knight Farm at Westcott, and in the area off Wakefield Street. In recent years, some multi-family buildings have also been constructed, at least one as an elderly housing project, others as condominiums.

Earlier patterns of commerce also have been radically altered in the last few decades. The opening of two major shopping malls in nearby Warwick has drained off much of the consumer spending which once supported village commercial centers. Today, the village centers provide only basic services and conveniences and much of their economic vitality has been lost. Arctic especially has felt the competition from the malls, and several stores have closed. Though there is little promise that the village will regain its popularity as a regional shopping area, its late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings remain as important reminders of Arctic's former status.

Industrial development also has been influenced by automobile-oriented patterns. While some manufacturers have continued to use the nineteenth-century mills, others have located in a new 200-acre industrial park established in the early 1970s in the southern part of town, near I-95. Here stand a number of long, low, modern single-story structures set on expansive sites with ample parking lots, exemplified by the complexes built for BIF Industries, Amtrol, and Dryvit.

Building for town services has proceeded at a moderate rate in the postwar years, reflecting the growth of the town. A new town hall was constructed in Arctic in 1959. In 1965, a new high school was built, followed in 1970 by a new junior high school.



Valley Queen Mill (1834-35, 1889-89); 125 Providence Street, Riverpoint

SUMMARY

West Warwick was an agricultural town in the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, manufacturing became the focus of the town's economic activity as textile mills were built along the town's rivers and became the nuclei of small villages. Later in the century, some of these villages, especially Phenix and Arctic, grew into genuine urban centers. As manufacturing became less important in West Warwick in the twentieth century, other patterns of development based on the prevalence of automobile traffic have filled in the spaces between the nineteenth-century mill villages.

This history is vividly illustrated by numerous sites and structures that remain today. West Warwick's houses, mills, churches, public edifices, and commercial buildings are cultural artifacts which represent the community's evolution from the seventeenth century to the present. Particularly notable are the factories, workers' housing, and stores of the town's mill villages. They reflect the process of industrial development which has shaped the Pawtuxet Valley, an enormously significant chapter in the history of Rhode Island. These remnants from the past constitute a priceless legacy. The citizens of West Warwick should recognize the value of this heritage, take pride in it, and protect it for future generations to study and enjoy.

III. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of properties which are significant in American history and worthy of preservation. The State Historic Preservation Officer of each state identifies properties which may be eligible for the National Register and, with the approval of the State Review Board, submits them to the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion on the Register. The National Register is an important planning tool as well as a record of the physical remains of America's past.

The benefits of being on the National Register include official recognition of the property's importance; eligibility to apply for federal planning and restoration grants when funds are available; eligibility for federal investment tax credits for certified substantial rehabilitations of income-producing property; and protection from the adverse effects of state or federally funded or licensed projects through a review and assessment program.

Listing on the National Register is a tool to encourage the preservation and recognition of our national heritage. The Register is not intended to hinder progress; it is a reminder that the preservation and re-use of properties which give our towns and cities their identity are part of progress. Listing on the National Register does not require the owner to preserve or maintain the property. Unless the owner applies for and receives special federal or state benefits, she/he can do anything with the property which is permitted by local ordinances. Registration does not halt federal or state projects when these are shown to be in the public interest, but does require careful consideration and planning of such projects when they call for alteration or demolition of National Register properties.

The lists below enumerate West Warwick properties entered on the National Register and properties which should receive further study for possible nomination to the National Register. The list of recommended properties should not be considered final. As new research is conducted, as the town changes physically, and as perceptions of the community's history evolve, other potential candidates for the National Register may be identified.

PROPERTIES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER:

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (1844-45),
Church Street, Crompton

Crompton Free Library (1876), 1679 Main Street, Crompton

Lippitt Mill (1810), 825 Main Street, Lippitt

Valley Queen Mill (1834-35 et seq.),
125 Providence Street, Riverpoint

Silas Clapp House (1804), 360 East Greenwich Avenue

PROPERTIES WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION TO THE
NATIONAL REGISTER:

Arctic Mill Village Historic District,
Border and Earl Streets, Arctic

Fairview Avenue Historic District, Phenix

Arctic Mill Complex (1852, 1865), 33 Factory Street, Arctic

Arctic Mill Store (mid-19th century),
12 Factory Street, Arctic

United States Post Office (1932), 1190 Main Street, Arctic

Centreville National Bank (1928), 1218 Main Street, Arctic

J.J. Newberry Store (1921), 37-43 Washington Street, Arctic

Donant Archambault Building (c. 1910),
115-16 Washington Street, Arctic

Centerville Mill Complex (1807 et seq.),
Bridal Avenue, Centerville

Waterhouse Mills/Kent Manufacturing Company Complex
(c. 1872 et seq.), 1454 Main Street, Centerville

Centerville United Methodist Church (1902),
Main Street, Centerville

Crompton Mills Complex (1807 et seq.),
Manchester and Pulaski Streets, Crompton

Crompton New Village (1876-77), Hepburn Street, Crompton

Crompton Company Houses (1921),
Hepburn and Manchester Streets, Crompton

Carey Dyer House/Episcopal Rectory (c. 1843),
1565 Main Street, Crompton

Superintendent's House (mid-19th century),
696 Providence Street, Natick

O.S. Baker's Building (mid-19th century),
703 Providence Street, Natick

Providence Street School (1914),
820 Providence Street, Natick

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (1928-29),
840 Providence Street, Natick

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (1870-87),
854 Providence Street, Natick

Phenix Mill Complex (1822 et seq.), 771 Main Street, Phenix

Phenix Fire Station/Harris Fire Department (1889),
701 Main Street, Phenix

Royal Mills Complex (1921), 200 Providence Street, Riverpoint

Riverpoint Mill Houses (mid-19th century),
East Main and Providence Streets, Riverpoint

Riverpoint Congregational Church and Parsonage
(1847, c. 1900), 73 Providence Street, Riverpoint

Westcott Mill Houses (mid-19th century),
Providence Street, Westcott

Westcott New Village (1921),
476-578 Providence Street, Westcott

Burlingame Farm (18th century), Wakefield Street

Greene House (c. 1890), 22 Woodside Avenue

IV. INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

This inventory is an annotated list of West Warwick's cultural resources. Properties in this inventory are presented alphabetically, first by village and then by streets. Dating of structures 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 of wood-frame construction, with flank gable roofs and clapboard siding.

The following is a list of the architectural period designations used in this report:

Colonial: From the time of settlement to 1775

Federal: 1775-1830

Greek Revival: 1825-1860

Early Victorian: 1840-1870

Late Victorian: 1870-1900

Early 20th century: 1900-1945

Mid-20th century: 1945-1975

Late 20th century: 1975 to present

KEY:

- * Properties which merit consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- ** Properties listed on the National Register.

VILLAGES

ARCTIC

Arctic, a loosely defined urban center, is the largest village and the hub of West Warwick. It occupies a central location in the town at the junction of several major streets--Main, Providence, and Washington--that link it with the other villages in town. A small portion of the area, including the large Arctic Mill and its mill village, lie east of the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River. The larger area, west of the river, is the town's civic center. This linear strip extends north and south along Main and Washington Streets and includes a large number of commercial buildings, the central post office, several banks, an enclosed shopping mall, two churches, and a large, multi-storied building containing elderly housing. The side streets are largely residential and contain a variety of dwelling types ranging from large three-decker tenement houses to cottages, with a sprinkling of small commercial and office structures.

Arctic was not always the town's civic center. Known as Rice Hollow at one time, it was a forested wilderness with only a few scattered houses in the early 19th century. The town's early 19th-century turnpikes, including the New London Turnpike, completed about 1820, bypassed the village.

In 1834, Rufus Wakefield purchased a small tract of land on the west side of the South Branch here from Dr. Stephen Harris. After Wakefield erected a stone mill and rented it to a manufacturer of woolen cloth, the place became known as Wakefield.

In 1852, the A. & W. Sprague Manufacturing Company purchased the Wakefield Mill and a parcel of land along the east side of the river, and erected a large cotton mill. Although the place was not identified on an 1846 map, by 1852 the village had become a sizeable community. The Spragues built houses for mill workers north of the mill, as well as a row of houses along the east side of Main Street. The mill, at the bottom of a steep slope that collects cold air, was reputed to be the coldest place in the region. Accordingly, it was named Arctic, a name that rhymed with Spragues' other factories at Natick, Quidnick, and Baltic (the last-named in Connecticut).

By 1862, the village was well established. Most mill

workers lived in the A. & W. Sprague village of 35 houses set in a tight, neat, rectangular grid pattern north of the mill. This small community has since continued as a residential community with few intrusions. A store and a church were located west of the river where the houses of professionals, mill supervisors, some mill workers, and others lined Main and Providence Streets from about the present Arctic Square to Riverpoint.

While Arctic was initially centered around the junction of Main and Providence Streets, in the late 1860s the village began to expand southward. By 1869, Albert K. Barnes had acquired considerable acreage south of Arctic--the 100-acre Tibbitts Farm between Arctic and Centerville, the Sion Arnold Farm, and the land of Ray G. Andrews. Barnes built a trading post at present-day Arctic Square, where he bought and sold horses, swine, and cattle, and he platted and sold building lots. Other buildings were added along the main streets, especially along Main Street between Gough Avenue and Birch Hill, and more than a dozen houses were built in the previously unsettled land west of Main Street. Washington Street, originally Quidnick Street, was laid out between 1862 and 1870.

Several developments in the last decades of the 19th century contributed to the growth of the village. One was the construction of St. John's Roman Catholic Church, founded for French Canadians in 1874. In 1884, the textile manufacturing firm of B. B. & R. Knight purchased the Arctic mill complex, a farm, and buildings, and undertook large-scale improvements, including the construction of new tenements. Until 1889, the area around Arctic Square was known as North Centerville. When a post office was established in 1889, the place was renamed Arctic Center and the older area to the north identified as Arctic. In 1889 also, the Warwick Hotel was established. It was owned by Sinnott Brothers, who established themselves at Arctic Center several years before. Under Martin J. Sinnott, who in 1879 became clerk in a dry goods store in Phenix and in 1885 began business under his own name in a small store in Arctic, they were the leading dry goods and clothing dealers in this part of Rhode Island. Grove Hall, a former temperance hall, was acquired by a parish established for Irish residents and converted into St. James Roman Catholic Church in 1893. These industrial, civic, and commercial improvements established Arctic Square as the center of the busiest and largest village in West Warwick, and signaled Arctic's emergence as the town's civic center. Arctic

remained the chief shopping center for central Rhode Island until the establishment of the nearby shopping malls in the mid-20th century. By 1895, when the census counted 2,845 people in the village, Arctic's densely built-up area included the main streets and several plats along its side streets. Several large, wood-framed and wood-clad commercial blocks from this period still stand along Main and Washington Streets. They include the 1889 Sinnott Building, the Ethier Block, the 1892 Cartier Building, and Chagnon's Drug Store. During this period, many of Arctic's merchant families, including the Sinnotts, Chagnons, Archambaults, and DeNommes, resided in the upper stories of their own commercial buildings along the main street.

The Arctic Mills continued to run almost uninterruptedly throughout the 20th century and remained virtually unchanged in physical appearance. The commercial and civic center around Arctic Square, however, continued to evolve. Some buildings burned, others were demolished, and the process of infilling and erecting new houses on the side streets continued. Generally, larger, multi-family two- and three-deckers were erected near the business core, while smaller, single-family bungalows and cottages were built further away from the busy streets. In 1901, the old Majestic Building at Arctic Square burned and was replaced by a new, large, brick- and concrete-block building that contained stores, a hotel, a bar, a dry goods shop, a bowling alley, and a movie theatre. Its size provided a focus for the thriving urban center. In the first decade of the 20th century, J. B. DeNomme, a well-known building contractor, erected a substantial Queen Anne dwelling on Archambault Avenue near Main Street. Pierre Bedard, a dry goods merchant, and Dr. Legris both built fine large houses on Washington Street, but both were later moved to make room for more businesses, as was the Warwick Hotel.

In the late 1920s, building activity accelerated in the older part of Arctic. A row of mill houses, once part of the Spragues' and Knights' holdings, was demolished when part of Main Street was transformed into a new civic center. The town purchased the site for a town hall and widened the street to forty feet. The Centreville Bank, which stood close to the road, was replaced in 1928 by a handsome Neoclassical building. In 1932, a Neoclassical United States Post Office building was completed.

Other 20th-century changes in Arctic reinforced the village's role as the town center. These included the

replacement of both Roman Catholic churches, St. John's in 1939 and St. James in 1960. Also in 1960, West Warwick built a new town hall which houses the police and fire departments as well as government offices. A major blow to the business community was the construction in the 1960s and 1970s of the nearby Midland (now Rhode Island) and Warwick Malls, which siphoned off much of the town's retail activity. However, Arctic's business district continues to be the town's major shopping area, and part of Main Street was revitalized recently by the erection of several one-story brick commercial blocks in the vicinity of the Town Hall.

Arctic retains a collection of buildings that are interesting both architecturally and historically. All of the structures, ranging from mid-19th-century mill houses and cottages to late 20th-century gasoline stations, are markers in the continuum of history. All contribute to an understanding of the history, growth and development of the area and are part of West Warwick's treasury of cultural resources.

ARCTIC MILL COMPLEX, 21 and 33 Factory Street

* ARCTIC MILL COMPLEX (1834, 1852, 1865): The Arctic Mill complex today includes several stone buildings along both sides of the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River, south of Factory Street, and associated water control structures, including a dam across the river and raceways along each side. A former store associated with the mills is west of the river.

A relatively low, flat-roofed, 4-story building measuring about 60 by 115 feet, on the west bank of the river near the dam, is Arctic's original mill, erected in 1834. The raceway between the dam and the former woolen mill is still visible. Along the east side of the river is a large, 3-section mill, built in 1865 to manufacture cotton. Its main block, perpendicular to Factory Street, is a 70- by 312-foot, 5-story structure, with a square bell tower. Attached to the north end of the main block is a 5-story, 50- by 92-foot section. A 2-story, 40- by 80-foot addition stands at a right angle to this latter section.

The dam is a stepped granite-block structure, 110 feet long and 28 feet high. The headrace, closed until recently, has been reopened to allow water to flow under the mill, where a 500-kilowatt Osseberger crossflow turbine generates electricity. A wide tail race leads from the mill under Factory

Street to return water to the river several hundred feet below the dam. Use of the Arctic Mill's belt-driven turbine was discontinued in the 1930s. When the new turbine was started, in October 1984, it was the first time in nearly 50 years that a dam along the South Branch was used to generate electricity.

Manufacturing started here in 1834 when Rufus Wakefield, a stonemason who was running the saw mill of his father-in-law, Nehemiah Atwood, at Lippitt, purchased a small parcel of land along the west bank and erected a 40- by 60-foot stone mill. It was leased to a number of different men who manufactured woolen cloth. The 1850 census recorded that there were 30 men and 30 women employed in the Wakefield Mill. The factory became a storehouse after it was acquired in 1852 by the A. & W. Sprague Manufacturing Company. In 1875, while in use as a warehouse, its roof burned and was replaced by the present flat roof. The building served as a storehouse well into the 20th century.

In addition to the Wakefield Mill, the Sprague Company purchased several tracts of land along the east side of the river and the right of flowage, and erected a large granite cotton mill. Construction of the mill entailed the quarrying of rock along the bluff for a wheel pit and a mill foundation, and construction of the dam. A fire in 1865 extensively damaged the mill and its contents, but the still-standing walls were used in rebuilding the mill, which was capped with a pitched roof, a trap-door monitor, and a domed central tower.

The B. B. & R. Knight Company acquired the property--a farm, the factory, and buildings covering about 100 acres--in 1884, and undertook large-scale improvements, including removal of the gable roof and the addition of another story on the main mill; construction of a large storehouse; installation of new boilers with Hercules engines of 450 horsepower; installation of Grinnell automatic sprinklers; installation of new American machinery; construction of 17 new tenements (increasing the number to 103); and rehabilitation of the old ones. The mill then operated 1039 looms and 35,824 spindles. Textile manufacturing was carried on by B. B. & R. Knight until 1935, when the Arctic Mill ceased operating; it was one of the last three mills closed by the firm. The mill was later purchased by Westover Fabrics, which manufactured trench coats during World War II. In

the early 1950s, American Tourister acquired the property and made luggage for about ten years before Natco Products occupied the building. Natco, which produces lightweight bags, is still operating there. The older mill on the west side has been the home of West Warwick Screw Products for several decades.

ARCTIC MILL VILLAGE, Border and Earl Streets

- * ARCTIC MILL VILLAGE (1852): Along Border and Earl Streets is a village of about three dozen 1-1/2-story double houses, built by the firm of A. & W. Sprague for workers in their nearby mill erected in 1852. The small community was then known as the A. & W. Sprague Village. The number of houses in the village has remained unchanged since 1852, and, despite alterations and residing, many still retain their small monitor roofs, a feature common to early Rhode Island mill houses.

ARCHAMBAULT AVENUE

- 27 JEAN B. DENOMME HOUSE (1904): A large, asymmetrical, 2-1/2-story, Queen Anne house, with its gable end facing Archambault Avenue. It has a wraparound porch at the first story; a pedimented portico at the front of the second story; carpenterwork decorations in the gable ends; and a truncated, 2-story, polygonal tower at the left front corner. Sited behind a low iron fence on a small corner lot, the house was built and occupied by Jean Baptiste DeNomme, a well-known building contractor who erected and owned the DeNomme Block on Main Street (later burned down) and the Alice Building at 64-74 Washington Street. DeNomme's house is one of the most elaborate and substantial late 19th-century houses in Arctic.

BORDER STREET

(See Arctic Mill Village)

CURSON STREET

- 40 PIERRE BEDARD HOUSE (early 20th century): A boxy, 2-1/2-story, hip-roofed Georgian Revival house with a symmetrical 3-bay facade. The dominant central bay has an elaborate Corinthian portico, an entry with a semi-elliptical fan light, a Palladian window on the second story, and a pedimented dormer in the roof. The house, built on Washington Street, was moved to this site about 1921 by Jean

Maynard to clear the site for construction of the J. J. Newberry Store. It remained a residence for many years, but now houses professional offices.

EARL STREET

(See Arctic Mill Village)

FACTORY STREET

(See also Arctic Mill Complex)

*12 ARCTIC MILL STORE (c. 1852): A 2-1/2-story, random ashlar granite structure, with two entries in a symmetrical, 5-bay front. The building, sited on a small lot, was probably built for use as a store when the Arctic Mill was erected nearby in 1852. It continued in use as a store until the early 20th century. The Pawtuxet Valley Nurses Association occupied part of the building by 1922. It was used as a nurses' home until 1963; then it housed a woman's club and the Fourth District Court. It is in commercial use today.

SENATOR FRANCIS J. LACHAPPELLE BRIDGE (1930s): A single-arch, reinforced-concrete span with balustraded walkways along each side carries Factory Street over the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River. Built in the 1930s, it was rededicated in 1980 in honor of Senator LaChapelle, a state legislator from West Warwick from 1955 to 1971.

HOME STREET

1-3 CLEOPHAS AND DELINA GAGNON HOUSE. (early 20th century): A 2-story, multi-family residence with a full-width 2-story front porch, carpenterwork brackets, and a small, 2-story porch at the left rear. This building is typical of the two-deckers common in mill villages and industrial areas.

43 JOHN BERARD HOUSE (early 20th century): A 1-1/2-story bungalow, with paired posts supporting the full-width front porch set under a typical broad and sweeping gable roof with a large dormer.

LEGION WAY

WAR MEMORIAL (1935-37): Occupying a grassy lot near Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Number 2, at the intersection of Legion Way with Main and Providence Streets, this monument is an uncoursed granite-block structure with a circular, stepped base and a

stepped, crenellated top capped with an eagle. Built by Works Progress Administration workers in 1935-37, it commemorates those who died in World War I. A bronze plaque was later added in memory of those who lost their lives in World War II. Nearby are three smaller stones and markers for West Warwick residents who died in Korea (1950-53), Vietnam (1961-75), and Beirut (1983).

MAIN STREET

- *1190 UNITED STATES POST OFFICE (1932): A 2-story, square, Neoclassical building of Indiana limestone, with a colossal hexastyle Doric colonnade in antis on the facade, tile decorations on the front and the sides, and a balustraded parapet screening the flat roof. The building is set on a platform above street level and is reached by a broad flight of stairs. The small corner lot is neatly landscaped. Workers' houses for the nearby Arctic Mill, owned by A. & W. Sprague and later by B. B. & R. Knight, occupied this site in the mid- and late 19th century. The site was purchased in 1926 and this building was dedicated on August 23, 1932. In 1974, improvements to the building were made by Castellucci, Galli Associates.
- 1207-09 COMMERCIAL BLOCK (late 19th century): A large, 3-story, flat-roofed building with a heavily altered storefront, a broad, flat-roofed canopy above the storefronts; semi-hexagonal bay windows at each side of the upper stories; and a decoration--a fan or sunburst motif over the letter "M"--at the center of the second story. There is a large, rambling addition at the rear. The building has been used by a variety of businesses, including a tailor shop, a saloon, a variety store, a clothing store, a grocery, a newsstand, and an ice cream factory.
- 1213 THUOTTE BUILDING (1925): A 2-story, red brick commercial building with a somewhat altered storefront on the first floor and offices above. There is a row of six windows on the second story. The name and date of the building are inscribed in the parapet. This simple, well maintained building was erected by Dr. Thuotte, an optometrist, who also operated a jewelry store; he moved here from the DeNomme Block a short distance away.
- *1218 CENTREVILLE NATIONAL BANK (1928): A handsome, monumental Neoclassical building of Indiana

limestone, with a pedimented, projecting Ionic portico centered on the facade, a bronze door below a semicircular fanlight, and a parapet screening the flat roof. The building sits on a landscaped terrace above a low granite wall. The first Centerville Bank was incorporated in Centerville in 1828 and moved to this site in 1901. Sited near the street, it was demolished when the street was widened in the 1920s and replaced by the present building, designed by architects Hutchins and French of Boston, which was dedicated October 6, 1928.

1219-21 CURSON BLOCK (1912): A 2-story, red brick, flat-roofed building with a storefront on the first story and offices above. It has a broad metal cornice and two vertical signs hung from the front of the second story. The building replaced an earlier one also known as the Curson Block. Since 1912, it has housed a drug store, a bank, an electrical shop and office for the Narragansett Electric Company, Capwell Engineering, and Archambault's store.

1220-26 OLD COLONY BANK BUILDING (c. 1928): A handsome red brick, Neo-Georgian building comprising a central 2-story, flat-roofed section, ornamented with a modillion cornice, flanked by 2-1/2-story, end-gabled units with brickwork quoins and circular windows in the gable ends. A dwelling and store on this site known as the Tibbitts Building was demolished in 1928 and the left side of the present structure was erected for the bank. The central and right portions were added later following the original architectural design.

1249 SINNOTT BUILDING/MASTRO MANSION (1889): A large, 2-story building, with a storefront on the first floor and a parapet across the flat roof. The six large windows across the second-story facade have been filled in. In 1889, the Sinnott family closed its Phenix store and moved the business to these new quarters in Arctic. The building was enlarged in 1897.

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1960): A contemporary church building, set gable end to the street at Arctic Square, with a large, recessed round-arch opening in the front. To the south is a 3-story convent. The church lot was purchased by the Reverend James Gibson in 1872; it then included an extensive grove of trees. Gibson built a large

hall, called Grove Hall, for the Irish residents of the area. The hall was remodeled as St. James Church, which opened in 1891 and was dedicated in 1893. In 1894 a rectory was completed and in 1895, a combination school and convent was built (a third floor was added in 1923). In 1959, ground-breaking took place for a new church, which was dedicated on May 22, 1960. The old church structure was razed, but the other buildings still stand.

POND STREET

- 73 HEBERT'S MINI MART (early 20th century): A small, 1-story, end-gable building, with a recessed central entry flanked by plate-glass windows, and a tall false front with a stepped outline. A narrow, deep building, it extends through the block to Granite Street. Built by Joseph Hebert for use as a grocery store, this is a good example of small-scale early 20th-century commercial architecture.

ROBERT STREET

- 62 WEST WARWICK MANOR (1969): A 6-story, brick-sided housing project for the elderly, with recessed porches on the long sides. This large building, set on a neat, simply landscaped lot behind a chain link fence along Robert and Mill Streets, is the first elderly housing project in West Warwick.

ROOSEVELT STREET

- 11 DR. LEGRIS HOUSE (early 20th century): A large, rambling, wood-shingle residence with some Georgian detail, including a central pavilion, and a high hip roof. This once fine residence, although suffering from neglect and unsympathetic alterations, is one of the larger, more elaborate houses in Arctic. It was built by Dr. Legris, a well-known physician, on a site a short distance to the west, closer to Washington Street. Located on this site by 1940, it was known at that time as the Mall Hotel.

WASHINGTON STREET

- 3 F. W. WOOLWORTH'S/SITE OF WARWICK HOTEL (c. 1923): A 1-story commercial building with large plate-glass windows on the facade below a broad signage panel, and a cornice continuous with that on the adjacent bank building. This site was occupied by

the Warwick Hotel, built in 1889 and moved to Archambault Street in the 1920s, when Woolworth's built on the site. The facade of this typical early 20th-century retail block has been altered.

- 5 FLEET NATIONAL BANK (early 20th century): A 1-story commercial building, with a pedimented central entrance portico flanked by display windows and a paneled parapet and cornice which is continuous with that on the adjacent building. In the early 20th century, this building housed a combination drug, confectionery, and stationery store.

MAJESTIC BLOCK (1901): Dominating Arctic Square from its prominent site within the "V" formed by Washington and Main Streets, the Majestic Block is a large, 5-story, brick and concrete block, triangular-plan structure. The first building on this site, erected in the late 19th century and known as Joseph Archambault's Block, burned on November 3, 1900. Its replacement, built by Archambault and called the Majestic Hotel, contained a movie theatre in the heart of the building, with rooms on the exterior walls, a bowling alley in the basement, and a bar and a drug store at street level. The largest commercial building in Arctic and the commercial and urban focus of this small central business district for many years, the Majestic Block was renovated in the mid-1980s.

- 7-17 COMMERCIAL BUILDING/FORMER REXALL DRUG STORE (late 19th century): A 2-story, flat-roofed brick structure, with three storefronts on the street level, each with a different architectural treatment, and offices above. A row of windows is at the second story level and a projecting cornice at the roof line. Several signs attached at right angles to the building include an old Rexall Drug Store neon sign. This block, which may have originally been two separate buildings, has housed a variety of commercial establishments, including a bootblack, a Rexall Drug Store, a cobbler, a hardware store, a photographer, and a First National Store. The building is now vacant.

- 20 ST. JOHN'S RECTORY (1899): A large, 3-story structure occupying a relatively large corner lot opposite St. John's Church. This handsome red brick dwelling with red sandstone trim has a slate hip roof, a wraparound porch with Corinthian

columns, a modillion cornice, and a 3-story, circular tower with a domed roof. St. John's Rectory was built through the efforts of the Reverend Joseph Bourgeois.

ST. JOHN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1939): A brick and cast-stone neo-Gothic church with a gabled section set end to the street and flanked by a buttressed bell tower at the left corner. The facade has a central entry set within a Tudor arch and a large stained-glass rose window above the entry. This building occupies the site of the original St. John's Church, built in 1874.

The first French Canadian immigrants in the area attended services at St. Mary's, Crompton, and Saints Peter and Paul, Phenix. About 1872, a separate parish was formed for French Canadians and named in honor of St. John the Baptist, patron saint of the founders of New France (Quebec). Three lots were purchased from A. K. Barnes, Alpheus Angell, and Michael English, and construction, funded by local mill workers, begun in January 1873. The parish was incorporated in 1874, and Bishop Hendricken laid the cornerstone of the first church on October 18, 1874. The completed building was dedicated on June 20, 1880. In the 1930s, the dilapidated and overcrowded building was condemned and demolished.

Construction of a new church was begun on July 26, 1936, by contractor Clomodie Savageau following plans drawn by Woonsocket architect Walter F. Fontaine, who designed many Roman Catholic churches in Rhode Island mill towns. The first service in the new edifice was the Midnight Mass celebrated on Christmas Eve, 1939. The church was consecrated on June 24, 1940, but the interior was not fully completed until 1950. A number of other buildings were associated with the church, including a rectory still standing at 25 Washington Street (q.v.); a convent and school, built in the 1880s and later replaced; St. Joseph's Cemetery, started in 1889; and the Odeon Theatre. The parish was divided to form two other parishes: Christ the King at Centerville, in 1931, and St. Vincent de Paul in Anthony, in 1937. St. John's is still the largest French Canadian parish in the Pawtuxet Valley today.

*37-43

J. J. NEWBERRY STORE (1921): A 1-story commercial block with two separate recessed entries flanked by plate-glass windows. Across the top of the terracotta facade is a broad panel with the words "J. J.

Newberry Co." in script. The parapet contains hard-edged, low-relief ornamentation, while decorated brackets at the sides support the cornice. This is a relatively unaltered and rare example of a building type once commonly found on American main streets.

*63-65 CARTIER-CHAGNON BUILDING (c. 1890): A 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled structure with two storefronts at the street level and residential space above. There is a bay window on the right side of the second-story facade and a square tower at the left. The building was constructed and first used by Hormisdas J. Cartier, a jeweler, watchmaker, and optometrist. Cartier subsequently erected another building for himself at 129-135 Washington Street (q. v.). Doctor Charles E. Chagnon (1863-1936), a native of Quebec, began practicing medicine and filling prescriptions from an office here in 1890. After Cartier moved Chagnon kept a drug store in the building and lived upstairs. Chagnon's Family Drug Store, managed by Gerald Chagnon and Henry Lemoine, remained here until 1968.

*64-74 ALICE BUILDING (c. 1898): A long, 2-story, flat-roofed building with three storefronts at the street level and a row of windows and two slightly projecting bays on the second story. A balustrade across the top and a central section containing the name of the building have been removed. The first building on this site was a house. In 1895, while it was being raised to add a story beneath it, the building collapsed and killed Alice, the daughter of owner John Lemoine. When a new building was erected, about 1898, it was named for Alice. Over the years the building has housed the Jericho Post Office, a barber, a grocery store, a confectionery store, a painter and paper hanger, a restaurant, and a cleaning and dry goods business.

99 LUCIEN ARCHAMBAULT BUILDING (late 19th century): A handsome 3-story, flat-roofed masonry building, with two altered storefronts at street level. The intact upper stories have segmental-arch windows, belt courses between the second and third story, and a projecting, bracketed wooden cornice. Erected by Lucien Archambault, the building has been occupied primarily by clothing stores throughout its history; among the other occupants have been the Union Hardware Company, a sweet shop, and a liquor store.

- *115-19 DONANT ARCHAMBAULT BUILDING (c. 1910): A handsome, 2-story, flat-roofed building with two shops on the first floor behind altered store fronts, and a row of windows at the second story. One of the most elaborately ornamented commercial blocks in town, this building has a pedimented central entry, elaborate window surrounds at the second-story level, and a projecting bracketed cornice. Donant Archambault (whose father, Lucien, owned a store and building across Campbell Street) built this to house a Woolworth 5 & 10 Cent Store. After Woolworth's moved, in 1923, the building housed a variety of businesses: a fruit store, an upholstery store, a florist, an electrical business, the Arctic Super Market, and a music store.
- 129-35 CARTIER BUILDING (1892): A 2-story, flat-roofed structure with several shops on the ground floor behind a recently altered storefront, and a row of windows and two bay windows on the second story. Hormisdas J. Cartier (1863-1911), born in Quebec, was a jeweler and watch maker. His office was downstairs and his home above. Cartier was the first chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Optometrists. His daughter Marie and son Raoul were also optometrists. Dr. Raoul Cartier practiced in this building until about 1976. The left side of the building was occupied by the Washington Street Restaurant for many years.
- 153 COBBLER SHOP (1920s): A typical small, 1-story store, with a prominent parapet with closed panels and an entrance at the right side of the facade. A cobbler who owned the adjacent building (#151) erected this for use as his shop. It was later used as a barber shop.
- 166 RICK'S PLACE (1940s): A small 1-story structure squeezed between two larger buildings, this eatery is noteworthy for its stepped, two-tone Art Deco parapet faced with enameled panels, typical of modern commercial architecture of the mid-20th century. However, the lower portion of the facade has been remodeled in cast stone and is continuous with that of the adjacent building. Lionel Maynard, whose brother John owned the adjacent building, built this small restaurant in the 1940s.
- 183-91 PAWTUXET VALLEY AUTO SALES (early 20th century): A 2-story, flat-roofed, yellow brick building with a central recessed entry flanked by large, multi-

paned windows, and a broad cornice supported by paired brackets. Windows at the side and second story level have been boarded over. At the right is a later, 1-story building. In the early 20th century, a house occupied by a Mr. Pierce occupied this site. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Tefft, a physician, purchased the property and built an automobile business--the Pawtuxet Valley Auto Sales--with a salesroom on the ground floor and an office above. It was one of several automobile-oriented businesses that thrived in this part of Washington Street in the early and mid-20th century.

- 215 GIL MOTORS/SANSCO INTERIORS (1925): A 1-story masonry building with a stepped parapet and a central entry flanked by large openings. All of the large original openings have been blocked with wooden infill. The building was erected by Homer Gileneau, who first had a vulcanizing tire business across the street. His business here, Gil Motors, a Chevrolet and Oldsmobile agency was active in the sale of automobiles until about 1969. The building was later occupied by Crompton Cabinets. Since July, 1983, it has been the home of Sansco Interiors, designers of restaurant interiors.
- 221-27 WASHINGTON STREET CAFE (late 19th century): This tall, 2-1/2-story, mansard-roofed building rises above a recently renovated storefront. The building has been used for commercial purposes since the beginning of the 20th century. A grocery store was here in 1903. In 1915, part of the building was also used as a restaurant, and eventually a bar and restaurant. It now houses the Washington Street Cafe. A small, 1-story, flat-roofed addition at the left side, which retains its original facade, was once an ice cream store.
- 268 VARR'S TEXACO SUPER SERVICE STATION (1930s): This building, a former Texaco service station, is similar to the service station at 231 Washington Street. This station follows the company's 1930s prototype, designed by Walter Dorwin Teague. It features a smooth, white porcelain enamel exterior, a streamlined crown, and bands around the building. The outline of the "Texaco" name is still visible above the office section of the building, which now houses an auto body business.

WEAVER STREET

- 53 EUCLIDE LAGUE HOUSE (mid-19th century): A handsome and well maintained, 1-1/2-story house, with a 5-bay facade containing a central entry, with fluted pilasters and side lights, a brick exterior chimney, and an ell at the right rear with a bracketed veranda. The house occupies a neat, relatively large landscaped lot behind a handsome, low wood picket fence. The house, one of several suburban-like dwellings at the fringe of urban Arctic, has been the residence of the Lague family, local merchants, for most of the century.

CENTERVILLE

The village of Centerville lies at the intersection of several major roads--Legris Avenue, Main Street, and West Warwick Avenue--and the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River. Includes a variety of structures along both sides of the river. On the river's west bank, near a dye works, is the site of the town's oldest textile mill. Off Brookside Avenue and West Warwick Avenue is one of the town's most recent textile factories, the 1896 and 1907 Warwick Mills. Also along the west side of the river are houses that represent several periods in the history of the village--an 18th-century house built by a Greene, plain houses for workers in the nearby mills, and a small section of residences built for mill owners and business leaders in the late 19th century. East of the river is the large industrial complex of the Centerville Mills. Manufacturing here began in a 2-story wooden factory erected in 1807; throughout the 19th century, large new stone mills were erected. Also on the east side are three churches--one Methodist, one Lutheran, and one Roman Catholic.

This part of West Warwick was first settled following the removal of the Indian threat after King Philip's War of 1675-76. Then predominantly rural, this fertile interior land was settled as farms. Several roads laid out from Narragansett Bay westward included the Country Road, which ran from Apponaug through Centerville, Quidnick, Washington, and over Bowen's Hill to Connecticut.

Although the lands were allotted to sixteen different proprietors, the land around Centerville was owned by the Greene family, who were among the founders of Shawomet (Warwick). Some members of the family remained on their homesteads near Narragansett Bay, while others,

usually the younger members of the family, took up land in the interior tracts. Most of the land along the South Branch of the Pawtuxet was owned by Job Greene, a son of Warwick proprietor John Greene. In 1677, several men received a grant of land from the proprietors for the purpose of building a saw mill near the river. The saw mill was operating in Centerville early in the 18th century, when the place was known as Beaver Dam. Over the years, Greene descendants cleared the land, developed farms, bridged the river, and established a saw mill and a grist mill. Settlement in the area proceeded very slowly; between 1695 and 1775, only three houses were built in today's Centerville, all by the Greenes: one by Job Greene's son Daniel, one by Daniel's nephew Christopher, and one by Christopher's brother William (all the houses were gone by the mid-19th century).

When Christopher Greene's son Job, who had inherited the Centerville estate, formed a company for the purpose of manufacturing cotton in 1794, it marked the beginning of a new era for Centerville and the town. With the arrival of non-resident industrialists and entrepreneurs, the dominance of the Greene family waned rapidly, and the village began to grow. In 1795, when there were eight houses in the village, half of them were owned by the Greene family, but between 1799 and 1801, William Almy and Obadiah Brown of Providence, pioneers in the American Industrial Revolution, purchased most of the Greene industrial property and Job Greene's house.

The inception of a new manufacturing company and the construction of a second textile mill in 1807 created a flurry of institutional construction in the early 19th century. Two schools were built in 1803, one by the Warwick West School Society; the other school served both educational and religious purposes. Methodists began religious worship in a school house during the first years of the century. They had no settled preacher but were served by the Warwick circuit, whose territory extended into Connecticut. In 1831, they built a church.

A post office was established in 1820, about the time the New London Turnpike, which ran through the eastern part of the village, was completed. The Centerville Bank opened for business in 1828. Around this time, the village also contained several taverns, a grocery store, a wheelwright shop, and, perhaps a bit later, Ezra J. Cady's acid factory, which supplied acid to print works and converted cider into vinegar for domestic use.

Mill ownership changed around mid-century. By then, all of the original proprietors of the manufacturing property at Centerville were deceased and a new generation of mill owners ran the mills. The entire mill property, along both sides of the river, originally under one ownership, was acquired by William D. Davis, who immediately sold the Green Mill and east side property to Benedict Lapham of Scituate.

By 1862, Centerville was a well-defined village, with houses extending along the main streets and several side streets. Non-residential buildings included at least three stores, a vinegar factory, a carriage shop, Cady's Block, a post office, a school house, and a bank. In 1870, the pattern of distribution and the number of buildings remained about the same. Three physician-surgeons were listed in the directory, and there were at least three stores, including S. P. Kingsbury's.

The village's industrial base expanded considerably in 1873-74 when Benedict Lapham moved the relatively small Green Mill to the rear of his mill property and constructed in its place a "substantial and well-arranged stone mill" capable of operating 30,000 spindles; it was reputedly the largest mill in the state owned by an individual. It provided employment for many workers, necessitating more housing. The growth of the village following construction of the stone mill occurred principally along Main Street and Brookside Avenue, on part of a subdivision known as John Greene Farm Plat. The houses along Brookside Avenue (which was laid out after 1870) were mostly smaller, one- and two-family houses, simple vernacular adaptations of popular architectural styles. Along Main Street were larger and architecturally more sophisticated dwellings sited on ample lots, built for the families of mill owners, mill superintendents, professionals, and businessmen.

During the 20th century, relatively little change has taken place in Centerville. The three mills are still operating, although the large Centerville Mill complex now houses a variety of tenants. A Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1902 replaced an earlier one destroyed by fire. The Roman Catholic parish of Christ the King, founded in 1931, originally worshipped in a converted barn, which was replaced by a new church in 1956-57. The main intersection of the villages has undergone changes: a fire station and several commercial properties were taken down for a new market, a diner, and a gasoline station. Other new businesses have located along the main streets. These 20th-century buildings, like the surviving older buildings in the

village, contribute to an understanding of the history and evolution of Centerville.

CENTERVILLE MILL COMPLEX, Bridal Avenue and Main Street

* CENTERVILLE MILLS, WATERHOUSE MILL NO. 1, KENT WOOLEN COMPANY (1807 et seq.): Historically the Centerville Mill complex included buildings along both sides of the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River. In 1794, a textile mill was erected along the west bank and in 1807, a textile factory was constructed on the east side of the river. These and subsequent buildings were managed by one company until 1852; since then, the mills on each side of the river have been separate manufacturing operations.

The mill complex along the west bank, at 1454 Main Street, now the Agawam Dye Works, includes a 1-story, monitor-on-flat-roof, 60- by 200-foot brick weave shed, connected to a group of 1- to 3-story wood, brick, and stone buildings. The wooden structure adjacent to the weave shed housed dressing, spinning, winding, carding, and finishing operations. A brick building contained the boiler while a stone structure at the rear, probably the oldest extant building in this complex, was once used for wool storage, sorting, or picking. A number of small, detached wood-frame buildings--a dye house, a blacksmith shop, a coal bin, and store houses--which once stood on the property no longer exist. Near the street is an early 19th-century, 1-story, wood-frame office building. Most of the extant industrial buildings were erected before 1903, probably about 1872.

The mill complex east of the river, along Bridal Avenue, is dominated by a 4-story, 70- by 303-foot, flat-roof stone structure with a central stair tower, built in 1873. Attached to this is a series of 2- and 3-story stone buildings; those at the north end were added between 1907 and 1909. They were once used for a variety of cotton-textile manufacturing operations: ring spinning, weaving, carding, spooling, and warping. In 1965, a long, 1-story addition was constructed along the front of the main mill building. Across Bridal Avenue is a stone store house built in 1896. A mill office contemporary with the 1873 mill no longer exists. About 150 feet northeast of the mill complex is a 2-1/2-story frame building, the original Green Mill, built in 1807 and moved here in 1873; it once was used as a warehouse but is now vacant and deteriorating.

Between the two mill complexes is a 14-1/2-foot high, 80-foot wide, horseshoe-shaped, granite-block dam with massive granite-block abutments. From the pond created by the dam, watercourses ran under both mills to provide power. Along the east side, about 15 feet upstream of the dam, is a headrace. Originally, four headgates controlled the flow of the 30- by 175-foot raceway. The water flowed under the mill, into a 25- by 35-foot turbine chamber room, then exited through a 30- by 200-foot granite-block tailrace to rejoin the river about 430 feet below the dam.

A saw mill was reportedly operating at this site on the west bank in the early 18th century. By the late 18th century there was also a grist mill. About 1794, Col. Job Greene transferred land and waterpower rights to a company formed for the purpose of manufacturing cotton. The incorporators included Job Greene, William Potter, John Allen, James McKenzie, and James Greene. They erected a 26- by 40-foot, 2-story building known as the Warwick Spinning Mill. Said to be the second Arkwright spinning mill in Rhode Island, it began the manufacture of cotton in the mid-1790s. The operation was unsuccessful and partners changed. In 1799, William Almy and Obadiah Brown purchased a half interest in the mill, which contained four spinning machines, each with 60 spindles, and two carding machines, each with drawing and roving frames. The new company enjoyed more success producing cotton yarn for warps, and new machinery was added. Almy and Brown purchased Job Greene's rights in the spinning mill in 1801. In 1805, they made additional purchases from Job Greene--16 acres of land, grist and saw mills, water power, and his 1785 house.

In 1807, the mill had a trip hammer in the basement, a grist and saw mill on the first story, a miller and a butcher on the second story, and a wool carding machine in the attic. Another mill, a 3-story wooden structure, second at this site, was erected in 1807 along the east bank on the river. Known as the Green Mill because of its color, it was operated by a new company known as the Warwick Manufacturing Company. Partners in the venture were Almy and Brown, James Greene, John Allen, and Gideon Allen. Almy and Brown continued to operate the original mill, still known as the Warwick Spinning Mill.

In 1821, the two mills were united under the Warwick Manufacturing Company, controlled by Almy and Brown. Old machinery in the 1794 mill was

removed and power looms substituted. The 1807 Green Mill was then devoted entirely to carding and spinning. Obadiah Brown died in 1822 and William Almy in 1836. In 1836, the 5/8ths share owned by Almy and Brown was purchased by John Greene. In 1850, William B. Davis of Providence bought the woolen machinery, and after John Greene died in 1851, acquired the tenements, water power, and cotton mills. By this time, Allen Waterhouse had started the manufacture of cassimeres in the west side mill.

Davis immediately sold the Green Mill and the eastern property to Benedict Lapham of Burrillville, who began manufacturing in 1852. From this time, the mills on both sides of the river were run separately. Davis continued to run the west side woolen mill until 1860, when he sold out to General James Waterhouse.

In 1858, Lapham's Cotton Mill, as it became known, operated 5,000 spindles and 130 looms, and employed 85 workers. A large, 3-story addition to the mill was made in 1861. A decade later, in 1873-74, Lapham built the large, 4-story stone mill. Lapham designed this building, whose construction was superintended by Horace Foster, a well-known mill builder. The Green Mill was moved to the rear of the property, enlarged, and used as a storehouse, while additions to the 1861 mill were incorporated into the new mill.

After Benedict Lapham's death in 1883, his brother Enos became sole owner of the Centerville Mill until his death in 1894. The factory was run by trustees for five years before going to Benedict's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Treat, and grandson, Robert B. Treat, who became proprietor. In 1901, the mill, described as modern and well equipped, was running 31,000 spindles and 700 wide looms, and employed 350 workers. Power was supplied by water (725 h.p.) and by an engine (600 h.p.). Robert Treat sold his interests in 1903 to Robert Knight of B. B. & R. Knight. It was the last mill acquired by the Knight Company, which made extensive enlargements and reorganizations. About 1920, the Centerville Mills were manufacturing print book cloths. The company had more than 75 houses for operatives, a farm, a store, and other buildings as part of their Centerville property. Manufacture of cotton goods was conducted for several more years by the Knights who sold the Centerville Mills in the 1930s. In 1958, the Centerville Cotton Mill was owned by the Marston Braid Company. Recently the mill has

housed a succession of small textile firms and other manufacturers, including a chemical industry and a maker of swimming pools.

In 1852, following his purchase, William D. Davis ran the mill on the west side. In 1858, it contained four sets of cards manufacturing 10,000 yards of fancy cassimeres each month with 55 to 60 workers. Davis sold the property in 1860 to James Waterhouse. Waterhouse's woolen mill suffered a fire and explosion around 1871; the mill, probably the present complex, was rebuilt by the Kent Manufacturing Company, organized by James Waterhouse. After he died in 1872, the business was reorganized by Benjamin, Richard, and George Waterhouse as the Kent Woolen Company. The firm manufactured woollens for half a century. By 1937, the mill complex, under the Thies Dyeing Company, was bleaching and dyeing cotton, rayon, and merino yarns by a process called package dyeing. Today, the B & B Quality Dye Works carries on a century-old operation of dyeing, bleaching, and winding textile materials.

WARWICK MILLS, Brookside and West Warwick Avenues

WARWICK MILLS (c. 1896, c. 1907): The Warwick Mill is a long, 2-part brick structure. The original mill, built about 1896, is a plain 3-story, flat-roofed, 110- by 600-foot brick structure built for weaving, carding, and spinning. About 1907, a saw-toothed roof weave shed, 250 by 500 feet, was attached to the north end of the older mill. On the Brookside Avenue side is a 1-story brick office building; at the west side is a mid-20th-century, 3-story, flat-roofed structure with a passageway at the second-story level connecting it with the main mill.

Incorporated in 1896, by 1901 the Warwick Mills had 350 workers manufacturing fine, plain, and fancy cotton yarn. Unlike the rest of West Warwick's mills, its 36,000 spindles and 800 looms were operated solely by steam power. Frank P. Sheldon drew up plans for the addition in 1906, and J.W. Bishop erected the building. The weave shed has a saw-tooth roof with windows facing north, a form typical of weave sheds. The 1,500 looms installed increased the spinning capacity of the mills by 30,000 spindles, to a total of 70,000 for the two buildings. In 1939, there were 1,850 looms and 18,750 ring spindles used to manufacture fine combed goods. The building was sold in the early 1950s. Part of it was divided among four new

tenants--including, until recently, the Army Map Service--while Warwick Mills continued to occupy most of the mill. Northeastern Dye Works, Inc., was a major tenant in 1971.

ARTHUR STREET

- 9 ARTHUR MORTON HOUSE (1910): A 2-story, hip-roofed house with a porticoed entry at the left side and a 1-story bay at the right side of a 3-bay facade, and a small porch at the rear of the left side. This simple residence was the home of Arthur Morton, inventor of the Morton Pile Cutting Machine, and the birthplace of his son, Robert E. Morton, one of three persons responsible for the conception, design, and production of the Unifil Loom Winder used by the textile industry.

BRIDAL AVENUE

(See Centerville Mill Complex)

BROOKSIDE AVENUE

(See also Warwick Mills, above)

- 127 HOUSE (late 19th century): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled residence with bargeboards, a small bay window in front, and an ell at the left rear. This simple but attractive dwelling occupies a large lot along the west side of the street. It stands opposite and in marked contrast to a dense row of workers' houses that lines the east side of the street.

WORKERS' HOUSES (late 19th century): The row of houses along the east side of Brookside north of West Warwick Avenue, built between 1870 and 1895, represents a variety of housing styles. At the north end is a group of 1-1/2-story, mansard-roofed houses. South of these are two larger two-deckers: one with a 2-story porch that wraps across the front and around the south side of the building, the other (#128) converted from a smaller, mansard-roofed house. At #134 is another two-decker, this one with a fine 2-story porch with brackets and a railing. A cross-gabled residence at #136 has paired brackets at the eaves, a pair of hip-roofed porches, and a small bay window in front; it is somewhat similar to #127. The residence at 148 Brookside Avenue is a simple version of the Queen Anne style. It has an irregular mass, a 2-story porch on the left side of the front, a 2-story bay at the right side, and bargeboards in a front gable

and dormer. Numbers 156 through 170 constitute a compact row of five plain, 1-1/2-story, end-gable houses. Two of them retain their small front porches. Some of these houses, located on part of the John Greene Farm Plat, were probably erected when the Kent Woolen Company began operating about 1872.

CENTRE STREET

20 SPINK HOUSE (1806): A 1-1/2-story dwelling set close to the street, with a central transom-lighted entry in a 5-bay facade and a large ell at the rear. It is one of Centerville's early houses.

25 WHITMAN-ADAMS HOUSE (c. 1861) A 1-1/2-story residence with a central entry in what was originally a 5-bay facade (there is a later addition at the left front that breaks the house's symmetry), and two gable dormers that break the cornice line. Although altered from its original appearance, the trabeated entry, wide fascia boards, and paneled pilasters at the corners typify the vernacular Greek Revival style in Rhode Island. The house was probably built by Albert Whitman in 1861. It went to Dwight Adams in 1867 and remained in the Adams family until 1932.

LEGRIS AVENUE

BATCHELDER HOUSE (c. 1895): A 2-1/2-story, multi-gabled Queen Anne residence, with patterned shingle and clapboard walls; a shed roof, wraparound porch at the front and left side; and a semicircular, recessed porch at the front gable. This handsome house occupies a large landscaped lot.

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH (1956-57): A 1- and 2-story brick structure set with its gable end near the street. It has a large, steep gable roof, a central entry with plate glass doors under a shed-roof hood, and a large, multi-panel window extending to the peak of the roof. Nearby are several buildings associated with the parish, including a rectory, a convent, and a school.

Christ the King Church is an outgrowth of St. John's Church of Arctic, which experienced great growth after World War I. Formed for members living near the Warwick-West Warwick border, it was established on October 30, 1931. The parish purchased this 4-acre site, which included a barn, a 4-story building, and three tenements. The

houses were razed, the barn was converted into a church by architect Walter F. Fontaine, and the 4-story building was remodeled to house a temporary rectory on the first floor and a parish hall on the second. Church dedication ceremonies were held May 1, 1932. In 1933, the school opened and, in 1936, an old mansion was purchased and renovated for a rectory.

The church's interior was refurbished early in 1954, but a fire on December 3 of that year did heavy damage to the building. Under the direction of architects Joseph Mosher & Sons, work on a new building began in 1956 and was completed in 1957. In 1958, the parish purchased the New London Avenue School for its own use and renovated the convent. A 4-room junior high school was built between the convent and church in 1959. In 1973, the parish closed the school.

MAIN STREET

(See also Centerville Mill Complex)

- 1384 ALBERIC ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE (19th century?): A large, 2-story, cross-gabled, shingle and clapboard residence, with a front roof slope that overhangs a 1-story porch; two small, pilastered brick chimneys near the ends; and a central entry with side lights. A shingled, cross-gabled garage stands at the rear of the large corner lot bordered with shrubs. Though it does not show on early maps, this house appears to be a 19th-century vernacular Gothic dwelling which was later altered by adding a bungalow-type front porch. It is one in a row of houses here built for Arctic's leading citizens.
- 1398 EMORY FORROW HOUSE (late 19th century): A large 2-1/2- and 3-story Queen Anne house with irregular massing, a central entry, a 2-story porch at the center of the front, and a 3-story, hip-roofed tower at the right side. Although the house has been altered by the removal of architectural details and the installation of aluminum siding, it is still a visual landmark on the street.
- 1410-12 COIT CARSON HOUSE (c. 1900): A 2-1/2-story, L-plan residence with separate front entries, a fine porch across the center and left side with an attached hexagonal pavilion, and a small, hip-roof dormer. The house is set back from the road, on a low terrace behind a large, granite-block wall along the sidewalk. Behind the house is a granite-block, hip-roofed garage.

- 1416 SINNOTT HOUSE (1898): A large, 2-1/2-story, hip-roofed house with large hip-roofed dormers, wide eaves, a 1-story entrance porch at the left front, and a 2-story bay at the right side. The house stands on a large corner lot, on a low terrace above a low, coursed-stone wall. It was built for one of the early and prominent merchant families in Arctic and remained in Sinnott family ownership until 1984.
- 1430 GREENE-SINNOTT HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-story, hip-roofed house with a 1-story entrance porch, a 1-story porch across the rear, and a glazed 1-story porch at the right side. This house, on a large corner lot above a low, coursed-stone wall, was once the property of John Greene and was later owned by the Sinnott family until 1984.
- 1436 HOUSE (c. 1900): A 2-1/2-story, shingle and clapboard house with a complex cross-gable roof that sweeps down to cover a corner entrance porch with a set of slender, square posts on fieldstone supports. There is a hip-roofed garage at the right side of the lot, near the sidewalk. The house occupies a grassy lot above a low, coursed-stone wall. It is the southernmost in a row of fine houses along the east side of this section of Main Street.
- 1451 MELLO-KOCH HOUSE (c. 1894): A large, 2-1/2-story, hip-roofed Colonial Revival house with broad eaves, hip-roofed dormers, a central entry with side lights in a 3-bay facade, a 1-story balustraded entrance porch, a large brick chimney at the left side, and an enclosed porch at the rear. The house, set on a large lot and built by the owner of the nearby Warwick Mills, was owned by Dr. Koch from about 1947 to 1984.
- CENTERVILLE BRIDGE, NUMBER 28 (1926): A reinforced-concrete, single-arch-span bridge carrying Main Street over the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River. It is 58 feet wide, including two 7-1/2-foot sidewalks and a balustrade at each side, and 110 feet long. On the site of several earlier spans, this latest replacement was erected using the old abutments for support. L. E. McLaughlin, Inc., of New London, Connecticut, was the contractor.

- * CENTERVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1902): A handsome shingled church building with a high, uncoursed stone foundation and a square, tapered, 3-story tower which contains a hip-roofed hooded entry. The adjacent Mount Pleasant Cemetery is associated with the church.

The first Methodist Episcopal services in Centerville were held in the early years of the 19th century by a circuit minister. A building for the Methodist Episcopal Church and Proprietors Meeting House of Centerville, Rhode Island, was erected in 1831 on land given by Joseph Greene. A fire on February 9, 1902 destroyed the church, which was immediately replaced. The new structure was dedicated on June 6, 1903.

NEW LONDON AVENUE

- 9 SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH/EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (1896) A large church building with a full basement in front, a square tower with a double-door entry and a belfry centered on the facade, and small lancet windows along the sides, sited high above the street, with a view to the west. The church and the adjacent, contemporary parsonage have been re-sited. The first Lutheran society met in the basement of the Crompton Baptist Church in 1886, then in Lapham's Hall in Centerville. About 1894, the heirs of Enos Lapham gave land for the church, which was dedicated as the Swedish Lutheran Church.

WEST WARWICK AVENUE

(See also Warwick Mills, above)

- 75 JOSEPH W. GREENE HOUSE (late 18th century): A 2-1/2-story Federal dwelling with a large brick center chimney, a central pedimented entry in a 5-bay facade, and a long 1-story ell at the rear. The house, which occupies a small, grassy corner lot behind a low brick wall, is typical of large Rhode Island farmhouses, only a few of which exist in West Warwick today. It was the residence of Joseph W. Greene and remained in the Greene family until 1906. Originally a one-family residence, the house was later divided into several apartments.
- 88 ABBY PLACE HOUSE (c. 1825): A 2-1/2-story dwelling with a 5-bay facade, a central entry with a leaded-glass transom light, bracketed eaves, and a 1-story bay at the right side. The house, which occupies a small lot near Centerville's busiest road intersection, was probably built about 1825, and

later altered by James Waterhouse, who came here from England in the mid-19th century. Waterhouse manufactured wool at the nearby mill and eventually purchased the mill property on the west side of the river which later became the Kent Manufacturing Company. The house remained in the Waterhouse family well into the 20th century.

CLYDE/BIRCH HILL

Clyde is a loosely applied place name for the area in the vicinity of the former Clyde Bleaching and Print Works. The industrial buildings were a sprawling complex bounded on the south and east by the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River and on the west by Main Street. The roadbed of the former Pawtuxet Valley Railroad marks the northern limit of the area as here defined, an area more significant historically than architecturally, particularly since the old print works no longer exists.

As shown on old maps, Clyde is always north of the river. The area south of the river, historically identified as Birch Hill, includes parts of East Main, Main, and Pike Streets, and Maple and Woodside Avenues. Once an important local commercial, social, and political center, it is now only a minor commercial node.

Originally the land north of the river was part of the Natick Farms, platted in 1673. A large tract of land south of the river, including Birch Hill, once belonged to the Greene family, then became the property of Peter Levalley.

In 1828, Simon H. Greene, son of Job Greene, the town's pioneer cotton manufacturer, and Edward Pike formed a company for the purpose of printing and finishing cotton cloth. In 1831, a road was laid out between Lippitt and Greenville (later Riverpoint), the latter owned by one of the Greenes. The village of Clyde originated in 1831-32, when Greene and Pike erected a number of buildings to print and bleach cloth, and tenements to house their workers. Simon Greene eventually became the sole owner of the works and later took in several of his sons as partners. The firm, known by 1865 as S. H. Greene & Sons, remained in Greene family ownership into the early 20th century. Greene was a Swedenborgian and was probably instrumental in the erection in 1837 of a building which was used as a school house and a meetinghouse for the New Jerusalem Church. In 1857, a

Baptist society from Phenix erected a church, known as the Bethel, on Main Street at Birch Hill.

By 1862, the village of "Clyde Print Works" contained the Greene Mills and a short row of mill houses nearby. Along the west side of the street were the "Swedenburgh" Church, the homes of S. H. Greene, J. W. A. Greene, and G. T. Arnold, and a row of houses along both sides of the street near Lippitt. Birch Hill contained the Baptist Church, the Classical Seminary and a carpenter shop, all on Main Street, and about a dozen other buildings. By 1870, little change had occurred at Clyde Print Works, but Birch Hill had grown; it then included the Bethel (a Six Principle Baptist Church), a Roman Catholic chapel, a store, and a large house along Main Street. D. Pike, manufacturer and dealer in lumber, timber, laths, and shingles, lived on Pike Street; his machining shop and planing mill was nearby. In 1873, a fire that destroyed Pike's mill, the Brayton foundry, and several houses, but most buildings were rebuilt.

The Pawtuxet Valley Railroad, opened in 1874, had a station at Clyde near Main Street, between the print works and Lippitt. By 1895, Clyde was also served by the Pawtuxet Valley Electric Street Railway, which had a barn on Main Street. The area south of the river, no longer identified as Birch Hill, was site of the Clyde Hotel, an opera house, a telephone office, and three stores run by F. E. Walker, E. Capwell, and A. W. Knight, the last-named next to a carriage manufactory. Clark Walker, describing Birch Hill in 1905 as "a small locality that has had a wonderful growth," also mentions a large machine shop for the manufacture of Colvin looms, a fire station, a post office, and a telegraph exchange, in addition to large stores and residences; all these made it "a place of note."

The print works continued operating until at least the middle of the 20th century. Occupying the site today are a number of businesses, some in converted factory buildings and some in new structures. Main Street, north of the bridge, is a mixture of residential and commercial buildings. The streetcar and railroad are gone. Across the river, the old Pike Mansion was used as the Town Hall from 1913, when West Warwick was established as a town, until a new building was erected in Arctic. The shift of the town seat from Birch Hill to Arctic reflects the decline in importance of the village. Today, Clyde Square contains several commercial establishments, some housed in older buildings, and several shops in a new commercial block near the bridge. The Clyde/Birch Hill area, although

bereft of its industrial core, nevertheless retains several locally important buildings associated with the village's period of industrial and political importance to the town.

CLYDE PRINT WORKS SITE, Main and Clyde Streets

CLYDE PRINT WORKS SITE: The site of the print works is on land bordered by the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River to the south, Main Street to the west, and Clyde Street to the north. It encompasses several large buildings set in a vast expanse of asphalt and gravel.

The huge Clyde Print and Dye Works once occupied this tract. In 1828, Simon H. Greene and Edward Pike, as Greene and Pike, founded an industry for bleaching and finishing white cotton goods, and leased a water privilege from the Lippitt Company on the condition that they erect a mill and houses for workers. They purchased the estate in 1831; a year or two later, they erected several industrial and commercial buildings and tenements. The mill complex was enlarged in the 1830s, 1840s, 1850s, and the 1870s as business grew, and several buildings were rebuilt following fires in 1853 and 1870. After Edward Pike died in 1842, Simon Greene continued the business as S. H. Greene. He later admitted his sons to the firm, which became S. H. Greene and Sons. When Simon Greene died on April 26, 1885, the print works had nine printing machines which were run by steam and water power and which could print from one to twelve colors. Six hundred workers manufactured the well known "Washington prints." S. H. Greene and Sons continued into the 20th century. In 1937, the Perennial Dye and Print Works owned and operated the complex.

After the dye works closed down, about 1950, several small businesses rented space but were unsuccessful. The place became vacant and remained so for many years until Clarence Coutu purchased the property for an industrial park in 1962. He tore down 21 buildings and filled in the mill trench. Several buildings were adapted for re-use: the former dye house became the Pawtuxet Valley Bus Lines garage in 1963, the boiler room and generating plant became Coutu Lumber in 1964, and the former calender room was utilized by several transportation, storage, and repair firms beginning in 1979. In 1963, a modern commercial-strip building, mostly occupied by an Almac's

Supermarket, was erected. Most of the land in this industrial park is still vacant today.

CLYDE STREET

(See also Clyde Print Works Site)

MAIN STREET

(See also Clyde Print Works Site)

933-37 SIMON H. GREENE HOUSE (early 19th century): A 2-1/2-story Greek Revival residence with a 5-bay facade containing a central entry, a doorway with transom and side lights, a later 2-story entrance porch, and a pair of hip-roofed dormers. The house was built by Simon H. Greene when he established the print and dye works here. It remained in Greene family ownership throughout the 19th century.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL AND PAWTUXET VALLEY C.Y.O. CENTER (early 20th century): A 1-story, flat-roofed, red brick building with side and central entrances and large modern windows.

980-82 COMMERCIAL BLOCK (early 20th century): A 2-story, flat-roofed brick structure with second-story windows topped by lintels with keystones and splayed end blocks. It has stores on the first floor and apartments above. It was one of several stores in the then prosperous Birch Hill commercial district. It is the best preserved commercial building in the area today. Most of the other 19th-century public and institutional buildings are gone.

CROMPTON

Crompton, West Warwick's southernmost village, is centered on Main Street (originally the New London Turnpike), extending from its junction with Church Street and New London Avenue in the north to the junction with Tiogue Avenue at the south. The important buildings of the village are located on Main Street and several side streets between Church Street on the east and the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River on the west. Within this area are part of the Crompton Mills complex, three churches, a school, a library, a former fire station, many commercial establishments, and a large number of houses. West of the river lies another part of the Crompton Mills complex, a large meeting hall, and

a suburban-like residential area of houses built mostly in the 20th century.

The area that became Crompton was once part of lot number 5 of the Cowesett Farms division of 1684, assigned to John Greene, Sr. Today's Church Street follows the boundary between lots 5 and 4, and Cowesett Road, Centerville Road (Legris Avenue), West Warwick Avenue, and the present Coventry town line mark the other bounds of lot 5. John Greene's Cowesett allotment was handed down through several generations of the family. About 1746, his descendant James Greene was given a large farm which included both sides of the river north from the Crompton Mills site. James and his son James lived in Centerville and the Greene family never became involved in any activities at Crompton.

The Crompton Mills site itself was owned by the Matteson family from an early date. In 1756, Henry Matteson gave it to his sons Nicholas and Isaac. In 1779, they sold the property, which then included 127 acres and a dwelling, to William Rice, who owned land on both sides of the river.

By the late 18th century, the population hereabouts was large enough to support a school. A schoolhouse was built in 1798 one mile east of the present village. After 1810, other schools were kept in rooms at various places in Crompton. These schoolhouses were small, and used for other purposes besides education; there was no building devoted exclusively to school purposes until 1845.

The village of Crompton dates from about 1807, when the first attempts at manufacturing were made. In that year, the Providence Manufacturing Company, directed by Seth Wheaton, Thomas Sessions, John K. Pitman, Henry Smith, Nathaniel Searles, Jonathan Tiffany, and Benjamin Remington, purchased 20 acres from William Rice, who may also have been one of the partners. The company built a small stone cotton mill along the east side of the river. The incipient village was known as Stone Factory. After the factory was finished, land for houses was needed and a second purchase of land was made in 1808 from William Rice and Thomas Matteson. Part of this was platted into house lots, some sold to those who wished to build, and some built upon by the company, but extensive development did not occur until about 1812.

In 1815, another stone factory was erected in the Crompton area. Started by Josiah Arnold, it was soon sold to Jonathan Tiffany, who had opened a store in

Crompton in 1812. Tiffany finished the mill and took John K. Pitman as a partner. This mill was used for spinning yarn. Two mill houses were erected nearby. The mill operated until 1844, and in 1848 was taken down and its stone used for construction of the addition to the Number 1 Mill of the Crompton Company. The mill houses burned in 1874.

A factory known as the Flat Top, which gave its name to the nearby pond, was erected by William Rice and James E. Remington in 1816, and used to spin cotton yarn. It had a number of owners, and suffered several destructive fires, the last one in 1883, after which it was never rebuilt.

Contemporary maps indicate that a mill continued operating here after 1850. Three structures and two outbuildings are shown at the site in 1895, but by then manufacturing activities had ceased. Today, there are no buildings here; only stone foundations in the overgrown area indicate the sites of 19th-century buildings and raceways.

In 1816, the original Crompton Company failed and the property was assigned to Philip Allen and Samuel Aborn. The New London Turnpike was completed by 1820, when the Providence Manufacturing Company was still a struggling enterprise. New owners rented the mills and tenements from 1820 until 1823, when the property was acquired by the newly-formed Crompton Company. The new firm started a bleachery, began calico printing, and renamed the village for Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule. In 1828 and 1832, the Crompton Company erected two new mills along the west side of the river. Construction of a print works and a bleach house in 1835 required more tenements, and a large block, originally the "Paddy Block," with 12 tenements, and later the "Castle Garden," with 6 tenements, were erected.

The first active religious group in the Crompton area was the Baptists, who attended morning Sabbath services at the "Tin Top" meetinghouse built in 1808 in Quidnick. Evening worship was also held at various places until about 1830, when a Crompton store was enlarged and renovated for morning Sabbath services, which began to be held regularly. In 1831, a house was built for John Allen, who willed it to the church for use as a parsonage. The next decade was the period of greatest religious activity in the history of the village. Between 1843 and 1845, four churches were erected in the village. In 1843, the First Baptist Church was erected by John Allen. The Six Principle Baptist Society, which

held its first meeting in a schoolhouse in 1841, was at first united with the Maple Root Church in Coventry. It was set off as a branch church in 1842, and in 1843 it was given a small corner lot at the corner of Cowesett Avenue and Church Street. The church was built in 1844. Also in 1844, land on Church Street was given for a Roman Catholic church, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the first Roman Catholic mission in the Pawtuxet Valley, was completed in 1845. In 1850, it became the parish of St. Mary's. St. Philip's Episcopal Church was formed in 1845; in the same year, the parish purchased a lot and erected a church between Main and Church Streets. In 1883, the building was replaced by another structure, which was demolished in the mid-20th century.

An 1862 map depicts Crompton as a substantial village, with many houses, a hotel, stores, a school, and four churches, in addition to the mills. It underwent substantial changes, however, beginning in the late 19th century. George M. Richmond of Providence, a successful calico printer, obtained the controlling interest in the Crompton Company in 1866 and immediately began a series of village improvements. Crompton was then described as "the most dingy and dilapidated village in the Valley" by building contractor Clark Walker. Walker and his brother, operating under the firm name L. & C. Walker, made alterations to old factory buildings, shops, and houses, including remodeling, demolition, and moving. Perhaps the most interesting of these projects is the "New Village," built for the Crompton Company on Hepburn Street in 1876. The Sanders Print Works, which had been leased to James Sanders since 1852, was torn down and the firm moved to Southbridge, Massachusetts. In 1867-68, a new schoolhouse was built to replace the 1845 schoolhouse which had been destroyed by fire. By 1876, when the Crompton Company built the Crompton Free Library, the village had 929 residents.

The village continued this growth in the last two decades of the century, particularly after the construction of a large mill for the manufacture of velveteens. Known as the Velvet Mill, it gave the nickname "Velvet Village" to Crompton. Among the workers attracted to the new mill were a large number of Swedes. By the turn of the century, there was a "Swedish Village" along School Street from St. Mary's Cemetery to Main Street. The Swedes living here attended the Swedish Separatist or Mission Church, a congregational society they established on Nestor Street in 1893. Other Swedes lived along East Greenwich Avenue. At this time, more than 22 per cent of the Crompton Mills work force was Swedish.

A 1901 account describes Crompton as "one of the very attractive manufacturing villages in the State," with its main street lined with half-century-old elms and its dwellings neat and tended. The Crompton Company owned 75 houses in 1907; the village's 1,500 inhabitants were a mixture of English, Irish, Swedes, Polish, Canadians, Ukrainians, and other nationalities. About 1919, the Company built more new houses for workers, five along the New London Turnpike and three off Main Street, near the "New Village" of 1876. This workers' housing included a 6-family group dwelling and two double houses, all wood frame with stuccoed walls and slate roofs. West of the river, a new housing tract was developed. Professionally landscaped with curving roadways, these suburban houses contrasted markedly with the old village.

Following the depressed economic times for the textile industry in the early 1920s, Swedes began leaving Crompton--for farmland in Coventry, for business opportunities in other parts of West Warwick, and for Providence and Pontiac.

Crompton continues its role as a manufacturing village, although the mill buildings now house a number of smaller firms engaged in a variety of manufacturing enterprises, including dyeing and finishing textiles. St. Philip's Episcopal Church is gone, as are several 19th-century schoolhouses. Other buildings have been converted to different uses, including the Six Principle Church, now a residence; the fire station, now a professional office; and the hotel, now a liquor store. A new school, the Maisie Quinn Elementary School, has been built. Many 19th-century dwellings and several institutions still exist, including the mills, the First Baptist Church, St. Mary's Church, and the Public Library. Today, Crompton contains a variety of structures that span almost two centuries and represent the village's historical and physical evolution.

CROMPTON MILLS COMPLEX, Pulaski and Manchester Streets

* CROMPTON MILLS COMPLEX (1807 et seq.): This complex consists of groups of industrial buildings on each side of the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River.

The buildings along the east side, south of Pulaski Street with Manchester Street to the east, include 3- and 4-story, flat-topped brick structures; a 2-story brick office building; a 2-story stone building that stands on the site of and incorporates the walls of the original mill (1807)

at this site; several large, sprawling, 1-story brick structures, the largest a dye and bleach house along the river; and a long, 1-story automobile storage building with six large wooden doors. The original steep-pitched gable and monitor roofs of the early mills were removed before 1900 and flat roofs substituted. On Pulaski Street is a later 1916 2-story, brick-sided building, once used to manufacture textile soaps; it is now a warehouse.

The mill complex west of the river, bordering on Pulaski Street, is dominated by a 5-story stone factory with a large, square, castellated central tower, built in 1882-85. Two earlier stone mills, a 4-story building erected in 1828 and a 2-story structure built in 1832, each with square towers, were capped with mansard roofs about 1860. A mid-20th-century cinderblock and aluminum sided office-industrial building is on Pulaski Street next to the west end of the 1828 mill.

Between the mills is a dam structure built in 1882 and rebuilt in 1908, comprising two dams, each 15 feet high and 125 feet long, joined in the center of the river by a 60-foot, granite-sheathed island. There are granite-block watercourses along each side of the river. Entrance to the eastern headrace is about 180 feet upstream from the dam. Water runs under the mill complex, parallel to the river, then rejoins the river 230 feet below the dam. The headrace on the western side runs about 1500 feet from the river to a gatehouse located near the southern end of the Number 4 Mill. The gatehouse controlled the flow of water under the mills. Above the dams is a large impoundment of shallow water.

Manufacturing began in Crompton in 1807 when a company of eight men, headed by Seth Wheaton, purchased 20 acres of land and the water privilege on the river, formed the Providence Manufacturing Company, and erected a 3-story, 33- by 117-foot stone mill along the east side of the river. The three floors of the factory were devoted to carding, spinning, and weaving. Known as the "Stone Jug," later Mill Number 1, it may have been the first stone mill erected in Rhode Island, and was the sixth cotton mill built in Rhode Island. In 1809, it operated 2,190 spindles. After several changes of partners, the company failed in 1816, and the mill was idle for several years. In 1823, Seth Wheaton, Edward Carrington, and Benjamin Cozzens bought the property, founded the Crompton Company (named after the celebrated English

merchant and inventor of the spinning mule, Samuel Crompton), and started a bleachery, perhaps in a new building erected for that purpose. Within a few years, the firm began calico printing. Later, several dye houses for the print works were erected.

In 1828, a 4-story, 35- by 96-foot stone mill, with a 21- by 60-foot ell, later known as Mill Number 2; was erected along the west bank of the river. Number 3 Mill, a 2-story, 42- by 109-foot stone structure, was built near the Number 2 Mill in 1832. McLean's Report of 1833 lists 9,396 spindles and 263 looms operating in the Crompton Mills, which employed 36 men, 72 women, and 69 children. About 1835, the company built a stone, cement-faced print works and a bleach house; the works operated until the Civil War.

Following a period of unusual prosperity during 1844 and 1845, poor economic times followed, and the property was sold in 1846 to Governor Charles Jackson and several other men. The print works was leased to Abbott and Sanders in 1852. In 1866, George M. Richmond of Providence, a successful calico printer, obtained the controlling interest in the property, which remained in his family into the 20th century. Beginning in 1868, Richmond hired builders L. & C. Walker to erect new structures and alter, demolish, or move many of the older shops, houses, and other buildings. The Sanders Print Works relocated to Southbridge, Massachusetts, and the great stone buildings on the east side of the river were torn down.

About 1882-85, a new stone factory was erected on the west side, on the site of the 1835 print works. Designed by Stone & Carpenter and known as Number 4 Mill, it stood 5 stories high and measured 70 by 260 feet. Until then, the product of the mills was printed cotton. With the completion of the Number 4 mill, a new enterprise began--the manufacture of velveteens and corduroys. Up to this time, all the velveteens and corduroys sold in this country were manufactured abroad. The Crompton Company Mills were the pioneers and for several years the only manufacturers of these goods in the United States. The Number 4 Mill was called the Crompton Company Velvet and Corduroy Mill, and the entire complex became known as the Velvet Mills. In 1888, the mills employed 600 and operated 40,000 spindles and 1,000 looms.

"Crompton Corduroy" and "Century Velveteen" won a gold medal for the company at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901. In that year, the mills, equipped with modern machinery and powered by six turbine water wheels and eight steam boilers, operated 40,000 spindles and 1,000 looms with 750 workers. In 1907, 775 workers, including 175 Swedes, ran 900 looms and 32,000 spindles.

The Crompton Company expanded its operations to several Southern states, beginning in 1925 when Crompton-Highland Mills opened a weaving mill in Griffin, Georgia. In 1927, the company started a plant in Virginia. By the late 1930s, the company's cotton spinning and weaving were largely carried on at Highland Mills. The main activity locally was the dyeing, bleaching, and finishing of napped and pile fabrics, including corduroys, velveteens, velvets, and duveteens. In 1948, the company purchased a mill in Arkansas, and also built a plant in that state in 1953.

Today, the principal tenants of the eastern complex are Warwick Dye, which dyes carpets, and Hope Valley Dye, which performs scouring and dyeing operations. Together, they employ about 100 workers.

BARNOLD STREET

- 11 POLISH FALCON CLUB, NEST 172 (early 20th century): A plain, 2-story building, with two plain, single-door entries, one at each end. The building is typical of the large halls built by several of West Warwick's different ethnic groups for social gatherings.

CHURCH STREET

- ** ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1844-45): A relatively simple 1-story, end-gable-roof, shingled building with a 3-story, hip-roofed, 12-foot-square, 45-foot-high central foretower containing lancet-arch, louvered windows and a central entry. Stained-glass windows are on the sides. The building is on a terrace behind a 4-foot-high random-course stone wall along the sidewalk. The 8-3/4-acre lot includes a heavily altered rectory to the right of the church; at the rear is a large parish cemetery (West Warwick Historical Cemetery Number 8.)

In 1844, a 1-acre lot on the hillside overlooking the valley and village below was given to the church by Paul Doran, an English block

printer employed at Crompton, and his wife Mary. A 35- by 50-foot building was begun in 1844, and completed and dedicated in 1845 to Our Lady of Mount Carmel; it was the first Roman Catholic church in the Pawtuxet Valley. In 1849, a cemetery was established behind the church. Crompton was a Providence mission church until 1850, when it was set off as St. Mary's parish. Following a short term of service by Rev. Daniel Kelley, Rev. James P. Gibson became pastor; he served until his death in 1892. Under Rev. Gibson an additional 7-3/4 acres were acquired, the land was enclosed with a stone wall, a school and a library were added, and additions were made to the church. In 1856, the chancel was extended to the east, and north and south transepts were added, giving the church the form of a Roman cross. The tower was added in 1859.

Because the congregation was largely Irish, the church was known as the Irish Church. Beginning in the 1860s, a large influx of French Canadians swelled the number of parishioners beyond the capacity of the church. As a consequence, Rev. Gibson helped to establish St. John the Baptist Church in Arctic. Father Gibson was also instrumental in founding other churches in the Pawtuxet Valley--St. James, St. Joseph's and Saints Peter and Paul--earning St. Mary's the additional title of "Mother Church of the Valley." Following Father Gibson's death in 1892, St. Mary's again became a mission church; it returned to parish status in 1942. A destructive fire in 1926 resulted in interior renovations, which were completed in 1927. Another renovation of the interior, under architect Zane Anderson, started in 1977 and was completed in 1981, at which time the church was rededicated.

St. Mary's Church, is the oldest extant Catholic church building in the state. A fine example of vernacular Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture of the early nineteenth century, its site high above Crompton village, with its old, tranquil parish cemetery at the rear, lends it additional visual impact and importance.

COWESETT AVENUE

CROMPTON SIX PRINCIPLE BAPTIST CHURCH (1844): A 1-1/2-story, asbestos-shingled building built on a small corner lot, near Cowesett Avenue, with a gable end facing the street. It has a single entry in the gable end, two separate entries in the broad

side, and a small brick chimney. Adjacent is the now overgrown West Warwick Historical Cemetery Number 7.

The Crompton Six Principle Baptist Society had its beginnings in 1841, when six people met in a local schoolhouse. Thirty others were soon converted to the faith. They united with the Maple Root Church in Coventry, then were set off as a branch church in 1842. In 1843, Sarah Remington gave a 1/4-acre lot to the Crompton Mills Six Principle Baptist Society. A church building was erected the following year, and the society was formally organized as an independent church in 1845. Services were held here until 1920; the building was later converted to residential use.

HEPBURN STREET

* NEW VILLAGE (1876-77): Hepburn Street, a semicircular loop running off Manchester Street, is lined on both sides with a dozen basically similar, 1-1/2-story, gable-roofed duplex houses. All have a projecting front-gabled central pavilion, two separate front entries, an entry on each side, and 6-over-6 windows. Siding varies from the original wood shingles to tar paper and aluminum. There are short, paired brick chimneys near the center of each building. Most lots are landscaped with shrubs and a few trees. Only a few house lots contain garages. The firm of L. & C. Walker erected these houses in 1876-77 when the old mill village was renovated and expanded.

24-26,
28-30 CROMPTON COMPANY HOUSES (1921): At 28-30 Hepburn Street is a 2-story, stuccoed house with an entry at each side of the front. The slate-covered gable roof contains a large, stuccoed center chimney. A companion house at 24-26 Hepburn Street, is now covered with vinyl; its windows have also been changed. Nearby at 19-21-23-25-27-29 Manchester Street is a large, stuccoed 6-unit dwelling. This symmetrical house has an archway through the center, large and small stuccoed chimneys, 6-over-6-paned windows, and a slate-covered gable roof. The entries near the center have side lights; the others have plain surrounds. In front is a grassy courtyard with trees and shrubs.

These wood frame houses, built for the Crompton Company by an architectural firm known as the Housing Company, were featured in an article in Architectural Forum of June, 1921. Modeled after

contemporary English dwellings, they were described as possessing "unusually good character, due to their simplicity and excellent proportion, the interesting relations and balance of masses in the group dwelling, and the texture of the expansive plaster walls."

Except for the unsympathetic alterations to 24-26 Hepburn Street, the complex retains most of its original design integrity, and is an important example of mill house architecture and community planning of the early 20th century.

- 1559 SARAH BROWN HOUSE (c. 1900): A 2-1/2-story, hip-and gable-roofed, Queen Anne dwelling with several small porches and a central brick chimney surrounded by a balustrade. The house occupies a small landscaped lot behind a low aluminum picket fence. A large, trimmed arbor vitae hedge has a semicircular opening cut through it to give access to the front entrance. The property is noteworthy for its landscaped grounds, the work of David Rose, a noted landscape gardener.
- *1565 CAREY DYER HOUSE/EPISCOPAL RECTORY (c. 1843): A 2-1/2-story Greek Revival dwelling set gable end to the street, with a full-width Ionic porch set within the mass of the house below the second story. There is an entry at the left side, with side lights and wide transom lights, and an ell at the rear. In front of the house is a wooden picket fence with granite posts, and a small, simply landscaped lawn. This well preserved and maintained residence, built by Carey Dyer, became the rectory for the nearby Episcopal Church (now gone), which was built in 1845.
- MAISIE E. QUINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (mid-20th century): A sprawling 1-story, flat-roofed public school with a gabled section near the center containing a gymnasium-auditorium. This school building, with its large window areas and expansive plan, is typical of many schools of the post-World War II era designed in a manner similar to contemporary industrial buildings. It is one of the last schools to be built in West Warwick
- 1612-14 JAMES CARR HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-1/2-story Greek Revival residence with a central entrance in a 5-bay facade and a 2-story, hip-roofed addition at the left front. The house, sited near the sidewalk on a very small lot, is a relatively intact example of its type.

1613 WEST WARWICK FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (1843 et seq.): A 1-story end-gable Greek Revival meetinghouse with 20th-century neo-Colonial alterations. It has a pedimented central entrance portico sheltering a pedimented doorway, a spire at the front of the roof containing a louvered belfry, and 12-over-12 windows at the sides. The building, on a small lot with a front lawn, is now covered with modern siding.

This church, organized in 1805, is an outgrowth of the Warwick and Coventry Baptist Church, which had its meetinghouse in Quidnick in 1808. During the great revival of religious interest in the 1820s, many members, including people from Crompton and Centerville, were added to the church rolls. From 1830 to 1840, during the tenure of the Rev. Arthur A. Ross, who was given a parsonage in Centerville in 1832, religious services were conducted in various halls, stores, and houses in Crompton. Brother John Allen offered to build a 40- by 50-foot meetinghouse of wood if the Society agreed to purchase a lot and build a vestry. In 1843 the meetinghouse was erected here. It was the first of four churches for various denominations erected in Crompton between 1843 and 1845. The church changed its name to the First Baptist Church of Crompton in 1879. The Rev. Oliver P. Fuller wrote the History of Warwick in 1875 while he was pastor of this church.

1639 BOOTH HOTEL/CROMPTON HOTEL (1855-60): A 2-1/2-story Bracketed structure at the corner of Pulaski Street. The building has been altered by the addition of asbestos shingle siding in the upper stories and by the use of a patterned gray brick on the renovated first-story exterior. Built as a hotel by Wright Booth, the building now houses a liquor store and an insurance agency on the ground floor.

1654 CROMPTON HOSE COMPANY (1893): A 2-story structure, set gable end to the street, with two separate entrances and a garage door in front, a bell tower with an open belfry and weathervane at the left front, and a 1-story addition at the rear. The building, sited on the sidewalk, has been severely altered from its original appearance by lowering of the tower, removal of two arched doors and a Palladian window in the front, and the installation of aluminum siding.

**1679. CROMPTON FREE LIBRARY (1876): Stone and Carpenter of Providence were probably the architects for this 1-story, clapboard and vertical-board, Modern Gothic structure. The building's steep roof mass is hipped on the south end, with a deep overhang, and jerkin-headed on the north end, with a large triple window filling the truncated gable. The entry, at the left front, has a gabled Gothic hood which rises above the eaves line. The building shares an approximately 2-acre lot with a park and playground.

The library building was erected in 1876 by Howard and F. E. Richmond, owners of the Crompton Mills, for their workers and other town residents. Its original form was a simple oblong, 22 by 35 feet, containing a large room and several smaller ones. In addition to serving as a library, the building has also been used for local civic activities: meetings, lectures, exhibitions, children's programs, Americanization and language classes for immigrants in the early 20th century, and for domestic service classes. The Crompton Company funded the library and its programs until 1945, when the building and land were given to the town. The rear ell was added in 1952.

1690-92 MILL WORKERS' HOUSE (early 19th century): A 1-1/2-story dwelling, now shingled, with a 5-bay facade, a central entry under a simple hood, and a pair of small, brick interior chimneys. Its heavy window frames indicate a construction date in the first quarter of the 19th century, at the time the first mills were built here.

1724 JOHN TIFFANY HOUSE/ESSEX HOUSE (1824): A 2-1/2-story Federal building with a large brick center chimney, a fine off-center entrance in the 4-bay facade, and a 1-story, flat-roofed ell at the rear. Modern siding has replaced the original clapboard. The house was built for John Tiffany, son of Jonathan Tiffany, a local merchant and mill owner. In 1860, the house went to James Cocroft, then to his daughter, Alice Essex, and has remained in the Essex family since.

MANCHESTER STREET

(See also Crompton Mills Complex)

19-21- CROMPTON COMPANY HOUSE (1921): See 24-26 and
23-25- 28-30 Hepburn Street.
27-29

79

MILL HOUSE (mid-19th century): A long, 1-1/2-story, multi-family Greek Revival residence, with a full basement at the right side, three small brick interior chimneys, three gabled dormers that break up through the cornice, and plain entrances in the front and at the sides. The house, on a very small lot near the mill complex, was built by the Crompton Company for use as a boarding house. It was renovated in 1984-85, the major change being the application of brick siding along the lower part of the long facade.

NESTOR STREET

SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH/COVENANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH/PAWTUXET VALLEY BIBLE CHAPEL (1893): A 1-story, clapboard meetinghouse, set close to the street on a very small corner lot, with its gable end turned toward the street. It has a 3-bay facade, a central double-door entrance topped by a transom, and a louvered belfry at the front of the roof ridge. The building was dedicated as a Swedish Lutheran Church on November 10, 1893.

PULASKI STREET

(See also Crompton Mills Complex)

CROMPTON COMPANY MILL HOUSES (early or mid-19th century): Along Pulaski Street west of Manchester Street stands a row of five houses executed in three different architectural styles. The two buildings at the easterly end are large, 2-1/2-story, multi-family structures with paired entrances in the center. The middle houses are gambrel-roofed, 1-1/2-story structures. At the west end is a plain, 1-1/2-story double house.

REMINGTON STREET

6-8,
10-12 MILL WORKERS' HOUSES (mid-19th century): A pair of long, 1-1/2-story, Greek Revival multi-family tenements, sited near the sidewalk on very small lots near the mills. The houses, which differ in architectural details, both have the small trap-door monitors often used on early mills and mill houses. These two neglected buildings erected by the Crompton Company are perhaps the earliest multi-family mill workers' houses in Crompton.

RICE STREET

- 5 HOUSE (early 19th century): A 2-1/2-story Federal house, with a large brick center chimney and a simple central entrance in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade. This heavily altered residence, in a newer, densely built-up area of mill workers' housing, is one of Crompton's early buildings.

LIPPITT

The village of Lippitt is centered on the Lippitt Mill at the junction of Main and Wakefield Streets. A loosely defined community, Lippitt includes the mill, a former store nearby, a fire station, and mill houses along Main Street. Northeast of the village center is a densely settled residential area, mostly developed in the 20th century. Always overshadowed by the neighboring village of Phenix, the first major village in the Valley, Lippitt never generated any private or public institutions as did the larger villages. As Fuller wrote, "the history of the village is nearly identical with that of the manufacturing company organized here in 1809."

The excellent water power at this site was utilized as early as 1737, when Joseph Edmonds established a saw and grist mill here. For many years the hamlet bore his name. In 1809, the newly formed Lippitt Manufacturing Company purchased the saw mill and grist mill as well as the right to draw water from the pond. The Lippitt Mill was built in 1810. Wakefield Street and that section of Main Street west of the mill were the earliest roads through the area; Main Street east of the mill was laid out later, when the Clyde Print Works was established. The earliest mill workers' housing lined both sides of this section of Main Street, with the majority of the dwellings on the north side. By 1870, there were about two dozen workers' houses here. The village then included two stores, two blacksmith shops, a wood shop, and a print shop, and its population was soon to reach 350. By 1895, Lippitt numbered 702 people, the smallest population of all eight West Warwick villages at that time.

During the 20th century, houses were built along Wakefield Street and side streets. By the late 1930s, however, most of the early mill houses had disappeared or undergone extensive remodeling; further new construction has blurred the distinction between Lippitt and its neighboring villages.

Lippitt's centerpiece remains its wooden textile mill of 1810, one of the earliest surviving factories in Rhode Island. A few of the early mill houses also remain. They are screened from view from the street by newer buildings and have lost much of their integrity. An early store across the street from the mill still survives, as does the later fire station. Lippitt is today a small but very significant relic of the earliest era of Rhode Island's industrial history.

LIPPITT MILLS COMPLEX, Main Street

* LIPPITT MILLS COMPLEX (1810 et seq.): The Lippitt
** Mills complex, sited between the intersection of Main and Wakefield Streets and the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River, comprises a number of connected structures of various dimensions, and several smaller, free-standing buildings. Sited near Main Street is the original building on the site, the Number One Mill. It is a 3-1/2-story, wood-shingled structure, 34 feet wide and 104 feet deep, with a clerestory monitor in its end-gable roof and a short, square tower at the front topped by an octagonal cupola. The original large doorways in the center of the facade on each story were filled in during a 1984 renovation. Water wheels to power the mill were located in the basement; the upper floors were used for weaving, spinning, and slashing. Behind the Number 1 Mill is a boiler house and engine house. A 2-story ell at the left rear of the main mill, formerly a repair shop and cloth room, connects to the Number 2 Mill. This is a 160- by 45-foot structure once used for speeding, drawing, and weaving; a small ell extending at a right angle from the east side was used for carding and weaving. Also on the mill lot are a mill office, on Main Street, and several storehouses at the rear of the property.

The present dam, constructed in 1889, is sited upriver from the mill complex. From the dam, water was diverted through two headraces under the two major mill buildings. The waterways rejoined in a tail race which returned water to the river several hundred feet below the dam.

Manufacturing at this site dates from at least 1737, when Joseph Edmonds had a saw and grist mill here. The property was later owned by Christopher Atwood, then by his son Nehemiah. In 1809, Nehemiah Atwood sold the grist mill and saw mill, land, and privilege to Christopher and Charles Lippitt, Benjamin Aborn, George Jackson, and Amasa and William Mason, who formed the Lippitt

Manufacturing Company and erected a spinning mill the following year. Originally designed to be two stories high, the mill was raised to three stories during construction. Extensive additions were later made at the southern end of the structure. Yarn was put out to be hand woven in local homes, and in 1812 the company contracted with the Vermont State Prison for weaving. The company purchased more land, called the New Privilege, in 1824, and in 1830 built a bleaching mill (Number 2 Mill), an 80- by 40-foot structure, later enlarged. Later additions to the complex include a boiler house (1865), a cloth room (1865), and an engine house (1871). The mills had a capacity of 10,000 spindles in 1875 and 10,640 spindles and 210 looms in 1888.

Over the years there were gradual changes in partners, with the Lippitts playing an important role in the company's leadership, but on July 19, 1889, the entire Lippitt Company holdings here were sold to the firm of B. B. & R. Knight. The Knights made a number of improvements. They constructed a new dam and installed new power equipment and modern machinery, including ring spinners to replace some mule spinning frames. A new wheel house was constructed in 1901. By that time the mill had 4,928 mule spindles and 231 looms, run by both steam and water power, and produced sheetings and twills. The picker house was rebuilt and a new elevator tower for Number 1 Mill was constructed in 1912. In 1925, B. B. & R. Knight sold the Lippitt mill property to Joseph Hayes, owner of the Riverpoint Lace Works, who used it to manufacture, dye, and bleach lace. The Hayes family has retained ownership to the present, although they stopped manufacturing lace here in the early 1970s.

The 1810 Lippitt Mill is one of Rhode Island's earliest textile mills, especially notable for its wooden construction. Perhaps the oldest American textile mill still used for manufacturing, it is entered in the National Register of Historic Places. The remainder of the complex is recommended for nomination to the Register.

CLYDE STREET

75

WILLIAM A. WRIGHT HOUSE (c. 1900): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled, shingle- and clapboard-sided residence with a wraparound porch under a sweeping, curved gable roof; two large, gabled dormers in front; and a 1-story bay at the left side. This fine and well preserved turn-of-the-century house

occupies a large, simply landscaped lot that includes a row of large maples across the front.

- 97 VICTOR LAWRENCE HOUSE (c. 1910): A 2-story, stuccoed variation of the "American Foursquare" style house. It has a hip roof with deep eaves, a pedimented portico at the right front, a 1-story bay at the left front, and a 1-story, flat-roofed ell at the right side. The large lot, which includes foundation plantings, is behind a low, cemented stone wall. There is a 3-bay, hip-roofed garage at the right rear of the lot.

MAIN STREET

WEST WARWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT, STATION NUMBER 2 (late 19th century): A 1-story, asphalt-shingle-sided, hip- and gable-roofed building with a bell tower at the front of the ridge and a large garage door entrance taking up most of the front. The building, identified as a voting place on several early maps, occupies a small corner lot opposite the Lippitt Mill.

- 836 STORE (mid-19th century): A 1-1/2-story, pedimented end-gable Greek Revival structure with a central entrance in a 3-bay facade, paneled corner pilasters, and entablature trim. A later shed-roof garage is added to the right rear. Located opposite the mill, this building was once a company store.

- 864-70,
872-78 MILL HOUSES (early 19th century): A pair of much altered 1-1/2-story, flank-gable houses with asymmetrical facades and large, off-center brick chimneys on the ridge. These early workers' houses for the Lippitt Mill were once part of a large group of mill houses near the mill. Most of the original houses that composed a cluster here are now gone. The survivors occupy a congested site between a gasoline station along Main Street and houses behind them.

MILL HOUSES (early to mid-19th century): A small group of three 1-1/2-story mill workers' houses, sited near the road on very small lots, east of Packard Street. All have been altered from their original appearance, either by modern siding, enclosure of the front porch, or removal of the large center chimney. Although altered, they are noteworthy as early mill houses in Lippitt, only a handful of which survive today.

VINE STREET

- 16 DIANA LUSSIER HOUSE (c. 1941): An interesting and rare vernacular example of early 20th-century International Style architecture. This 1-story residence, with a flat roof, board-and-batten siding in front and wood-shingled sides, a brick exterior chimney at the left side, and a piazza across the front, occupies a well-landscaped hilly lot behind a stone wall. A 1-bay garage is built into the hill under the right side of the house.

NATICK

One of the principal villages of the Pawtuxet Valley, Natick straddles the river, which here separates the town of West Warwick from the city of Warwick. The West Warwick portion of Natick lies north and west of the river, along Providence Street and several side streets. The old village, as depicted on 19th-century maps, extends from about Wakefield Street on the north to the Providence Street Bridge on the south, and includes the site of the Natick Mills, three churches, two schoolhouses, several commercial properties, and many houses, most built by several mill owners for Natick Mills workers in the 19th century.

Natick is a Native American word meaning "a place of hills." In 1673, the Warwick purchasers platted a 2,100-acre tract north of the Pawtuxet River, in today's West Warwick, as the Natick Lands. The Wecochoconet Farms, south of the river in present-day Warwick, were also platted in 1673. The first recorded development in Natick was William Holden's grist mill, which stood on the south side of the river just upstream from the present bridge on Providence Street. William Holden's property was originally part of the 400-acre Wecochoconet Farms lot #5, granted to Randall Holden.

In 1807, the Natick Manufacturing Company was established. It purchased 5 acres from Jonathan Ellis and a 13-acre farm from George Baker, both north of the river, acquired other land, and built a factory. Under several different owners, several factories were built near the river, most during the 1820s and 1830s; the village population and the number of houses, businesses, and institutions grew accordingly. William Sprague, who purchased a factory here in 1821, was a community leader. In 1839, he enlarged an earlier schoolhouse to double its original size (it was replaced in 1850) and built a meetinghouse, which later became the Baptist

Church. By 1846, "Natick Factory" was a substantial village, with a row of buildings along Providence Street and either Greenhill or River Street.

The village continued to grow as the mills prospered and expanded. In 1858, Rousmaniere estimated the population to be about 1,400; there were 730 workers, 160 tenements, and 25 other places that were rented. In 1862, the village had several stores, a carriage shop, a blacksmith shop, a school, a church, a hotel, and a reading room, and among its residents were a physician and surgeon, a jeweler and watchsmith, and a house builder. By 1865, 800 workers were employed in the mills. The Sprague Company donated a site for St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, built in 1871-72 to serve Irish and recently arrived French Canadian residents. According to the Rhode Island census of 1875, Natick was the largest of West Warwick's villages, with a population of 1,202. In 1882-83, B. B. & R. Knight acquired the Natick Mills, which were combined into one large building. In 1888, the company also built many new tenements for its workers. By 1895, the census counted 3,142 people in the village, which maintained its position as the largest community in West Warwick.

The mills continued running until the 1920s, when competition from Southern mills and generally depressed economic conditions resulted in labor unrest and strikes, and eventually the mills were closed. In 1941, the entire mill was destroyed by fire. During the early 20th century, many Italians moved to Natick. The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church was built for them in 1929. According to the 1937 Guide to Rhode Island, two-thirds of the village inhabitants were of Italian extraction.

Today, the only material evidence of the once large and impressive Natick Mills are foundations and raceways in an overgrown area along the Pawtuxet River, but a number of other significant and interesting buildings survive, including the Baptist Church and the two Roman Catholic churches, two schoolhouses, a large number of mill workers' residences, and some architecturally distinctive houses along Providence Street.

NATICK MILLS SITE, Greenhill Street

NATICK MILLS SITE: Along Greenhill Street, off Providence Street bordering the Pawtuxet River, is a large, vacant, overgrown lot containing the stone ruins of the Natick Mill complex.

In 1807, Perez Peck, Peter Cushman, John and Joseph White, and Joseph Hines, together with several other men, formed the Natick Manufacturing Company. They purchased two tracts of land totaling 18 acres and built a mill, called the Natick Red Mill for its color. In 1836, it was moved and converted into a tenement known as the "factory house." The mill produced cotton yarn with two trostle frames of 84 spindles each and two mules of 200 spindles each, all powered by water. The works also included a dye house.

A reorganization of the company in 1815 resulted in the formation of three separate companies: the Rhodes Natick Company, the Natick Turnpike Factory Company, and Ellis, Lothrop, and Company. In 1821, William Sprague purchased two of the mills here. The 1820s and early 1830s witnessed a boom in mill construction. William Sprague built a stone mill (later known as Number 3) in 1822, with 70 looms and 2,448 spindles. In 1826, he erected another stone mill (Number 2), 120 by 44 feet and four stories high, with 96 looms and 3,696 spindles. The same year, Christopher and William Rhodes built a 100- by 44-foot stone mill. Number 4 Mill, a brick building measuring 120 by 48 feet, with 116 looms and 5,280 spindles, was added in 1829-30. In 1835, another brick mill (Number 1), 166 by 48 feet, with 220 looms and 7,040 spindles, was erected on the site of the old Rhodes mill, and an addition was made to Number 2 Mill.

Following this flurry of activity, there is no record of any more mill construction until after 1852, when Christopher and William Rhodes sold out to the Spragues. In 1856, an addition was made to Number 4 Mill, which connected this mill with Number 3. The north end of Number 2 Mill was completed in 1858. In that year, the mills had an operating capacity of 995 looms and 40,848 spindles, and employed 730 workers. In 1859, an addition was made to the south end of Number 1 Mill. By 1875, the four cotton mills, employing 716 workers, had a capacity of 1,032 looms and 44,606 spindles.

In 1882-83, B. B. & R. Knight purchased the four mills from the Sprague estate and connected them into one large, 6-story structure 1,350 feet long, which in 1888 contained 2,311 looms and 85,000 spindles. Improvements to the mill complex included a new dam, widening of waterways, and construction of new boiler and engine rooms and large storehouses. By 1902, B. B. & R. Knight's steam- and water-powered mills, with 2,912 looms,

59,000 ring spindles, and 40,992 mule spindles, were producing fine sheetings and twills.

In the 1920s, cotton manufacturing was in decline in Rhode Island, due in large part to competition from Southern mills. B. B. & R. Knight was forced into bankruptcy. On December 6, 1935, Nicholas Zenga, a market gardener from East Greenwich, acquired the property at auction, but the mills remained idle. They were vandalized, and, finally, on the eve of the Fourth of July, 1941, were set afire and totally destroyed, thus ending an era in the history of Natick.

NATICK BRIDGES

NATICK BRIDGES: Spanning the Pawtuxet River in Natick are two early 20th-century reinforced concrete arched bridges. The bridge on East Avenue, connecting West Warwick with Warwick, is a double-arch type that once was lined with Ionic-column lamp posts. The Providence Street span is a single-arch bridge. These bridges are part of a series of highway improvements made by the State Board of Public Roads in the early 1900s.

NATICK DAM

NATICK DAM (1886): The Natick Dam, across the Pawtuxet River just below the Providence Street Bridge, is a 166-foot long, 20-foot high, granite-block structure, anchored in bedrock. The dam creates a large impoundment which once provided water to power the Natick Mills. There originally was a 50-foot wide, open granite-lined headrace running 800 feet to the mill, where the water flowed through a turbine chamber, then out a 500-foot long, 30-foot wide, granite-block tailrace to rejoin the river. This site is one of several that Halliwell Associates, Inc., intends to reactivate to generate hydroelectric power again.

GREENHILL STREET

(See also Natick Mills Site)

HOUSE (mid-19th century): An unusual 4-story, stuccoed, multi-family residence with a low-pitched gable roof. The building is sited on a small lot near the street.

PROSPECT HILL AVENUE

WATER TOWER (1899): A cylindrical, stuccoed stone, 30-foot-high water tower foundation set on top of a hill. It has 3-foot-thick walls with window openings at the top, and originally supported a large cast-iron water tank with a capacity of 100,000 gallons. A coal- and wood-fired boiler in the base heated the water to keep it from freezing in the winter. The tower was built by B. B. & R. Knight in 1899 to supply the sprinklers in the mill below and hydrants in the mill yard. Unused and neglected for some time, and now partially covered with vines, this highly visible hilltop landmark is a visually interesting picturesque ruin.

PROVIDENCE STREET

*696 SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-1/2-story house with a 5-bay facade, a central flat-roofed entrance portico, two small brick interior chimneys, a 1-story bay window on the left side, and a 1-story, flat-roofed porch on the right side. This well preserved house occupies a sparsely landscaped corner lot behind a low picket fence. It was the residence of the mill superintendent in 1870, and of William M. Spink in 1889.

*703 O. S. BAKER'S BUILDING/PARENT'S MARKET (mid-19th century): A large, 2-1/2- and 3-1/2-story, flank-gable Queen Anne building with a large truncated gable in front containing a bay window, a porch at the second story, and a pair of towers at the front corners. The building, set into a hill, has a general store at street level and apartments on the upper floors. The store, run by O. S. Baker from at least 1870 to the early 20th century, was one of three large stores in Natick; the other two are now gone. Relatively well preserved, Baker's Store survives today as perhaps West Warwick's finest mid-19th-century commercial block. It has been owned by the Parent family for most of the 20th century.

NATICK BAPTIST CHURCH (1839, 1891): A tall, 1-story meetinghouse, set on a hillside high above Providence Street with its gable end facing the road. It has clapboard sides with wooden quoins, a central double-door entrance in the gable end under a 20th-century columned portico, a stained-glass Palladian window and semi-elliptical window above

the entrance, and three stained-glass windows surmounted by blind semicircular fans on each side. The building, on a hillside lot with a view of the village below and the Pawtuxet Valley to the northeast, has undergone several changes since it was erected in 1839. Major interior renovations were made in 1890-91. After 1912, the major exterior change has been removal of a fine, tall, octagonal belfry and replacement of the original semicircular portico.

Natick Baptist Church was organized in 1839 and Governor William Sprague, owner of the mills, erected this building for the society the same year. The building, dedicated in 1842, served a congregation of 175 by 1854. In 1871, the society became known as the Natick Baptist Church.

726 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PARSONAGE (1891): A 2-1/2-story, Late Victorian Shingle Style dwelling with gable and gambrel roofs, two brick chimneys, a large gabled dormer and a hip-roofed dormer in front, and an entrance sheltered by a large, flat-roofed front portico. The building, which occupies a small, grassy lot adjacent to and facing the Baptist Church, was built as a parsonage in 1891 when the church was undergoing interior renovations. Now a rented residence, it is a very fine local example of Shingle Style domestic architecture.

MILL HOUSES (early to mid-19th century): Along Providence and River Streets are a number of houses or tenements for Natick Mill workers and their families. Most are relatively large and substantial 2-1/2-story, gabled, multi-family structures, with brick center chimneys and central entrances in their 5-bay facades.

797 SPINK HOUSE (early 19th century with later alterations?): This 2-1/2-story, flank-gable dwelling with a pair of small interior end-wall chimneys has a facade with five bays on the first floor and three bays on the second; the bays above contain double windows. Though this house is mid-19th century in character, it has an unusual and elaborate Federal style central entranceway, with sidelights articulated by engaged colonettes and a very deep shelf hood supported by brackets.

800 ELDRIDGE HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 1-1/2-story, end-gable Greek Revival residence with a side-hall

entrance on the left of the facade, sheltered by a pedimented portico with fluted Doric columns.

- 805 MARY DOUGLAS HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-1/2-story Greek Revival residence with a central entrance in a 5-bay facade. It has a 3-bay open porch at the front, a 1-story bay window at the left front, a portico at the right rear entrance, and a small brick center chimney.
- 807 HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-story, cross-gabled, Late Victorian Queen Anne house, with patterned and plain wood-shingle walls; an open entrance porch in the base of a central pavilion flanked by 1-story bay windows; jigsaw work in the front gable peak; and two small interior end chimneys of brick. The very small front yard is enclosed behind a 3-foot-high iron fence.
- *820 PROVIDENCE STREET SCHOOL (1914): A 2-1/2-story, clapboard Colonial Revival building with modillion cornices, a complex roof including two hipped sections and two large gabled dormers in front, elaborate pilasters on the facade that create the effect of double pavilions, and an open belfry at the center of the roof. This handsome and well preserved schoolhouse, set on a densely planted lot, is one of the finest of its kind extant in Rhode Island.
- *840 SACRED HEART CHURCH (1928-29): A 1-story, end-gable, stuccoed church with a square, central projecting bell tower capped with a gabled roof; a central, double-door entrance under a gabled hood at the base of the tower; entrances at each side of the front, each with a shed-roof hood; a row of five small, gabled dormers along each side; and four square windows along each side. The building occupies a large, well landscaped lot. In front of the building are two flights of steps leading from the sidewalk to the main entrance, with a wide and spacious platform between. There are other stuccoed buildings set back from the street at each side of the church.
- Sacred Heart Church was founded by the Reverend Achille Tirocchi, who came to nearby St. Joseph's in 1912, after completing his studies in Rome, to minister to the Italian people in the parish. Father Tirocchi established Sacred Heart Church for the Italian families of the Pawtuxet Valley, and became the first pastor. The church building was dedicated on September 1, 1929. The

adjacent convent was built in 1951 and refurbished for use as a rectory in 1984. A school, opened in 1958, was closed ten years later. The church, a simple, monochromatic structure with sharp, clean lines, is recommended for the National Register as an architecturally distinguished example of its building type and style.

*854

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1873-87): A 1-story, end-gable-roof church, sited on a hill above the intersection of Providence and Wakefield Streets, with a tall central foretower composed of a square base topped with a balustrade and corner urns, a louvered belfry, and an octagonal spire. The tower also contains a circular window above a Palladian window. There are three separate entrances in front. The building was altered from its original appearance sometime after 1908 by the addition of the central tower with a new belfry, and enclosure of the 1-story, shed-roofed front section, which originally was an open porch. An adjacent rectory was demolished in October, 1984.

Construction of St. Joseph's Church began in 1870 on a lot donated three years before by A. & W. Sprague. The first service was held in the completed basement on Christmas 1872. The parish was formally constituted in 1875, and work on the church continued until at least 1887. St. Joseph's served two separate and distinct congregations--English- and French-speaking--when it was erected in 1873. Today, it is the most cosmopolitan in the Pawtuxet Valley, numbering among its more than 800 families individuals of Irish, Canadian, Italian, Belgian, Polish, Scottish, and Syrian ancestry.

WAKEFIELD STREET

825,845 MONSIGNOR DEANGELIS MANOR I AND II (1981, 1983): Two 8-story, masonry public-housing buildings, sited near each other close to Wakefield Street. These two high-rise apartment buildings, typical of post-World War II government-subsidized housing projects, have minor architectural differences to give each its own identity.

WATER STREET

MILL WORKERS' HOUSES (mid-19th century): Along Water Street is a row of five 1-1/2-story former mill workers' houses built by the company. The best preserved is number 16-17; it still has its original siding, two front entries, and shed

dormer. Most of the other houses have been altered by residing, addition or substitution of new windows, and/or changes to the roof. Along Penta Street (originally Rhodes Street), parallel to Water Street, is another row of houses erected at the same time, but these have suffered unsympathetic exterior changes.

PHENIX

The village of Phenix, on the town border in the northwestern corner of West Warwick, is contiguous to Harris village in Coventry on the west and Lippitt village to the east. Phenix lies on both sides of the North Branch of the Pawtuxet River. The larger area, north of the river along Main Street and several side streets, is the oldest part. It contains the large mill complex, the commercial district, two churches, a fire station, and a large number of residential buildings, many built for and occupied by mill workers in the 19th century. The area south of the river contains a church and a row of houses extending along Fairview Avenue to the Coventry town line. As a group, these houses are the most interesting and architecturally significant in town. They include an 18th-century farmhouse, a fine Greek Revival House and a Late Victorian Italianate residence--both the best examples of their type in West Warwick, other Victorian houses, and several typical early 20th-century residences.

The lands north of the river were originally part of the 1673 Natick Farms division allotted to five proprietors, while the lands south of the river, once part of the Greene family holdings, were acquired by Peter Levalley in the 18th century. The first highway in the area, laid out in 1737, went over Natick Hill, then along the river through Lippitt and Phenix and along today's Fairview Avenue to Anthony. In 1813, the road later became part of the Coventry-Cranston Turnpike. By the mid-18th century, the western part of the Natick lands, including today's Phenix, was known as Wales after one of the principal landowners, Samuel Wales. In 1747 and 1751, Charles Atwood purchased 156 acres which included the sites of the Lippitt and Phenix mills, and for the next 60 years or so, the place was owned by Charles Atwood, and, after his death in 1783, by his sons. Nehemiah Atwood, who owned the Phenix portion of the family lands, had a saw and grist mill just below the present village.

In 1809, Nehemiah Atwood sold eight acres on the north side of the river to the Roger Williams Manufacturing Company, which in 1810-11 erected the Roger Williams Mill. Several tenements were built in the vicinity of the mill, forming the nucleus for the hamlet then known as Roger Williams Village. A fire in 1821 destroyed the mill and several tenements, but soon after, new buildings--a stone mill, many dwelling houses, and stores--were erected, and the place was renamed Phenix after the mythical bird that arose from the ashes. The name was appropriate for a village which suffered five more destructive fires to its business district before century's end. The mill, however, escaped further damage; it was enlarged several times, changed owners on a few occasions, and has continued operating to the present. About 1825, the number of private houses rapidly increased when George Atwood's estate was divided and sold to private parties.

The growth of Phenix led to the establishment of other services and institutions. In 1827, a charter was granted to "The Lippitt and Phenix Sabbath School Society," which immediately erected a building used for educational and religious purposes. From that time there has always been a permanent place for schools and religious worship in the village. Within a short time, several religious societies were organized and meetinghouses were erected, but some of the societies, and their buildings, were short lived. The first meetinghouse in the village, and the first on the north branch of the Pawtuxet, was the Tatem Meeting House, erected in 1829. This society eventually disbanded; their building was sold to Methodists and later was converted into tenements. In 1838, the second meetinghouse was erected by Baptists who were a branch of the Maple Root Church in Coventry. They had worshipped in private houses, then in the 1827 schoolhouse, until their own meetinghouse was erected. In 1851, they sold their building, which was also converted into tenements, and later built a new house of worship at Birch Hill. In 1842, yet another group was organized under the Reverend Jonathan Brayton as "The Lippitt and Phenix Baptist Church of Warwick, Rhode Island." They erected a house on a lot given by the Lonsdale Manufacturing Company. In 1850, the society became the Phenix Baptist Church, and in 1859, they erected a new church building on a new site donated by William B. Spencer. They sold their 1842 meetinghouse to a Roman Catholic congregation. By 1850, Phenix was a growing and well established village, and by this time the more prosperous inhabitants, mostly merchants, began building fine homes south of the river. William B.

Spencer, the most prominent citizen in late 19th-century Phenix, erected the finest building in the village in 1849, a commercial structure called Spencer's Block, two years after he erected the finest Greek Revival residence in town on Fairview Avenue.

During the second half of the 19th century, the village grew considerably and more buildings, institutions, and services were added, despite four destructive fires. A Roman Catholic mission established in the village in 1853 became a parish in 1857. Soon after, the Baptist Church on Highland Avenue was purchased by the Catholic society and dedicated as Saints Peter and Paul Church in 1859. A Methodist Church was erected on Main Street in 1857-58. A fire in 1855 destroyed Spencer's Block, a hardware store and tin shop, and a dwelling house, but new buildings soon replaced them. The Phenix Village Bank was incorporated in 1856, and in 1858, the Phenix Savings Bank was chartered. A fire in 1871 destroyed the new commercial blocks and eleven other buildings, including a bank building and two hotels; another fire two years later did more extensive damage but, again, most buildings were rebuilt. In 1874, the Pawtuxet Valley Railroad, connecting Riverpoint with Hope, was laid out along the south side of the river, with a station at the foot of Fairview Avenue. According to the Rhode Island census, Phenix had a population of 615 in 1875. It was not the largest village in the valley, but it was the most important center of commerce. In 1876, the Pawtuxet Valley Gleaner began publishing in the village.

In 1882, the several mill buildings were connected into a single structure, and tenements houses were erected. The last destructive fire in the village occurred in the summer of 1885, burning a large part of the business area, which again was eventually rebuilt. The prosperity of the place was attested to by Welcome Arnold Greene in his 1886 history of Rhode Island. Phenix, with a large number of spacious and substantial business blocks and churches, was the business center of a territory embracing a number of manufacturing villages with a population of from 15,000-20,000 inhabitants. In 1888, according to N. Arnold, Phenix was the most flourishing village on the North Branch. In 1895, its population was 1,114 according to the Rhode Island census, but in numbers of people it exceeded only neighboring Lippitt and Clyde. By then, one of the most prosperous merchant families in Phenix, the Sinnotts, had moved to Arctic, which was a booming center and, before century's end, the most important village.

The role of Phenix as a local center has continued to this day, and the village has continued its historical evolution as new buildings, services, and institutions were added or lost. A new Roman Catholic church, Our Lady of Good Counsel, was built on Pleasant Street in 1903, and residences began filling vacant spaces beyond the village center. Fairview Avenue continued to be the finest residential neighborhood as new buildings were erected. The mills have continued working, and a number of businesses remain active today, several still occupying 19th-century structures, while new commercial properties have been erected. Two of the largest and most handsome meetinghouses in the village are gone. The Methodist Church was destroyed, its site now occupied by a convenience store and restaurant, and the old Phenix Baptist Church, an important village landmark for more than a century, was replaced by a modern, one-story structure. Overall, however, much of the fabric of the old village remains, and despite the loss of some fine 19th-century buildings and the erection of some nondescript 20th-century structures, Phenix today is West Warwick's best preserved and most historically and architecturally significant village.

Fairview Avenue, including a house at the corner of Ames Street, is a special district recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The Phenix Mill and the Phenix Fire Station are individually recommended for the National Register.

PHENIX MILL, 771 Main Street

* PHENIX MILL (1822 et seq.): The Phenix Mill complex, sited between Main Street and the Pawtuxet River, consists of a 328- by 43-foot, 4-story, stuccoed stone building with a square tower and a Greek Revival belfry, several attached and freestanding buildings, and a wooden gate house astride a raceway leading from a dam to the main building. Across the street is a later weave shed (1902), a 2-story, 122- by 192-foot, flat-roofed brick structure whose windows are covered, connected to the old mill by a steel bridge over the street.

The first mill company in Phenix, whose partners included Daniel Baker, William Baker, Samuel Baker, and William Harrison of Warwick, Reuben Whitman of Coventry, and Elisha Williams and John S. Williams of Cranston, acquired a tract of land at the site of the present mills from Nehemiah Atwood in 1809. A dam was constructed across the river, and, in 1810-11, a wooden structure called

the Roger Williams Mill was erected to manufacture cotton yarn. This mill burned in 1821. A new company, called the Phenix Manufacturing Company, was formed. In 1823, they erected a new stone mill at the site of the old one; in 1825, a second stone mill was erected and a raceway excavated. In 1830, after the company failed, Crawford Allen became the owner. Seven years later he was joined by his brother Zachariah, a well-known manufacturer and mill engineer, and by David Whitman. Whitman was an important technological innovator in the textile industry, and planned or altered some of the great factories in Lawrence, Lowell, Fall River, and Maine. The Allens and Whitman manufactured what was said to be the first two-and-one-quarter- to three-yard-wide sheeting made in the country. In 1839, the Lonsdale Company, an outgrowth of the Providence mercantile firm Brown and Ives, acquired one-half of the real estate, and in the following years the mill operated under a variety of leasing arrangements. An addition to the east end of the 1823 mill was made in 1860. In 1861, the Lonsdale Company partners formed the Hope Company. It included John Carter Brown, Robert H. Ives, and others. By 1867, this company, which also owned the mill property at nearby Hope Village in Scituate, had acquired all the mill property at Phenix. In 1882, the company built a stone connector between the mills, creating a single building measuring 328 by 43 feet, with a capacity of 21,536 spindles and 430 looms. In 1902, the Hope Company plant was remodelled. A new weave shed was erected and equipped with 800 Draper automatic looms powered by electric motors. Additions were made to the old factory--an extension for new lapper and picker rooms and a new boiler and engine house at the rear. The old mill housed carding, spinning, and weaving operations. Textile manufacturing continued into mid-century, when the factory was purchased by a pharmaceutical company, Scott Laboratories. Today, the manufacture of medium cultures and research is carried on by about 400 employees. A machine shop on the property manufactures production equipment for the industry.

AMES STREET

- *2 WILLIAM B. SPENCER HOUSE I (1847): An imposing and sophisticated 2-story Greek Revival residence, with a full height tetrastyle Corinthian portico and flanking 1-story, narrow, hip-roofed wings. The

impact of this handsome building, one of the finest Greek Revival buildings in the state, is enhanced by its elevated site overlooking the Pawtuxet River and the village of Phenix. It was built by William B. Spencer, the most prominent resident of Phenix, in 1847. He erected the first block of stores in the business district in 1849 and was an undertaker, president of the Phenix Bank, the village postmaster, and owner of a store in Lippitt. Spencer was also instrumental in the erection of a new Phenix Baptist Church and was a local historian; his major effort is a lengthy account of the Pawtuxet Valley. In 1886, Spencer sold this house to Nathan A. Capron, proprietor of the Phenix Bakery, and moved to a more up-to-date residence on the adjacent lot (11 Fairview Avenue). In the early to mid-20th century, this building was the residence of Raoul and Alice Archambault, both lawyers who practiced in Arctic.

- 16 GEORGE HILL HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-story, flat-roofed, transitional Greek Revival-Italianate house with carpenter-work brackets; a 5-bay facade containing a central entry with side and transom lights; a hip-roofed, 1-story front porch with a gabled central section and brackets; and a 1-story, flat-roofed addition at the rear. The town line passes through the left front corner of the house, most of which is in Coventry.

FAIRVIEW AVENUE

- 2 PHENIX BAPTIST CHURCH (1978): A plain, vertical-board-sided, hip-roofed, 1-story structure. Sited near the Pawtuxet River, this building replaced an elaborate Italianate style meetinghouse built in 1859 following plans drawn by Connecticut architect Augustus Truesdell. The church society dates from 1841, when it was organized as the Lippitt and Phenix Baptist Church of Warwick. In 1850, it changed its name to the Phenix Baptist Church. The first church building was on a lot on Highland Street given by the manufacturing company. The present lot was given by William B. Spencer and a new meetinghouse was built about 1860. The congregation demolished the old building and erected the present church, designed by Cranston architect Alden Robbins, in 1978.
- *11 WILLIAM B. SPENCER HOUSE II (1869-70): A 2-1/2-story, Italianate style, L-plan residence, with elaborate detailing that includes quoins, a

polygonal cupola, double brackets at the cornice; carpenterwork porches, and richly articulated windows at the left side of the front. The house, one of the finest in West Warwick, is sited on a terraced lot behind a massive granite-block wall, high above street level. William Spencer moved here from his fine Greek Revival house on the adjacent lot (2 Ames Street). It was later the residence of Robert Reoch, who was born in Scotland in 1840. He became an experienced printer, and, in 1867, was offered the job of managing the bleachery and print works here, which he did successfully for many years. Robert Reoch was later president of the Phenix Mill. The house was occupied by his family after his death.

- *15 BAPTIST PARSONAGE (c. 1860): A 2-story, hip-roofed, bracketed structure, with a 5-bay facade containing a recessed central entry with sidelights. The building, sited on a terraced lot above the road, was the parsonage for the nearby Baptist Church until about 1982.
- *19 HENRY D. BROWN HOUSE (c. 1840): A large and handsome 2-1/2-story, L-plan Greek Revival house, set gable end to the street, with a recessed entry at the right side of the 3-bay facade, three brick chimneys, and a 1-story bay window at the left side. The house occupies a large corner lot.
- *22 JOHN C. CONLEY HOUSE (late 19th century): A fine 2-story bracketed house, with a bracketed porch across the 3-bay front, a small porch at the left front corner, and an open porch at the rear which affords a sweeping view of the Pawtuxet River valley to the east. The house, which occupies a large lot behind a low iron fence, was the residence of the John Conley family until at least 1940.
- *26 MRS. S. S. SMITH HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-1/2-story, mansard-roofed house with small dormers, a small entry porch at the left side of the front, and bracketed windows. There is a 2-story, flat-roofed wing at the rear of the house. It was in the Smith family from the late 19th century until at least 1940. Ward E. Smith was treasurer, then president, of the Industrial Trust Company in Providence.
- *30 HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-1/2-story, bracketed house with a 5-bay facade containing a central

entrance with side lights, a hip-roof front porch with square posts, and a shed-roof addition with an open porch at the rear.

- *31 HOUSE (early 20th century): A 1-1/2-story Dutch Colonial style residence with a gambrel roof, shed dormers, and an ample wraparound porch. It is a good example of a house form popular in the United States in the 1920s and 1930s.
- *33 CLARK DAWLEY HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-1/2-story, gable- and hip-roofed house with shingle and clapboard sides, a wraparound porch, and an ell at the rear. It is a fine example of a simple Queen Anne house built toward the turn of the century.
- *35 ABNER F. HILL HOUSE (late 19th century): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled house with a wraparound bracketed front porch and a recent large brick addition at the rear.
- *36 HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-1/2-story, foursquare, hip-roofed house, with tall brick chimneys and an open, hip-roofed porch across the front. A fine and well preserved example of a popular early 20th-century building type, this house occupies a neatly landscaped lot.
- *37 HOUSE (early 20th century): A picturesque stone and shingle dwelling with a high peaked roof, crenellated tower, and arched portico. Influenced by Norman French farmhouses, such houses enjoyed considerable popularity from the 1920s through the 1930s; this is, however, an unusual type in West Warwick.
- *38 HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-1/2-story, gambrel-roofed, Colonial Revival house with a central pavilion and a central entrance portico with a balustraded roof.
- *39 JOHN H. CAMPBELL HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-1/2-story, L-plan house with a 3-bay facade and several alterations and additions. It is noteworthy as the residence of John Campbell, who started and ran the Pawtuxet Valley Gleaner, a weekly newspaper first published in Phenix on March 25, 1876.
- *40 HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-1/2-story, foursquare house with a high hip roof, hip-roofed dormers, and a wraparound porch.

- *42 CARR-LEVALLEY HOUSE (c. 1722): A 1-1/2-story Colonial farmhouse with an asymmetrical gambrel roof, a small brick chimney, and a long, 1-story later ell at the left side, with a tall brick chimney. There is a clapboard-sided barn behind the house, which is set back from the road. The property was once owned by Caleb Carr, a Colonial governor, who died in 1695. Sarah Carr, granddaughter of Caleb, acquired the property. She married the Reverend George Pigot, rector of King's Church (later St. John's Episcopal Church) in Providence from 1723-27, and they lived here. In 1727, Reverend Pigot traded this property with Peter Levalley, a resident of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Levalley, reportedly a Huguenot descendant and former sea captain, resided here until his death in 1820, working part of his extensive farm, which he added to through inheritance and purchase.

HIGHLAND AVENUE

- 4-12 ARNOLD BUILDING (1898): A 2-story brick commercial block containing four shops on the first floor and apartments above. This building, one of two handsome brick blocks in Phenix, replaced an earlier commercial block destroyed by fire.
- 18 PHENIX HOTEL (1871): A 3-1/2-story, cross-gabled structure at the corner of Pleasant Street, another of Phenix's many buildings that were replaced. In 1847, Harrison and Emmanuel Collins purchased a 60-by 100-foot corner lot here from William B. Spencer and erected a large house, which was also used as a store and hotel. Emmanuel sold his interest to Harrison, who lived here until his death in 1864. The structure was acquired by Rhodes Andrew, who rebuilt it after it was destroyed in the great fire of May 24, 1871. Andrew owned the hotel until at least 1895. Later, it was owned by W. C. Whiting (in 1915), Emil G. Brassard (in 1929), and Joseph Dessert (in 1940). The Phenix Hotel at Phenix Square, the village crossroads, continues to serve as a public house.
- 20-22 BOARDING HOUSE (mid-19th century): A large multiple-family residence with a pair of small, central entrance porticos in front, near the sidewalk; a small, shed-roof dormer; and a 2-story, flat-roofed addition at the rear. The building was once a boarding house owned by the Lonsdale Company.

26-30 BOARDING HOUSE (late 19th century): A large multi-family residence with a pair of small gabled dormers, a 2-story bay in front, a hooded entrance at the right side of the front, and a 2-story porch, with a simple entry at the left end.

44 BUNGALOW (early 20th century): A 1-1/2-story, multi-gabled bungalow, sited high above the street behind a cement wall and a 3-step terrace. This fine house, the best of its kind in the town, was used as the rectory of Saints Peter and Paul Church from 1946 to 1974.

STS. PETER AND PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1892): A large aluminum-sided church, set near the road on a wide, shallow lot atop a bluff overlooking Main Street. Because of its site, the building, unlike most other churches, has its broad side to the street and faces the side of the lot. The triangular facade contains three separate entries on the first floor, one at the center and one at each side; three vertical, round-headed windows above that; and a square steeple and pyramidal spire.

The parish had its beginning in 1853, when Roman Catholics in the area purchased "Rock Chapel," a church located between Briggs and Pleasant Streets, from an Episcopal congregation. First operated as a mission of Our Lady of Mercy in East Greenwich, the church became an independent parish in 1857. Soon after, a Baptist meetinghouse on Highland Avenue (the site of the present church) was purchased. It was dedicated on May 29, 1859, under the patronage of Saints Peter and Paul. In 1888-89, fund raising began for a new building. The Lonsdale Company, owners of the Phenix mill, gave additional land and built a retaining wall. The church cornerstone was laid on May 1, 1892, and the building, designed and built by George H. Page of Centerville at a cost of \$17,000, was dedicated on September 18 the same year. In the 20th century, the church was remodeled, and a convent, a rectory, and a parish school were built. In the 1930s, about 800 parishioners of Portuguese descent formed a new parish, St. Anthony's.

61-63 W. H. SNOW HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-story duplex with a pair of low-pitched gable roofs facing the road, a porch with carpenterwork brackets across the front, and a full basement on the downhill side at the rear. The residence of W. H. Snow in 1870, the dwelling was owned by a person

named Murray, who ran a store on Wakefield Street in the early 20th century.

LANPHEAR STREET

HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-story, Neo-Classical brick dwelling with quoin detailing and a 3-bay facade with a commanding central entrance pavilion. The pavilion, fronted by a large flat-roof portico with fluted Doric columns and a roof balustrade, contains an entranceway framed by side lights and a Palladian window on the second story. The house, an anomaly in a neighborhood of wood-frame houses, occupies a relatively large, grassy lot above Lanphear Street. The rear entrance, on Urquhart Street, is the principal entry today.

LEVALLEY STREET

- 7 S. COLVIN HOUSE (c. 1840): A small 1-1/2-story, flank-gable Greek Revival house, set end to the street, with a central trabeated entrance in a 5-bay facade, paneled corner pilasters, and entablature trim.
- 13-15 S. COLVIN HOUSE (mid-19th century): A long duplex with an 8-bay facade, a pair of small brick interior chimneys, and entrances near each end set under massive bracketed hoods.
19. METHODIST CHURCH RECTORY (c.1880): A 2-story, L-plan, multi-gabled residence with a single gable in front and two gables at the left side, an entry in a hip-roofed porch at the left front corner, and a 1-story, flat-roofed bay window at the left side. The building, on a small, sparsely landscaped lot, was once the rectory for the adjacent Methodist church (now gone).

MAIN STREET

- 701 PHENIX FIRE STATION/HARRIS FIRE DEPARTMENT (1889): A handsome, 2-story brick structure, set gable end to the street, with a wide door across the front and a tall, square hose-drying tower on the corner, topped with a belfry and a high hip roof embellished with ornamental cresting and a weathervane. There is a recent 1-story, flat-topped, unsympathetic addition to the right side. The Coventry-West Warwick town line runs through the building, which was erected to serve the

adjoining villages of Phenix and Harris. Only the tower is in West Warwick.

BARN for W. G. BRIGGS HOTEL (c. 1885): A 1-1/2-story, mansard-roofed structure, with a pedimented central section, shed-roof dormers, and a large double-door entry in front. This building was associated with the W. G. Briggs Hotel, which stood to the west. On April 11, 1860, John Lippitt sold a house and lot to Stephen C. Briggs. In 1860 and 1861, Briggs bought two more lots. He later built an addition to his house and opened it as a hotel in February, 1870. The house and buildings were destroyed by fire on July 13, 1885. Stephen's son Willet G. Briggs erected a fine house and barn on the sites of the former buildings and continued in business as the Briggs Hotel.

735

PHILLIP DUFFEY'S STORE/LAUREEN'S DISCOUNT STORE (mid-19th century): A 2-1/2-story commercial block, with a pair of small brick interior chimneys, a 5-bay facade, and a 2-story, flat-roofed ell at the rear. The original store front, now altered, consists of large plate-glass windows across the front, with a recessed double-door entrance near the center, and a base, about 2 feet high, of synthetic stones. Sited close to the sidewalk, it anchors the west end of the Phenix central business district core. It is one of the oldest extant commercial buildings in the area. Originally it was Duffey's grocery store.

743

DAVID FRANK & SON, INC. (1898): A 2-story, red-brick commercial block with a decorative metal cornice, a row of seven round-headed windows across the second story level, and a fine and essentially authentic first-story storefront with a granite belt course over a row of plate-glass windows and three recessed double-door entries. The building is sited directly on the sidewalk close to the two adjacent buildings. A fine building, similar to and contemporary with the nearby Arnold Block, it was built in 1898. Since 1915, it has been in the Frank family, who have been buying and selling cotton fabric remnants since.

747-49

HOLMES BUILDING (late 19th century): The tallest building in Phenix, this is a 4-story, flat-roofed structure with red brick sides and a yellow brick front, a modillion course at the broad cornice, cement courses across the top and above the first floor store fronts, rows of large windows with

concrete lintels at the second and third story levels, and a row of short horizontal windows at the upper story. There are two recessed entrances in front, and several plate-glass windows in the altered commercial facade. In the early 20th century, the building housed a drug store on the ground floor, offices on the second floor, and a meeting hall above. In 1940, the building housed the Phenix Super Market, run by Henry J. Doiron, and Doiron and Richard's Spa. Today, it contains a laundry.

776-78,
780-82

MILL HOUSES (c. 1822): These two 2-1/2-story former mill houses, across the street from the Phenix Mill, are among the oldest in town. Built in the manner of traditional farmhouses, one of them has the center chimney and the small monitor or shed dormer common to early mills and mill houses. Number 776-78 has paired brick interior chimneys. Unlike the models they emulate, however, these houses have side entrances in the gable end and are used by several families. Another house in this row, at 772-74 Main Street, was torn down in early 1985.

PLEASANT STREET

9

FRANK SPAULDING'S BLOCK/PHENIX SQUARE GRILL AND RESTAURANT (c. 1845 et seq.): An altered 2-story, pedimented end-gable building with a 20th-century brick storefront, aluminum-clad second story, and three second-story oriels on the front, facing Phenix Square. Reportedly, this building was a church (originally Baptist, then Catholic) that stood on the site of the present Saints Peter and Paul Church on Highland Avenue, later moved here, raised one story, and used as a business block by Frank Spaulding. The building is now a restaurant.

28-30

HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-1/2-story shingled house, similar to another at 10 Snell Court, with a handsome bracketed 2-story porch across the front.

EGLISE DE NOTRE-DAME DU BON CONSEIL/OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1903; 1978-79): A 1-story, end-gable church with a brick front; three round-headed entrances in a central, slightly projecting front pavilion; a row of tall, round-headed, stained-glass windows along the brick and wood-shingled sides; and a hip-roofed rear section. The building occupies a small, neat, terraced corner lot at Summit Street. There is a rectory to

the left and a parish school across Pleasant Street.

In 1891, the Reverend Matthew Harkness purchased this corner lot from the Hope Manufacturing Company, then transferred the land to St. John's Church, Arctic. A combined church-school building was erected which served as the Mission of St. John's. St. John's Church supplied priests every Sunday, and, in 1897, transferred the land to the Phenix Mission so that they could become an independent parish. A new rectory was added in 1898.

By 1900, the church-school was not large enough to accommodate the rapidly growing number of parishioners, and a new church building, designed by architects Murphy and Hindle of Providence, was erected. It was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1903. More land was acquired nearby, and a new school, designed by architect Walter F. Fontaine of Woonsocket, was erected. It opened in 1926. In 1957, the school was altered by removal of the top floor, and the remainder of the building was converted into a social center.

In 1978, contractor E. J. Overton was hired to make major changes to the church: removal and reconstruction of the roof, lowering of the ceiling by 16 feet, and addition of a brick facade. The interior was completely refurbished. On August 3, 1979, the renovated church was again opened for worship.

SISSON STREET

- 1-3, MILL HOUSES (mid-19th century): A pair of
2-4 1-1/2-story duplex mill houses, with paired
 entrance doors, paired brick chimneys near the
 ends, and small shed dormers at the front. The
 houses, each occupying small lots along Highland
 Avenue, face each other at the entrance to Sisson
 Street.

RIVERPOINT

Riverpoint, in the north central part of town, lies between the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River on the east and the Conrail railroad tracks on the north and west. It is largely contained by a triangle formed by East Main Street, Bridge Street, and Providence Street. The river forms a natural boundary with an area called Westcott and to the south, Riverpoint merges with buildings extending from Arctic. To the west, at the

junction of East Main Street and Main Street, is a small business area which is considered as part of Birch Hill in this report, but which historically has also been identified as Clyde Square and as part of Riverpoint. Within Riverpoint as defined here are the Royal Mills, the John F. Horgan Elementary School, the Riverpoint Congregational Church, a large number of mill houses in and near the triangle, and some larger and finer homes of former mill supervisors and professionals at Petrarca Memorial Square, the junction of Bridge and Providence Streets.

The area now known as Riverpoint was owned by the Greene family at an early date. In 1726, Job Greene gave his son Philip 278 acres on the northwest side of the South Branch, and devised to him in 1744 all his lands in the fork of the rivers. Philip sold the land in the fork to Caleb and Nathaniel Hathaway in 1786. A river crossing at shallow water here was known as Hathaway's Ford. Elisha Warner, an heir of the Hathaways, sold 40 acres to Dr. Stephen Harris and Dr. Sylvester Knight of Centerville in 1812. The following year, the two doctors and some partners formed the Greene Manufacturing Company. From that time, two other mills were built at two other nearby locations. Both underwent subsequent enlargements and improvements, and several changes of ownership.

The first name given to this area, Frozen Point or Frozen Pint, was applied only to the junction of the North and South Branches. The small village that sprang up near the mills was known as Greenville, for the Greene Manufacturing Company. The 1846 map shows "Greenville Factory" and houses along what later became Providence Street. In 1849, a Congregational church was erected. The Providence, Hartford, and Fishkill Railroad, laid out near Riverpoint, started operating in 1852. The name Riverpoint was then adopted by the railroad company for the depot and by the post office established later. By 1862, Riverpoint was a substantial village, with mills, a store, and mill houses along the main streets, and a church and private residences at Petrarca Square. Nearby Birch Hill served as the local commercial, social, educational, and religious center then, and for many years thereafter. In 1870, all the houses along East Main and Providence Streets and within the triangle were mill workers' houses owned by the Greene Manufacturing Company. Another railroad, the Pawtuxet Valley Line, extending from the vicinity of Riverpoint to Hope village in Scituate, opened for general business in 1874. According to the Rhode Island census, there were 540

inhabitants in the village in 1875. In the 1880s, B. B. & R. Knight acquired the Riverpoint mills and effected large-scale improvements and enlargements to both mills. The lower mill became known as the Valley Queen, while the expanded mills at the upper privilege were dubbed the Royal Mills. The enlarged capacity of the mills required an additional work force and the village population swelled; in 1895, the 2,475 inhabitants made it third in size, surpassed only by Natick and Arctic. The 1895 map shows the densely settled area long East Main and Providence Streets and in the triangle.

A fire in 1919 destroyed the Royal Mills, which were rebuilt between 1919 and 1921. Because of poor economic conditions and competition from Southern mills, however, the Riverpoint mills never regained their former prosperity, and eventually were rented out piecemeal to a number of small concerns. The Valley Queen Mill was sold to the Original Bradford Soap Works. There have been few changes in Riverpoint in the 20th century. The Royal Mills were replaced and a school was built, but otherwise the village remains a largely residential, working-class community.

RIVERPOINT MILLS, 125 and 200 Providence Street

RIVERPOINT MILLS/GREENE MILLS/ROYAL MILLS/VALLEY QUEEN MILL (1813 et seq.): The two mill complexes along the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River and along Providence Street at Riverpoint, originally owned and operated by the Greene Manufacturing Company, were both under the same ownership until 1931. Since then, they have been separately owned and manufacture different products.

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The Valley Queen Mill complex consists of one large sprawling building, the result of numerous additions to an 1834 mill; several free-standing structures; and a dam and headrace. The facade of the principal building, with a tall stair tower near the center, is 280 feet long; eaves at the north and south sides extend about 135 feet to the rear (east side). Most of the main section, about 170 by 45 feet, was constructed in 1834-35 of locally quarried granite ashlar blocks by Providence masons Stephen Norton and Thomas Peck. The original building was three stories high, 22 bays wide, and had a clerestory monitor roof. In 1888-89, several years after the property was purchased by the firm of B. B. & R. Knight, the mill underwent extensive alterations and enlargements under the direction of D. M. Thompson, a mill engineer who reconstructed several other

Knight properties, including the Natick Mill (in 1882) and the nearby Royal Mills (in 1890). Additions were made to both sides of the original mill and the main block was raised to five stories and covered with an almost flat roof with overhanging eaves. Granite used in the new work was quarried from a ledge across the river, the additions matching the old work. The south end of the building was lengthened by nine bays, but because of the slope of land here, this side is only four stories high. To the rear of this section was added a 90-foot, 3-story ell. To the rear of the north side of the main building, near the river, a rambling, 1-story ell was added to house engines, pumps, and boilers. Along the front of the building, the original stair tower, which was in the center of the original facade, was made taller and "Victorianized" by the addition of elaborate, bracketed wood cornices and a steep, slate-covered hip roof with an ornate finial. The present mill office, built into a slope along Providence Street, was also probably erected in 1888 or 1889. A rectangular, 1- and 3-story structure with a flat roof and a wooden cornice with a double row of dentils and paired brackets, its granite ashlar walls resemble those of the mill. The office is connected to the mill by a long cast-iron pedestrian bridge at the level of the third floor of the office. Several free-standing buildings at the rear include a 1-story cement block structure, a 10,000-square-foot, 2-story cement block addition at the east end of the south ell, and a metal warehouse at the east end of the site. Along and near the river is a well-preserved, 120-foot-long headrace constructed in 1834, leading from the dam to a 1-story wheel house at the northeast corner of the mill. The water emptied directly into the river from the wheel house.

*

The Royal Mills complex, erected between 1919 and 1921 to replace an earlier complex destroyed by fire, lies along both sides of the South Branch of the Pawtuxet, between a dam and Providence Street. Behind a 1-story, hip-roofed stone mill office on Providence Street is the sprawling stone mill complex, oriented northeast to southwest. The main section, with two square, crenellated towers in front, is a 5-story structure approximately 460 feet long and 50 feet wide. At the right rear (southeast corner) is a large 5-story addition with several smaller structures attached; one contains a boiler house, the others were used as a picker

house and as a supply wheel house in the early 20th century. Whereas the stone complex on the west bank resembles the original mill (the original stone walls of the earlier mill were used in the rebuilding), the building along the east side of the river, a 4-story, 410- by 150-foot structure with a square central stair tower, is more typical of early 20th-century industrial architecture in its use of brick, large window openings, and narrow piers.

In 1812, Dr. Stephen Harris and Dr. Sylvester Knight, physicians from Centerville, purchased a 40-acre tract for a cotton factory along the lower part of the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River, encompassing the present sites of the Valley Queen and Royal Mills. In 1813, Dr. Harris and Dr. Knight took James Greene, Resolved Slack, and Resolved Waterman as partners in the Greene Manufacturing Company, and erected a 2-story, 65-foot-long wooden spinning mill, which was equipped with four throstle frames and two mule spinning frames. This mill stood at an undetermined site south of the present Valley Queen Mill. The company failed in 1816 and by 1818, Dr. Harris was the sole owner. By 1820, 18 power looms were operating in the mill, which had a capacity of 780 spindles. Following damage in 1827 to a building near the mill used as a machine shop and a picker house, Dr. Harris rebuilt and enlarged the mill, which in 1832 was one of the seven largest cotton mills in Rhode Island, operating 3,600 spindles. In 1834, Dr. Harris constructed a new dam and a stone mill on a newly acquired privilege downstream from the original mill. The third mill erected at Riverpoint, a stone structure built in 1844, was enlarged in 1855. Dr. Harris died in 1858 and his four surviving children continued to operate the mills as the Greene Manufacturing Company. Before the Civil War, the primary product of the three mills was "Kentucky jeans," a durable cotton twill fabric sold in the south as "negro cloth." Between 1858 and 1875, many changes and improvements were made at Riverpoint, including the erection of a substantial dam and the addition of a 100-foot ell to the oldest mill.

Following the Civil War and the collapse of the market for negro cloth with the end of slavery, the Greene Company suffered financial losses, and in 1884-85, the entire property was purchased by B. B. & R. Knight. Between 1888 and 1890, the Knights made sweeping changes to the mills. The upper mill was greatly enlarged and reconstructed, resulting

in a long, 4-story structure with two towers, and renamed the Royal Mill. The 1834 mill at the lower privilege was also enlarged and rebuilt with a tall central tower and given the name Valley Queen. The original wooden mill was moved off the mill property and converted into a tenement house. In 1889, the Riverpoint mills contained 531 looms and 15,904 spindles. In 1901, the greatly expanded, water- and steam-powered Royal Mills, ran 1,214 looms and 47,840 spindles to manufacture sheetings, cambrics, and twills; the Valley Queen Mill, with 400 looms and 15,104 spindles, manufactured fine cambrics. Its Fruit of the Loom fabric was the most celebrated of the many popular cotton goods manufactured by the Knights, and one universally regarded as a standard of quality.

A fire on January 27, 1919 heavily damaged the Royal Mill. Rebuilding began in the same year, using in part the original walls which were left standing after the fire, and the greatly enlarged Royal Mill was completed in 1921. The part east of the river was a sprawling complex of stone. West of the river, a brick weave shed was constructed. All the machinery in the Royal Mill complex--2,901 looms and 109,440 spindles--was electrically driven by more than 4,000 steam- and water-power-driven motors. Eight hundred people were employed. Unfortunately, the mills again suffered financial losses, this time due largely to competition from Southern mills, and, after a reorganization that failed, the B. B. & R. Knight Company was sold.

In 1931, the Valley Queen Mill was acquired by the Original Bradford Soap Works, a company that was established in Providence in 1876 for the manufacture of soaps used for the textile industry. The company still manufactures soaps and chemicals for the textile, paper, and pharmaceutical industries; it is one of the largest manufacturers of fine, private-label soaps in the United States. The Royal Mills Complex, closed in 1935 by the Knight Company, was divided into rental spaces for a number of small concerns by 1937. In 1983, the complex was owned by the Saybrook Manufacturing Company. It now houses Ace Finishing and Dyeing as well as several small firms.

ROYAL MILL HOUSES

ROYAL MILL HOUSES (mid- and late 19th century): In an area along East Main and Providence Streets, southwest of the Royal Mill complex, is a dense neighborhood of mill houses built for workers in

the mill. Most of these plain buildings, set near the sidewalk on relatively small lots, are 1-1/2-story duplexes, typically with two individual, symmetrical single-door entrances in an 8-bay facade. Some houses still retain their original small, central monitor dormers. The rows of houses along East Main and Providence Streets, and some on Elm Street, are among the earliest here. The others, along Branch, Central, and several other streets, were probably built when the Royal Mill was erected in 1888-89. The later houses, including a row along Junior Street, are larger, multi-family, 2-1/2-story structures.

BRANCH STREET

(See Royal Mill Houses)

BRIDGE STREET

HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-story, bracketed residence with a flat roof; a 1-story, flat-roofed porch at the right front; and a 2-story ell at the left side of the rear.

CENTRAL STREET

(See Royal Mill Houses)

EAST MAIN STREET

(See Royal Mill Houses)

ELM STREET

(See Royal Mill Houses)

JUNIOR STREET

(See Royal Mill Houses)

PROVIDENCE STREET

(See also Royal Mill Houses)

- 67 HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-1/2-story, pedimented end-gable Greek Revival house with pilaster and entablature trim and an entrance at the left side of the facade, under a later bracketed hood.
- 69 HALL HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival house with a 5-bay facade, a central entry under a later bracketed hood, entablature trim, and a 1-story ell with porch at the left rear. It is now covered with asbestos siding.

70. JOHN B. ALLEN HOUSE (1884): A 2-story masonry residence, with a hip roof and a small hip-roofed dormer in front; two interior end chimneys; a central entrance sheltered by a large, flat-roofed portico; a 5-bay facade; windows with granite sills and lintels; and a 1-story, flat-roofed addition at the left side. The house occupies a large, neat, simply landscaped lot. It was probably built as a family residence by John B. Allen (1845-1906). Allen, born in Natick, worked as a clerk in a company store there, then at stores in Arctic and Riverpoint. He was a bookkeeper for the Riverpoint mills from 1866 to 1875, and superintendent of those mills from 1875 to 1885. He later was also superintendent of the Centerville Mill.
- *73 RIVERPOINT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PARSONAGE (c. 1900): A complex, 2-story Queen Anne residence with wood shingle and clapboard walls, a 3-story square tower at the right front corner, a 1-story shed-roof front porch with spindle-work ornamentation, and a 2-story bay window at the right side. This building occupies the site of the 19th-century District 14 schoolhouse.
- * RIVERPOINT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (1847-49): A handsome cross-gabled Gothic Revival church with a square, 2-story front corner tower topped by finials and a very tall, flared spire pierced by narrow, gabled, louver-filled openings. It has two pointed-arch entrances, one in the center of the facade and one in the base of the tower, and lancet windows along the sides. The building is now covered with aluminum siding. A gift of Harris and Sons, the mill owners, it was erected in 1847 by contractor George W. Ham. In 1849, a council convened at the meetinghouse to organize an Evangelical Congregational Church--the "First Congregational Church of Warwick."
- 78 PRATA FUNERAL HOME (mid-20th century): A 1-story, hip roofed brick building with a 3-bay facade, a central pedimented entrance sheltered by a porte-cochere, bay windows flanking the porte-cochere, a small front dormer containing a Palladian window, and side dormers.
- ROYAL MILLS BRIDGE, NUMBER 27 (1923-24): A skewed reinforced-concrete, single-arch span, carrying Providence Street over the South Branch of the Pawtuxet River. It is constructed with a pair of parallel ribs supporting the roadbed and

cantilevered sidewalks. The bridge is 110 feet long at street level, 80 feet long across the river, and 50 feet wide. The former bridge, a skewed, through Pratt truss of light construction, built about 1889, replaced an earlier bridge destroyed in the flood of 1886. Mill owners B. B. & R. Knight gave land to allow for a wider bridge. This bridge, erected by Milliken and Armstrong, Inc., of Providence, was the second largest masonry span on the highway system at the time it was built and is notable for its handsome design.

WEST WARWICK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL/JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (1927): A 2-story, flat-roofed, Neo-Classical public school building with a central pedimented entrance in a pavilion. The long, rectangular building's horizontality is accented by two rows of windows across the front, two belt courses, and a projecting cornice. Built as the town's Junior High School in 1927, it became an elementary school when the new junior high school was erected adjacent to the high school.

WESTCOTT

Westcott lies between the two Pawtuxet River bridges on Providence Street, which here forms the boundary between West Warwick and Warwick. The neighborhood merges with Natick to the northeast and Riverpoint to the southwest. Included in the area are a row of 19th-century mill workers' houses, a former elementary school, a former high school, and the "New Village" of the 1920s.

Westcott derives its name from the Westcott family, who resided in the dwelling at 341 Providence Street, on the Warwick side of the present town line. The road was only a cart path until the New London Turnpike was constructed shortly before 1820. A small 2-room house was moved here from Centerville and set across from the Westcott homestead for use as a toll house. Westcott remained undeveloped for many years, even after the Providence, Hartford, and Fishkill Railroad was laid out through it in the mid-19th century. Rhode Island census reports, which were published beginning in 1865, fail to recognize Westcott as a village, but it was identified on the 1895 map. Then it was a small hamlet consisting of a store and several houses, most of them along present Tollgate Road in Warwick. In the early 19th century, the western part of Westcott became the site of workers' houses for the nearby Riverpoint Mills. Later, buildings spread eastward along the street, which

by the early 20th century included a small, wood-frame elementary school building and a large brick high school. In 1921, along with the reconstruction of the Royal Mills, a group of fine stucco and brick houses were erected along the west side of the street north of the railroad tracks.

Today, the former mill houses remain residential, but all are in private ownership. The former elementary school is now the school superintendent's office, and the former high school, replaced by a larger structure atop the hill, has been converted for use as elderly housing. Although not in West Warwick, the old Westcott House, a 1-1/2-story post-Colonial dwelling, stands on the south side of Providence Street near the busy intersection.

PROVIDENCE STREET

- *214-300 MILL WORKERS' HOUSES (early to mid-19th century): Along both sides of Providence Street, but primarily along the north side, is a row of about two dozen houses. Most are 1-1/2-story duplex buildings with paired brick interior end chimneys, two separate entries in the front, and small shed-roofed dormers in the center of the roof. These houses, extending east from the Valley Queen-Riverpoint Mill complexes for about four-tenths of a mile, are associated with the enlargement of those mills in 1827 and 1844.
- 300 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/WEST WARWICK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT (1925): A 1-story, flat-roofed, clapboard building with a parapet across the front containing an elevated, semi-circular central section; two double-door entries, one at each side, with bracketed, semicircular hoods; and four windows in the center of a symmetrical 5-bay facade. The building, sited close to the sidewalk amongst the Westcott mill houses, was originally a 2-room elementary school. It now houses the offices of the town's school department.
- BUILDING (early 20th century): An unusual 2-story, flat-roofed cement-block structure with quoins, a central entrance with a flat hood and fluted pilasters of concrete, and another hooded entryway at the right side. The front entrance is flanked by large plate-glass display windows which appear to be a later addition, for the concrete bands above them with egg-and-dart moldings were probably

the lintels for earlier, narrower windows. The building, probably a residence later adapted for commercial use, is sited on the sidewalk next to a paved parking area. It is notable as an example of simplified classical architectural design reinterpreted in modern precast concrete construction, which at that time was an innovative technique utilizing a new material.

WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL/DEERING HIGH SCHOOL/WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL/WESTCOTT TERRACE (1904-05 et seq.): A 2-story, red-brick, hip-roofed structure between Providence Street and New London Avenue. Built in 1904-05 as Warwick High School, this became West Warwick's high school when the town was divided in 1913. Originally a handsome Neo-Classical structure with a wide modillion cornice and a fine, porticoed central entry, the building was later enlarged by the addition of a large, 2-story, flat-roofed section along Providence Street, also in the Classical Revival mode. About 1983, the facade was altered, an addition was made at the southwest part of the original building, and the building was adapted for use as an elderly housing project named Westcott Terrace.

341 RICE-WESTCOTT HOUSE (1789): A 1-1/2-story, wood shingled house with a large, off-center brick chimney and a 1-story, flat-roofed addition at the right side. Although the house is in Warwick, it is mentioned here because it is the most important historical building in Westcott.

Originally part of the Wecochaconet Farms and owned by Randall Holden, the land went to Holden's daughter, who married a Rice. The house was reportedly built by Anthony Rice in 1789. Sarah Rice, daughter of Anthony, married John Westcott, and the house remained in the Westcott family until 1922. About 1819, when the New London Turnpike was being built through Westcott, a small house was moved here from Centerville and set up on the north (West Warwick) side of the street for use as a toll house, and Elizabeth Rice tended the toll gate. The gate house was later moved to this 15-acre tract.

476-528 NEW VILLAGE (1921): A row of 10 houses along the west side of Providence Street south of Blossom Street. These 2-1/2-story houses (9 double houses and one 3-family house), with deep foundations and walls of hollow tiling covered with brick or stucco, were built by the Osgood Construction

Company of Nashua, New Hampshire in 1921, in association with the rebuilding of the Riverpoint Mills by B. B. & R. Knight. The 10 houses completed along Providence Street were to be the first of a group of more than 50 houses built for company employees. The tract was laid out by the Boston engineering firm of Lockwood, Greene & Company. The houses, modeled after English prototypes with some American Colonial elements, were to face on attractive streets leading to a chestnut grove, and incorporate the latest in home comforts and conveniences. At the time of its inception, the project was proclaimed to be "one of the greatest housing enterprises yet undertaken in Rhode Island in connection with manufacturing." However, deteriorating economic conditions evidently resulted in the termination of the project, which was never completed.

OTHER STRUCTURES AND SITES

AMES STREET

(See Phenix village section)

ARCHAMBAULT STREET

(See Arctic village section)

ARTHUR STREET

(See Centerville village section)

BARNOLD STREET

(See Crompton village section)

BETTEZ STREET

- 14-16 HENRI BETTEZ HOUSE (c. 1915): A 1-1/2-story, wood-shingled residence with broad cornices; a large, gabled front dormer with a balcony; and a 1-story front porch with tapered, stuccoed posts, recessed under the gable overhang. Rafters extend beyond the roof in front. This fine building is sited near the street behind a low cement wall and a row of evergreens.

BORDER STREET

(See Arctic village section)

BRIDAL AVENUE

(See Centerville village section)

BRIDGE STREET

(See Riverpoint village section)

BROOKSIDE STREET

(See Centerville village section)

CENTRE STREET

(See Centerville village section)

CHURCH STREET

(See Crompton village section)

CLYDE STREET

(See Lippitt village section)

COLVIN STREET

- 10 BOWEN HOUSE (1920s): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled cottage set end to the road, with a 1-story, flat-roofed porch across the front. Interesting architectural details include brackets, roof rafters that extend beyond the roof at the sides, and arrangement of the wood shingles that produces the appearance of horizontal bands. The house was built from material salvaged from a house that was taken down for the Scituate Reservoir.

COWSETT AVENUE

(See Crompton village section)

CROSSLANDS ROAD

- 33, 39 HOUSES (1920s-1930s): Two 1-story, stuccoed houses in a pleasant suburban tract. Number 39 is a relatively plain and unadorned structure. Number 33 has vertical boards in the gable; an end chimney; large corner windows; and a bay at the left side.

CURSON STREET

(See Arctic village section)

DIVISION STREET

- 1400 AMTROL, INC. (1972): AMTROL, Inc., consists of a large sprawling, flat-roofed, combined office and manufacturing building near the junction of Routes 2 and I-95. The 2-story office part contains a row of windows at each level; the manufacturing part is windowless. The company manufactures hot water heating products and water well systems equipment for industrial and residential use.

American Tube Products, Inc., the original name for AMTROL, was started in a converted mill building in the Natick section of West Warwick in 1946. After several moves and expansions, AMTROL built the complex here in 1972. A later addition to the office and plant nearly doubled the size of the facility. This is the headquarters and principal plant of the company, which in 1983 had several manufacturing plants--two more in Rhode Island (in Coventry and Warwick), and others in other states and in West Germany.

- 1600 BIF (1973): BIF, a unit of the General Signal Corporation, moved from its former plant on Harris Avenue, Providence, to this site, between Division Street and Route I-95, in 1973. On part of an 82-acre industrial-zoned tract of land, BIF built this 500,000-square-foot factory, where it manufactures nuclear valves, flow control systems, chemical metering pumps, and instrumentation for water and waste water treatment.

EARL STREET

(See Arctic village section)

EAST GREENWICH AVENUE

- 44 ISAAC HALL HOUSE (early 19th century): A 1-1/2-story Federal residence with a 5-bay facade; a large brick center chimney; and a central entrance with a 4-light transom, fluted pilasters, and a dentil course. The house occupies a low terrace behind a cement wall.
- **360 SILAS CLAPP HOUSE (1804): A 2-1/2-story Federal farmhouse with a large brick center chimney; a central pedimented entry with a semicircular fanlight, and fluted pilasters; a 5-bay facade; and a later (1900) ell at the right rear. There are several outbuildings, including a corn crib, on the large lot. Originally the land was part of the Cowesett Farms Plat laid out in 1684. The Clapp family acquired a parcel of land, upon which Silas Clapp built a house in 1804. His descendants lived in the house until 1883. Since then there has been a succession of owners who have been sympathetic to the preservation of the old farmhouse, which is entered on the National Register.
- 191 BRIGGS HOUSE (18th century, et seq.): A house comprising two sections. The original part is probably the 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, gambrel-roofed

structure at the right side, which contains an interior end chimney and a small gabled dormer. The 2-story left side has a simple, shed-roofed portico over the entrance on its right side. Alterations include residing and replacement windows. The property was part of the land of Stuckley Westcott in the Cowesett Farms Plat of 1685. By 1862, it was the residence of J. M. Briggs. In 1870, it belonged to B. Briggs, and in 1895 was owned by Rock Beousoleu. It is one of the oldest houses in this formerly rural part of town, now becoming heavily suburbanized.

EAST MAIN STREET

60 WARWICK LACE WORKS (1907): A 2-story, flat-roofed brick structure, sited with its narrow end to the street, once occupied by the Warwick Lace Works. The company was started in 1907; it was then one of only four lace mills in Rhode Island, then became associated with a plat at 48 Maple Avenue. Weaving, finishing, and drying were carried on in most of the brick building, while bleaching and berming were done at the rear. Some work was done in local homes by women. The two plants were later acquired by the Bancroft Lace Company, and sold by them about 1958. A 3-story brick building that once stood on the site adjacent to (east of) the plant, once a machine shop for the L. Brayton Company, was also a textile works. In 1922 it was owned by M. N. Berlin, and finished cotton goods.

L. BRAYTON FOUNDRY (mid-19th century): The L. Brayton Foundry, started in the mid-19th century, occupies a large, 2-story, square, brick building sited near the road. The company was here as early as 1862 according to a contemporary map, and belonged to S. H. Brayton. It was owned and operated by the Braytons as a foundry until after 1922. In 1903, the company also owned another large building about 160 feet east of the present structure; it was used as a machine shop until sometime before 1903. Several other freestanding and attached structures, at the rear, included a flask shop, a carpenter shop, and an auto repair building.

MACHINE SHOP AND PLANING MILL/GUILL TOOL AND ENGINEERING COMPANY (mid-19th century): A long, rectangular, 2-story, stuccoed stone building at the triangular junction of East Main and Pike Streets, with a recent addition at the east end

that masks the appearance of the original structure. Map histories reveal a varied use of the building. In 1870, it was a machine shop and planing mill. Before 1895, it was acquired by David Pike and Sons, who used the building in 1903 as a planing mill and a sash and blind manufactory. By 1922, it was the silk mill of the Pawtuxet Valley Textile Company, operated by George Wright, and carried on winding, warping, and weaving operations. Closed during the depression, it reopened during the mid-1930s as a sewing shop for ladies' blouses and dresses. It is now owned by the Guill Tool and Engineering Company, Inc.

ENERGY WAY

- 1 DRYVIT SYSTEMS, INC. (c. 1982): A modern industrial building with the office and industrial space separated into two distinct sections. The office, in front, is a 2-story masonry structure, with large cement blocks, or panels, and rows of windows creating a ribbon pattern at each story. Behind is a large, windowless section with two silo-like structures at the rear.

- 2 PAUL ARPIN VAN LINES (1982): A two-sectioned building. In front is the office, a 1-story, red-brick structure with large windows facing the street; behind is a large, windowless metal building used for storage and servicing of vehicles. The van lines was started by Paul Arpin, who came to Providence from Canada in 1900. In 1904, his son Adolph bought the business with his brother. Adolph bought out his brother, then took in his sons Paul and Milton, and his wife Louise. After incorporating in 1947, the company experienced remarkable growth for 15 years. In 1975, two other van lines (A-World and TEK) were purchased and the firm became national. The company outgrew its Providence facilities and moved here in early 1982. With 400 agents in 400 different cities in the United States, it was the 10th largest van line in the country in 1983.

FACTORY STREET

(See Arctic village section)

FAIRVIEW AVENUE

(See Phenix village section)

GOUGH AVENUE

- 75 FRANK SMITH HOUSE (late 19th century): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled, simple Queen Anne house with patterned shingle and clapboard walls; a brick center chimney; and a 1-story, hip-roofed, wraparound porch with a polygonal corner and carpenterwork brackets. There is a barn at the rear of the property.

GREEN BUSH ROAD

FARMHOUSE (late 18th/early 19th century): A 2-1/2-story, wood-shingled house with a large brick, center chimney and a 5-bay facade containing a central entrance. One of the early houses in this part of town, it was the residence of R. Remington in 1870 and William Tiffany in 1895.

GREENE STREET

- 38 JOHN FLANAGAN HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-story, brick masonry, Colonial Revival-styled residence, with a hip roof; a wide cornice with projecting rafters forming brackets; a small, gabled dormer; a central pavilion sheltering an entrance with a semi-circular arch, fluted pilasters, and transom lights; four large, tall, rectangular brick chimneys; and a 1-story bay window at the right front. The house, above the road on a small slope, occupies a large, heavily-planted corner lot behind a cemented, granite-block wall. It is one of the finest houses of its type in town.
- 45 JUDGE MICHAEL DECIANTIS HOUSE (mid-20th century): A contemporary 1-story residence with hip and gable roofs; brick and cut stone sides; an off-center entrance; broad eaves; a stone and a brick chimney; and a large garage door entry at the left side of the front. This large, sprawling house, a fine example of its type, is set back from the street on a large grassy lot.

GREENHILL STREET

(See Natick village section)

HARRIS AVENUE

HARRIS AVENUE SCHOOL/MIRIAM A. DUFFY SCHOOL (1922): A 2-story, brick public elementary school building with a flat roof fronted by a parapet; red brick

sides with a copper belt course around the top; two large, semi-elliptical hoods with brackets, one at each end; and two rows of two-over-two windows with granite sills and lintels.

HEPBURN STREET

(See Crompton village section)

HIGHLAND STREET

(See Phenix village section)

HOME STREET

(See Arctic village section)

LANPHEAR STREET

(See Phenix village section)

LEGION WAY

(See Arctic village section)

LEGRIS STREET

(See Centerville village section)

LEVALLEY STREET

(See Phenix village section)

MAIN STREET

(See also Arctic, Centerville, Clyde, Crompton, Lippitt, and Phenix village sections)

PHIL'S PLACE (early 20th century): A 1-story, flat-roofed fast-food stand distinguished by a large two-dimensional image of a soft-freeze ice cream cone, which is included as part of the structure. This is an interesting local example of the type of automobile-oriented roadside architecture that incorporates a picture or even the form of the product being sold in the design of the building itself.

1021 CLYDE TOWERS (1971-72): The Clyde Towers apartment complex consists of a long, 2-story (with full basement) section along Main Street, and a multi-story building behind that. One of several "high rises" in town, it was a government-sponsored project for the elderly.

1034-36 GREGORY HOUSE (c. 1880): A 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled dwelling in a simplified version of the Queen Anne style, with carpenterwork in the gable end its chief decoration. It has a pair of entries

in a 2-story porch at the right side of the front and a 2-story bay window at the right side.

1043 ROBERT H. CHAMPLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY (mid-20th century): A 1-story brick public building with a full basement, a flat roof with a granite cornice, and glass entrance door at the front and rear. The library building is set back from and slightly above street level, accessible by two short flights of stairs, on a landscaped lot behind a low stone wall.

1044 HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-story, cross-gabled, Bracketed residence with a modillion cornice; a 1-story, flat-roofed porch at the right side of the front sheltering the entrance; a 1-story bay at the left side of the front; and windows with heavily molded caps.

MASONIC TEMPLE (early 20th century): A 2-story, flat-roof brick building with a roof parapet; Ionic pilasters supporting a belt course across the top of the building; a central double-door entrance with a 5-light transom and bracketed cap; a 5-bay facade; and a long, 2-story ell at the rear.

1078 CARLEY HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-story Bracketed house with clapboard facade and shingle sides, a central entry with a massive, bracketed and carpenterwork-decorated hood, a 2-story bay at the left side front, and an ell at the right side.

1098 ROBERT GRAHAM METAL WORKS (c. 1907): A 1-story building with a flat sheet-metal roof, a false front across the top with large-scale graphics, metal "clapboard" sides, and a central recessed, double-door entrance flanked by a pair of large display windows. The building, sited on the sidewalk, is a good example of early 20th-century commercial architecture rare, if not unique, for its early use of metal siding.

SECOND ADVENT CHURCH/RIVERPOINT ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH (1860 et seq.): A 1-story building, set gable end to Main Street at the corner of Gough, with a gabled entry at the front of the left side; a relatively short, louvered belfry on the ridge near the center of the roof; lancet windows; and a 1-story, flat-roofed ell at the rear. Alterations, made after 1963, include enlarging the front end of the building, residing, and moving the entrance from the front to the side. The first meeting of

the church society was held in the Odd Fellow's Hall in 1858. In 1860, a tract of land was purchased from Alexander Allen and a 31- by 46-foot meetinghouse was erected. The building is now the Riverpoint Advent Christian Church.

AHAVATH SHALOM SYNAGOGUE (before 1919; 1938): A 1-story, yellow-brick-sided religious building with a hip roof, a semicircular double-door entry at the right side of the front, and round-topped stained-glass windows at the front and sides. West Warwick's first Jewish congregation originally met in houses, then in a rented building on Bridge Street. In 1919, members purchased a 2-story wooden building which housed a barroom, and converted the place for their use. Prayers and services were held on the first floor; the upper part served as the living quarters for the rabbi and his family. The building was formally dedicated in 1920. In 1938, it was resided, the first and second floors were consolidated into one space, and the basement was renovated for social occasions.

MANCHESTER STREET

(See Crompton village section)

MAPLE AVENUE

ST. ANTHONY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1925-26): A 1-story church set gable end to the road at the triangular intersection of Maple and Sunset, with a central double-door, pedimented portico entry, flanked by single-door entries, and stained-glass round-headed windows at the sides. In the early 1970s a large stained-glass window, extending from near the floor to the ceiling and from sidewall to sidewall, was added behind the main altar. At the rear is the rectory, a renovated Late Victorian house. The first mass at St. Anthony's, built for the Portuguese-speaking Roman Catholics of the Pawtuxet Valley, was celebrated in 1925 and the church was dedicated the following year.

48

PHENIX LACE MILL/BANCROFT LACE COMPANY/DODD TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (1910 et seq.): A warehouse and trucking terminal comprising several connected structures. A 2-story, flat-roofed, vine-covered brick structure, used for offices in the front, is the earliest part. To the left is a 2-story, flat-roofed masonry building, and at the left side is a 1-story, cinder block building, the most recent

addition. The Phenix Lace Mills started operating here in 1910. Edward E. Bancroft, the owner, also built a lace mill on East Main Street, a short distance away. In 1961, this place was purchased by the Dodd Transportation Company, which still owns and uses the buildings today.

- 37-51 MAPLE AVENUE MILL HOUSES (c. 1910): A row of four mill houses along the northeast side of Maple Avenue, opposite the Bancroft Lace Works property. All are 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled duplexes with 5-bay facades and central double-door entries under bracketed hoods. Only one retains its original wood shingle siding; the others have been clad in aluminum. All are well preserved and maintained on small but neat lots.
- 76 MCNALLY HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 2-1/2-story house with a clapboard facade and shingle sides, a 5-bay facade containing a central entrance, and a flat-roofed, 2-story front porch with carpenterwork brackets.
- 79-81 ALEXANDER MACDONALD HOUSE (c. 1905): A 2-story, hip-roofed house with a hip dormer in front; a long, 1-story, open porch across the front; a wide cornice with rafters showing; a 5-bay facade with a central entrance; and a 1-story ell at the right rear.
- 84 HERBERT CLARKE HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-story, hip-roofed house with a wide eave overhang and a 1-story, flat-roofed porch at the left front corner.
- 86 B. SWEET HOUSE (mid- or late 19th century): A 1-1/2-story mansard-roofed house with gabled dormers; a central entry in a 3-bay facade; a 1-story, flat-roofed open porch across the front; a 1-story bay window at the left side; and a 1-story, flat-roofed ell at the rear.
- 87 THORNTON HOUSE (1891): A 2-1/2-story Bracketed house, set gable end to the street, with a bracketed hood entrance at the left side of the front, a 1-story bay window at the right side of the front, and several flat-roofed sections at the rear.
- 95 CAMPBELL HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-story, hip-roofed house with a full basement at the rear; a hip-roofed dormer in front; a central entry in a

5-bay facade; a 1-story, flat-roofed front porch, with brackets, fluted posts, and spindlework; and a 1-story, hip-roofed ell at the right rear.

- 96 ISAAC N. FAIRBROTHER HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled residence, with flat-roofed portico entries at the right front and left rear, a 1-story bay window at the right side, and a 1-story, flat-roofed ell at the rear.
- 100 LAWTON HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-1/2-story house, set gable end to the street, with a 5-bay facade on the right side containing a central entrance under a flat-roofed portico. An ell at the rear is composed of a series of sections that diminish in size. The lot is well landscaped.
- 100 rear W. B. SPENCER HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 1-1/2-story house with a small gabled dormer; a 1-story, flat-roofed front porch; a 1-story bay window at the right side; Greek Revival corner boards; and a flat-roofed addition at the rear.

NESTOR STREET

(See Crompton village section)

NEW LONDON AVENUE

(See also Crompton village section)

- 100 CHARLES DUKE HOUSE (1908): A large 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled house with a modillion course at its broad eaves; a 3-bay facade with an entry at the right side; a 1-story bay window with a dentil course, at the second story level at the right front; and a portico at the left rear corner. The large lot includes a barn behind the house.

FACTORY SITES: Along New London Avenue, near and opposite Campbell Street, in a wooded area near the outlet of Flat Top Pond, are the sites of two factories erected in the early 19th century. Along the west side of the road are the stone foundations and raceways of one of the structures. There are few, if any, remains of the second mill, the "Tiffany Factory," built along the east side of the road.

In 1815, the Tiffany Factory was started by Josiah Arnold. He sold the partially completed structure to Jonathan Tiffany, who took his brother-in-law John K. Pitman as a partner. The stone mill, intended to be 50 by 70 feet, but built smaller, was equipped with two breakers, three

finishers, two double-head drawing machines, one speeder of 16 spindles, and one mule of 192 spindles. The 2-story mill had a basement, originally used as a store and subsequently for manufacturing. Yarn was spun and then put out to be woven by hand looms. In 1827, Jonathan Tiffany's sons, Jonathan and John, took over the mill, and together with James G. Anthony manufactured wadding. The mill continued in operation until 1844, when it closed and its machinery was sold. It was taken down in 1848 and some of its stone used in the addition to the Number 1 Mill of the Crompton Company. Two mill houses of one tenement each, erected in 1815, were burned in 1874.

The factory along the west side of the turnpike was erected in 1816 by Capt. William Rice and his son-in-law, James E. Remington, to make yarn, shoe thread, and warps for hand looms. It first operated as the Riceville Company, but its name was changed to the "Flat Top" because of its roof. It had several occupants, including John Allen of Centerville, none of whom were successful. The building was used by John Allen's nephew, Alexander Allen, during which time it burned down. Within 35 years, it suffered three failures and three fires, the final one in 1883, after which the factory, and two buildings put up for a machine shop, burned for the last time.

Contemporary maps identify the place as the "Revival Factory" (perhaps an allusion to its having been burned and rebuilt) in 1846, as "Mills" and as "J. Card Village" in 1862, and "Crompton Manufacturing Company, Machine Shop" in 1870. The 1895 map shows only a row of several houses along the road. None are extant today. The well preserved foundations, the only 19th-century mill ruins in West Warwick today, are the only material evidence of what was undoubtedly West Warwick's smallest village.

PAWTUXET RIVER

RAILROAD BRIDGE (early 20th century): A metal-truss bridge with two spans carries the tracks of Conrail across the Pawtuxet River in the northeast corner of town, along the Warwick boundary. This bridge is a type that was very popular in the early years of the century, when almost all railroad bridges built were metal trusses. This bridge is the only one of its kind in town.

PIKE STREET

- 20 KENYON-PIKE HOUSE (1839): A 2-story, monitor-on-hip-roofed, Greek Revival structure, with a 5-bay facade; a central entrance portico with a roof balustrade; a tall, brick end-wall chimney; and a 2-story brick addition at the rear. The building was erected in 1839 by George Kenyon, who purchased the land from Thomas Levalley. Kenyon rented the place as a tavern, run by Owen Burlingame. In 1854, the house went to David Pike, then to his son Edward. West Warwick leased it for use as a town hall when the town was incorporated in 1913. In 1925, Jessie Pike sold it to the members of the town council, who conveyed it to the town in 1929. It remained in use until the present town hall was erected in 1959. The building was occupied by the State Registry of Motor Vehicles for a while, then it was acquired by the Guill Tool Company.

PLEASANT STREET

(See Phenix village section)

POND STREET

(See Arctic village section)

POTTER AVENUE

- 61 COUTU HOUSE (c. 1930): A 1-story, flat-roofed house with brick and wood walls, an entry in each end, a veranda across the front, large single-paned, horizontal windows, and a 2-car garage at the left end. This interesting building, with the owner's name in large letters on its side, is one of several of this style in town.

PROSPECT HILL AVENUE

(See Natick village section)

PROVIDENCE STREET

(See Natick, Riverpoint, and Westcott village sections)

PULASKI STREET

(See Crompton village section)

QUAKER LANE

- 101 NATHANIEL ARNOLD HOUSE (c. 1760): A 1-1/2-story, gambrel-roofed Colonial farmhouse with a large brick center chimney, a stone exterior chimney, a 5-bay facade containing a central entry, and two

small, gabled dormers in front. It is set back from the road on a large tract of land that includes a family cemetery. In 1701 and 1709, Israel Arnold purchased 248 acres here, which he gave to his son Elisha, who subsequently divided the farm among five sons and grandsons in 1736, 1741, and 1745. Elisha's son Nathaniel received a 50-acre parcel on which he built this house. In 1798, the property went to Nathaniel's son Nathaniel Arnold, who served in the Revolutionary War and who ran a tavern on the Centerville Road known as "Black Nat's Tavern." Later owners included the Budlong family, the Young family by 1870, and the Jacobson family by 1895.

325 SUNSET VIEW CABINS/LEPRECHAUN MOTEL (early 20th century): A motor court consisting of a 1-1/2-story, L-plan office in front, with motel units behind, arranged in a semicircle. Nearer the front is a larger, 3- or 4-unit structure; beyond are several smaller, single-unit cottages. The office was originally an auto service station. This motel, known in 1947 as SunSet View Cabins, is typical of pre-World War II motor courts.

355 SLIVER TOP MOTEL (early 20th century): A motor court centered on a house near the highway, with several detached units, some single, some multiple, in a row behind the house.

REMINGTON STREET

(See Crompton village section)

RICE STREET

(See Crompton village section)

ROBERT STREET

(See Arctic village section)

ROOSEVELT STREET

(See Arctic village section)

SHIPPEE AVENUE

29-31 ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE (1912): An ivy-clad, 1-1/2-story bungalow with an irregular plan, a hip and gable roof with shed dormers; a large stone exterior chimney and a small fieldstone chimney, and a central, flat-roofed front porch with round columns. This picturesque house with foundation plantings occupies a spacious corner lot at Middle Street. Of all the bungalows in West Warwick, this

one most successfully emulates those found in southern California, where this type originated.

- 33 BLANCHARD HOUSE (1920s): A 1-1/2-story, jerkin-head-roof residence with large shed-roofed dormers at the front and rear, rafters that extend beyond the eaves, and an entrance porch at the left front formed by the overhanging roof.
- 37 PHILIPPE A. PINARD HOUSE (1920s): A 1-1/2-story hip-roof house with a jerkin-head front dormer; a 3-bay facade containing a central, sidelighted entrance; and a 1-story, hip-roofed porch across most of the front. It stands behind number 33.
- 41-45 GUERTIN HOUSE (1920s): A large, hip-roofed house with pebbly stuccoed walls in front, plain white walls at the sides, a porch on the left side of the facade with stuccoed posts, large front windows, several tall brick chimneys, and wide eaves. It occupies a large lot at the corner of West Street.

SISSON STREET

(See Phenix village section)

SUMMIT AVENUE

- 36 YVON ARCHAMBAULT HOUSE (early 20th century): This 2-story dwelling with a 3-story central section is the most unusual modernistic stuccoed house in West Warwick. The house is set into the slope of a hill with its first-floor main entrance on Summit Avenue and its third story level with Chestnut Street in the rear.
- 32 FRIGON HOUSE (c. 1915): A 2-1/2-story, wood-shingle and stucco house with a pedimented gable end facing the street and an unusual 1-story, stuccoed front porch with three arcaded opening and a parapet.
- 42 HOUSE (early 20th century): A 1-1/2-story, stuccoed, cross-gabled house, with an entrance at the right side of the facade sheltered by a porch with stuccoed posts.
- 92 MOREL HOUSE (c. 1920): An interesting 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled, bungalow-style dwelling, with "Japanesque" brackets, an exterior fieldstone chimney, a porch at the right side of the front with tapered fieldstone piers, and a low-pitched gable roof with broad eaves.

- 115 HOUSE (mid-19th century): A 1-1/2-story Greek Revival house with a small brick center chimney, a 5-bay facade with a central entrance, and an ell at the right rear that appears to be composed of telescoping sections.

SUNSET AVENUE

- 17 HOUSE (early 20th century): A 2-story, hip-roofed, foursquare house with a hip-roofed dormer in front, an entry near the center of a 3-bay facade, a large wraparound porch with a balustrade, and bay windows at the sides. The house is set back from the road on a large lot.
- 23 MCCUSKER HOUSE (early 20th century): A utilitarian 1-1/2-story house, set gable end to the street, with shed-roofed dormers at the sides; an entrance at the left side of the front; a 1-story, shed-roofed, open front porch with sunburst-motif brackets; and an ell at the rear, with large shed-roofed dormers, which appears to be formed of telescoping sections.
- 25 BRACKETT HOUSE (c. 1905): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled house with shingle and clapboard sides, a large brick center chimney, an entrance at the left side of the front, and a wraparound porch with a polygonal corner.

TIOGUE AVENUE

- 60 RUBE'S SERVICE STATION/AUTO WRECKING SERVICE (early 20th century): An early gasoline service station with a tall, hip-roofed portico on square posts extending forward from a 1-1/2-story section at the right side. To the left is a 1-story, flat-roofed garage section fronted with a parapet, and at the rear a more recent, 1-story, cinder block addition. In the 1940s this was Rube's Service Station; it now houses an auto wrecking business. The building, with its prominent porte-cochere, may be the only extant building of its type in West Warwick.

VINE STREET

(See Lippitt village section)

WAKEFIELD STREET

(See also Natick village section)

- 100 OSCAR MATTESON HOUSE (c. 1912): A 1-1/2-story, cross-gabled bungalow with an entrance porch supported by cemented granite-block piers and heavy, short, tapered wooden posts. There is a patio at the left side.
- * BURLINGAME FARM/WEST WINDS (18th century, early 20th century): A 2-1/2-story house, largely screened from view by heavy evergreen plantings, with a large, pilastered brick chimney painted white; a large Doric portico in front; and a 2-story ell at the rear with a brick end chimney. The house was originally in the Burlingame family, owners of a large tract of land here. There is a Burlingame family cemetery (West Warwick Number 20) across the road, next to the West Warwick Country Club. The 18th-century farmhouse, remodeled in the Colonial Revival style in the early 20th century, was the residence of Robert E. Quinn, who served Rhode Island as a state senator (1923-25), as lieutenant governor (1933-36), as governor (1937-39), and as a Superior Court judge (1941-51), and was also Chief Justice of the United States Court of Military Appeals (1951-75). This property and land across the road, including the golf course, is still owned by the Quinn family.

WASHINGTON STREET

(See Arctic village section)

WATER STREET

(See Natick village section)

WEAVER STREET

(See Arctic village section)

WEST STREET

- 169 HOUSE (1950s): A 1-story, flat-roofed, vertical-board-sided modern residence with an off-center recessed entrance, a large rectangular brick chimney at the rear, large plate-glass windows, and a garage door on the left of the facade. The house is one of several in West Warwick reflecting the influence of the International Style.

WEST WARWICK AVENUE

(See Crompton village section)

WOODSIDE AVENUE

*22 GREENE HOUSE (late 19th century): A 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled, Queen Anne house with shingle and clapboard sides, a double-door entry near the center, a shed-roofed porch with a sunburst motif in a gabled section, and a 1-story bay window at the right side. This house is one of the finest of its type in town.

WAYNE WHITMAN HOUSE (1930s): A large, square, 2-1/2-story Bracketed house, with a monitor-on-hip roof, two tall brick exterior chimneys, and several 1-story ells. The house is sited back and out of view from the street, on a large lot that includes a large, L-shaped garage and barn-like structure, with a cupola.

55 FLANAGAN HOUSE (c. 1898): A 1-1/2-story Bracketed house, set gable end to the street with an entry under a bracketed hood at the left side of the facade, and a 1-story, flat-roofed porch at the right side of the facade.

96 SINNOTT HOUSE (c. 1928): A 2-story, Neo-Colonial house with a 3-bay facade; a central pedimented portico sheltering an entrance with a semi-elliptical fanlight; a large, rectangular, brick exterior chimney; and 1-story, flat-roofed wings at each side, topped with roof balustrades.

100 FRANK P. DUFFY HOUSE (c. 1925): A 2-story, gambrel-roofed house with a 3-bay facade; a central entrance with a semi-elliptical hood, fanlight, and sidelights; interior end chimneys; a large shed dormer across the front; and 1-story, flat-roofed wings at each side.

YOUNGS AVENUE

128 YOUNG HOUSE (c. 1880): A 2-1/2-story, mansard-roofed house with a 1-story, flat-roofed, bracketed porch across the front; an entrance trimmed with carpenterwork brackets; and brackets and modillions at the eaves.

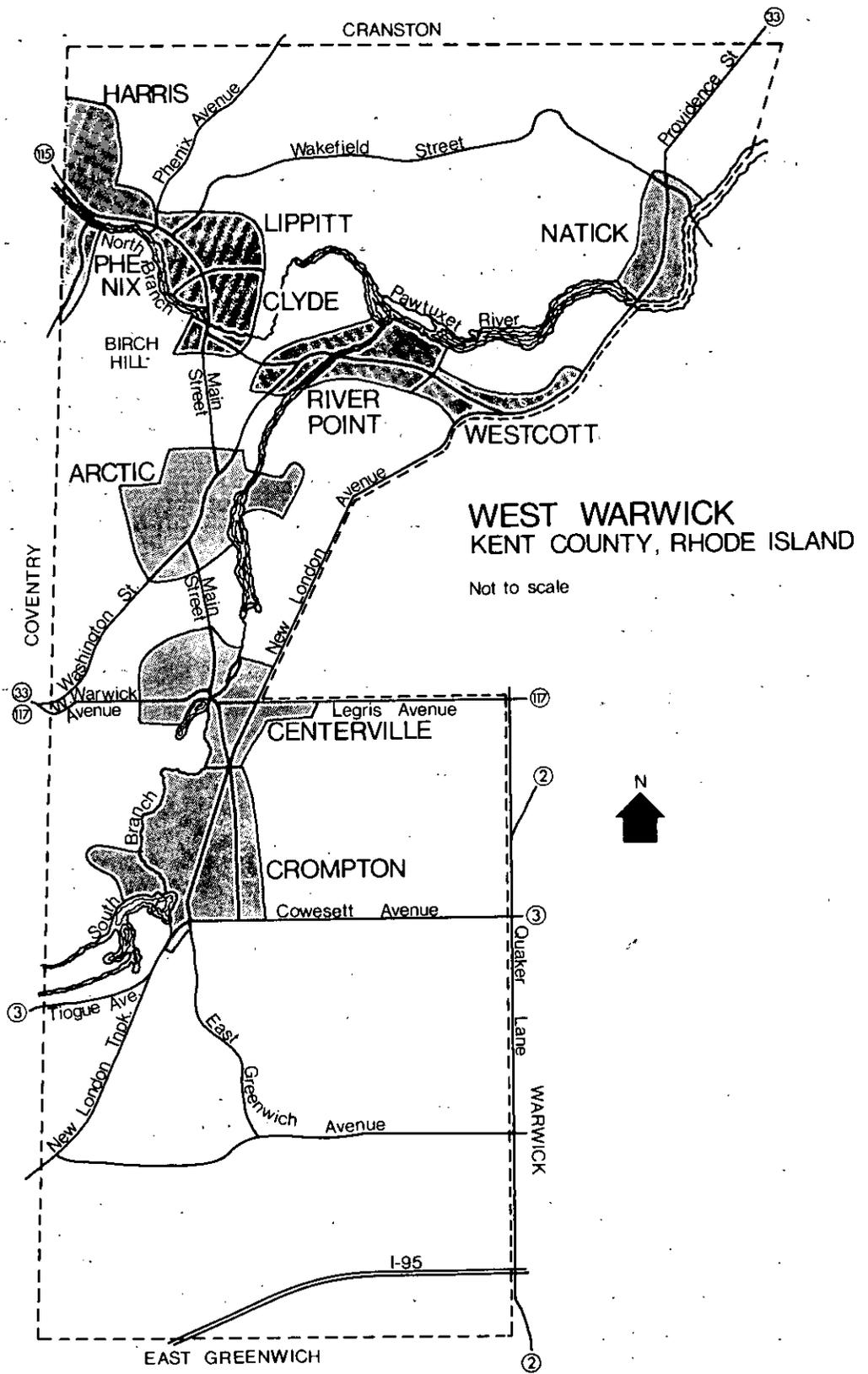
39-41 RYDER HOUSE (c. 1890): A 2-1/2-story Bracketed house with a monitor-like roof on a hip roof and a 1-story, shed-roofed, wraparound porch, with a polygonal corner, at the right front. A fine shingle and clapboard barn with a cupola stands at the rear of the lot.

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