

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



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Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT

TOWN OF COVENTRY

February 1978

This document is a copy of the original survey published in 1978.  
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.

For up-to-date information, please contact:

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission  
150 Benefit St.  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401)222-2678      [www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov)      [info@preservation.ri.gov](mailto:info@preservation.ri.gov)

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RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

150 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

## PREFACE

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, established by the General Assembly in 1968, is charged with the responsibility of safeguarding Rhode Island's cultural heritage. In order to provide an overview of the physical record of this heritage, the Commission has initiated a "broadbrush" or preliminary planning survey of the rural and suburban towns of the state. The purpose of this initial inventory is to identify and record properties of historic and architectural significance in each town. Presently, archeological resources are treated through a separate survey effort being conducted by the Commission. The preliminary surveys provide a catalogue of nonrenewable cultural resources which is needed for a variety of planning purposes at the local, state and national levels. They identify sites, districts and structures eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and they become the basis for establishing historical preservation priorities based on problems and potentials discovered as part of the survey process.

The preliminary survey is accomplished by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on large-scale United States Geological Survey maps (or other maps that may be more appropriate) each building or site of particular architectural, visual, cultural or historic significance. Each property is photographed and recorded on a standard data sheet which includes a physical description and notations concerning

history, use, condition and architectural style or period. The significance of each property is determined in a preliminary fashion and properties are designated as being in one of three categories: properties already on or approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; properties recommended at the staff level for nomination to the Register; and other significant properties, some of which, with further study and review, may be determined to be eligible for the Register. Archeological sites are covered in separate, but coordinated, preliminary surveys and are mentioned only incidentally in these studies.

Previous studies are reviewed and town histories, reports and other readily available information are researched to ensure that all published historic sites and structures are included in the study. Local planners and historians are consulted wherever possible.

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

## INTRODUCTION

The following study covers the historical and architectural resources of Coventry. It provides the basic information needed so that cultural resources can begin to be properly considered in making future planning decisions at all levels. The report includes a brief, illustrated account of Coventry's architectural and developmental history. Section II is a comprehensive list of properties in Coventry already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, followed by those approved for the Register and those recommended for nomination to the National Register as a result of the preliminary survey. Section III is an annotated inventory of properties of historical and architectural importance in the town.

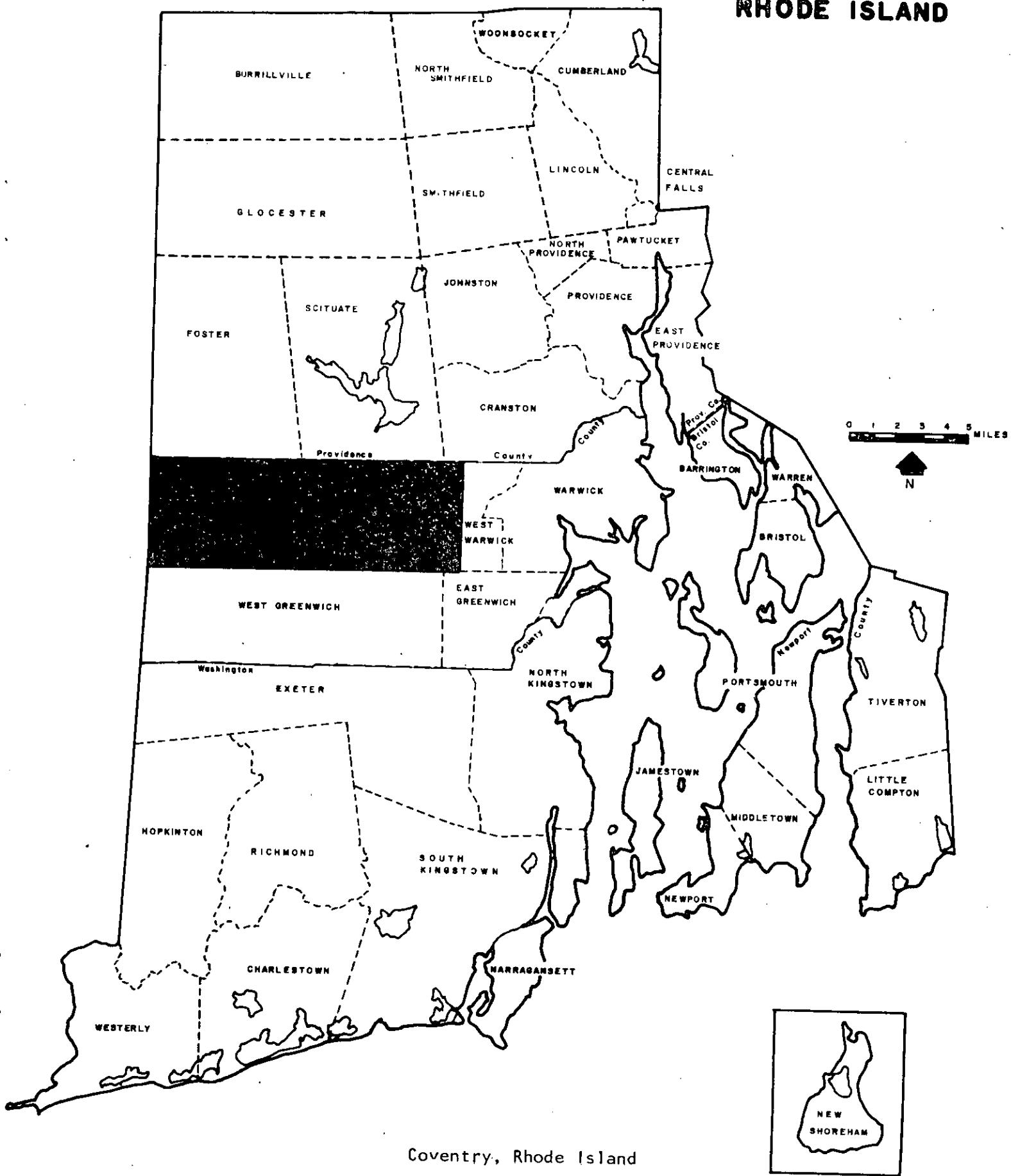
The inventory numbers are keyed to the small-scale locational map at the rear of this publication. For more precise information on the location of properties, reference should be made to the large, preliminary-broadbrush, cultural-resource survey map prepared by the Historical Preservation Commission and drawn at a scale of one inch to one thousand feet.

The Commission would like to thank the many Coventry officials, residents and scholars who assisted in the conduct of the preliminary survey and in the publication of this report.

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# RHODE ISLAND



Coventry, Rhode Island

## I. ANALYSIS

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Coventry, the largest township in Rhode Island, is situated in the northwestern portion of Kent County, about nineteen miles southwest of Providence. Rectangular in shape and 62.2 square miles in area, it is approximately fourteen miles in length from east to west, and four miles wide. Parts of Foster, Scituate and Cranston border Coventry on the north; Warwick and West Warwick border it on the east; East and West Greenwich border it on the south; and Connecticut borders it on the west. The central and western sections of the town are largely rural, rolling and wooded, with a sparse population and few village centers. Eastern Coventry, by contrast is more densely populated, with numerous compact mill villages, one beside the other, creating linear urbanized zones sited along the many falls of the Flat and Pawtuxet Rivers.

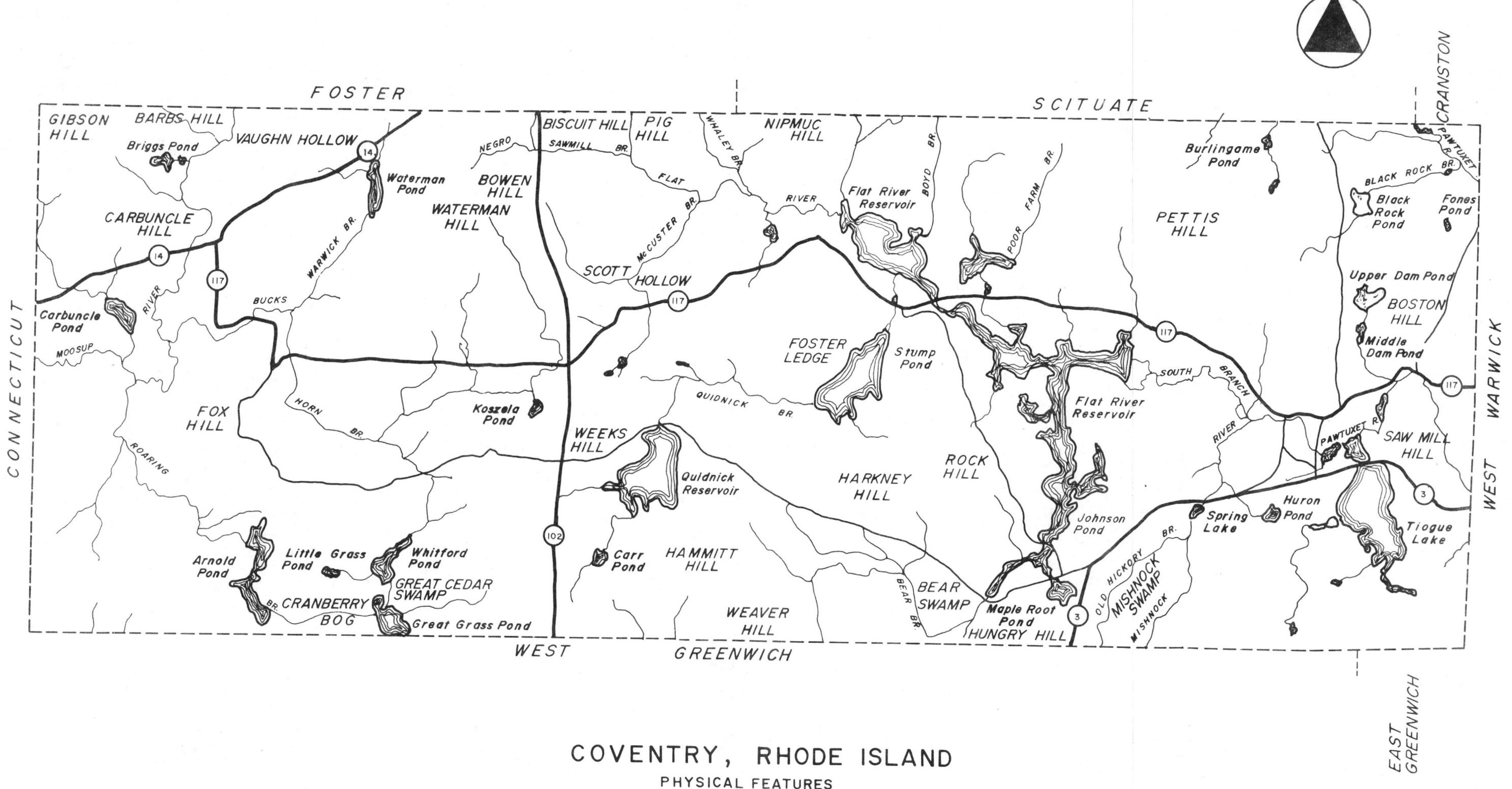
Coventry topography consists of rocky hills with glacial outcroppings, abundant ponds, streams and brooks and considerable woodlands made up of red and white pine, maple and oak. The Flat River cuts diagonally across the middle of the township from east to west, moving slowly through rolling terrain and draining into numerous ponds and lake-reservoirs. This south branch of the Pawtuxet River is so named because it falls no more than sixteen inches to the mile in the six-mile stretch of river near the village of Washington.

The most fertile farmlands are situated near streams on formerly marshy bottom land. The areas chosen for camp site

settlements by the prehistoric ancestors of the Narragansett and Nipmuc Indians were, for the most part, those same marshy open meadows that would provide pasture lands for the early settlers.

#### EARLY HISTORY AND SETTLEMENT (1643-1806)

The town lies within the Shawomet Purchase of 1643, in which lands including present-day Coventry, Warwick and West Warwick were sold to Samuel Gorton and eleven associates by Miantonomi, chief sachem of the Narragansett Indians. Coventry's northern and southern borders coincide with those of the purchase. Initially part of the town of Warwick, the western areas of the purchase remained relatively isolated and uninhabited for most of the seventeenth century. A survey was not undertaken until 1692. The land was not divided all at one time but in four successive tracts, starting in 1701 and ending in 1735. A re-survey of the colony line in 1739 added a strip of land on the western border. This was laid out in fourteen additional lots. The population of Warwick more than doubled in the first thirty years of the eighteenth century and people began to move to what is now Coventry. With increased settlement, the problem of being remote from the center of government became acute, and petitions were addressed to the General Assembly suggesting that this western territory be set off as a new township. Thus, in 1741, Coventry became the Rhode Island Colony's sixteenth incorporated township.



MARCH, 1978

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SCALE OF FEET

Early eighteenth-century settlement consisted of isolated farmhouses, most of them simple one-and-a-half-story dwellings with massive, brick, central chimneys and gable or gambrel roofs. With increased prosperity, the characteristic two-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney farmhouse with a five-bay facade and a central entrance became the most common form of dwelling, a house type which persisted into the early nineteenth century. Such farmhouses were but one element of the characteristic farm complex, which was comprised of barns, a wagon shed, wood house, a corncrib and swill house, as well as the usual domestic dependencies like a wellhead or spring house, privy and, often, a family cemetery. Equally a part of any farm were the planting fields, meadows, orchards, wood lots and the stone walls and dirt lanes which divided them. An intact, archetypal farm complex in an agricultural landscape is rarely found in Rhode Island today. A fine Coventry example is the Nicholas Farm (65\*) on Nicholas Road near the western border of the town. The most common surviving element of early farm complexes are the farmhouses themselves. In Coventry, the best examples are found in areas which retain place names associated with their early colonial settlers like Whaley's Hollow (27), Vaughn Hollow (38-B), Scott's Hollow (70), Wickes Hill (73), Hill Farm (61), Carr Pond (72) and Hopkins Hill (63). Farms of generally no more than one hundred acres constituted

\*The letter-and-number codes in parenthesis refer to the Inventory and to the survey map which are located at the end of the Report.

the base of the early eighteenth-century economy in Coventry; its location made it an important part of the productive hinterland; and, by the end of the century, Coventry farmers were exchanging grain, lumber and dairy products in Providence for store-bought goods.

Rapid eighteenth-century settlement in Coventry took place along what were the major thoroughfares of the time. The Eight Rod Highway, begun in 1728, ran lengthwise across the southern half of the township, serving as "Ye main highway which headeth from ye Apponaug to Voluntown."<sup>1</sup> Many of the older homesteads can still be found along the country roads which follow the old agricultural trade route--along Nooseneck Hill, Harkney Hill (58), Perry Hill (20) and Sand Hill roads. It is said that the East Greenwich to Hartford stagecoach line travelled north towards Coventry on the Three Rod Highway, joining the Eight Rod Highway at Sand Hill. The ruins of a large colonial tavern complex can still be seen along Sand Hill Road (67), where the stage made an overnight stop.

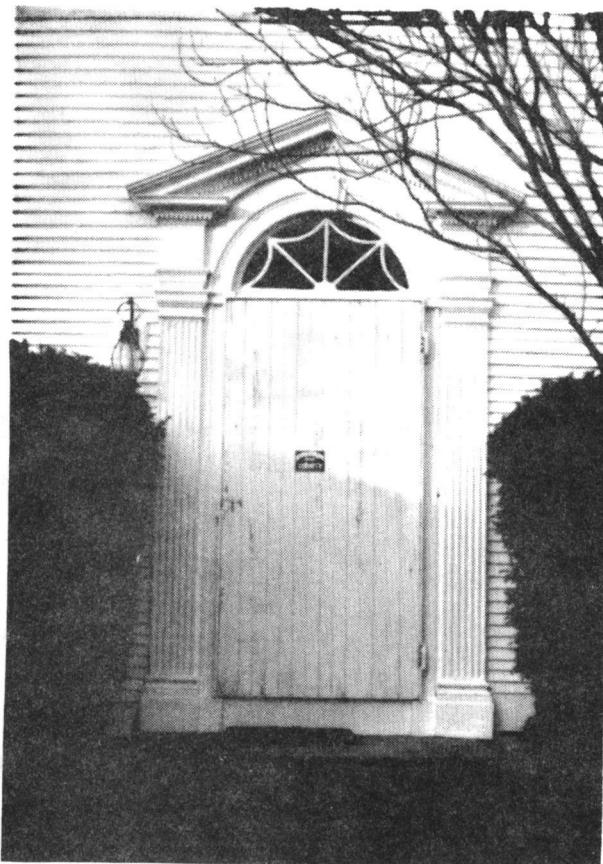
The Great North Road had been started in 1714. It is more than sixty miles long, with its longest stretch in Coventry. This road, known in the nineteenth century as the Plainfield Pike and now State Route 14, was the northern equivalent to the Eight Rod Highway and was the major overland route--"vary much in use by travoling from town to town and to mills and market."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Town Meeting Records, Quorter Meeting Book, August 1752.

<sup>2</sup>Petitions to the R.I. Assembly, February 1739-1740, Vol. 4: 1739-1740.



Israel Wilson House (1814); Harkney Hill Road.  
(Map # 58)



Israel Wilson House; door detail.

Heavy traffic obliged the Town Council to petition the General Assembly for highway repairs, and the Council also required that "every housekeeper work (on the highway) four days in a year...."<sup>3</sup> as was true throughout Rhode Island. Coventry became less isolated due to this major road. Local farmers started new businesses along the roadside as an adjunct to farming that included grist-mills to grind locally grown cereals and sawmills to produce lumber. A good example of a working up-and-down sawmill is still standing at Roaring Brook Farm (15-C) at Hopkins Hollow, on the site of an early eighteenth-century sawmill and gristmill complex, known at that time as Rice's Mills. The roadside farms were also dotted with fulling mills, carding mills, cider mills, cooperages and tanneries. In 1794, the Great North Road was repaired and taken over by a turnpike company. The Providence-Norwich Turnpike (better known as the Plainfield Turnpike) was the second toll road in Rhode Island. A toll gate and booth (38-H) were located at Walker's Toll in Rice City. Here, the various tolls were collected: twelve and a half cents for four-wheeled vehicles drawn by more than two horses; if drawn by two, ten cents; with pleasure carriages drawn by one horse paying a mere eight cents.

Rice City, situated on the western stretch of the Plainfield Pike, near the Connecticut border, is the best remaining local example of a late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century village settlement that depended on the turnpike trade for its livelihood. This well preserved village has been recommended for nomination

\*Town Meeting Records, Quorter Meeting Book: November 1741.

to the National Register of Historic Places.

The most visible roadside establishments were taverns which catered to travellers as well as the local populace. Town life, such as it was, centered about the large tap rooms and common rooms where social and political meetings were held. More than forty licensed taverns existed at one time or another in Coventry before the Revolution. Because of the heavy traffic on the Providence-Norwich turnpike, three taverns were established to accommodate the many travellers who chose to stay overnight, as Rice City was halfway between Providence and Norwich. Of these, both the Gibbs (38-P) and the McGregor (38-M) taverns have since burned, although foundations and ruins still remain at the undisturbed sites. However, the Rice City Tavern (38-I), the most notorious for drinking and gambling, still stands. The Town Council held its meetings in taverns until 1835, preferring to frequent Waterman Tavern (28) on "Meeting Days."

On "Training Days," the local militia also met at Waterman's, which still commands an excellent view of the fields that were the camping ground for Rochambeau's armies on their way to Yorktown in 1781 and on their way home to France the following year. The route the French followed, the Great North Road, was the major overland highway route in the eighteenth century--the Route 95 of its day.

By the middle of the eighteenth century, the Greenes, an important Warwick family, had established a trading outpost at a spot between the present-day villages of Quidnick and Anthony. An ironworks at Maroon Swamp near Coventry Centre and a forge



Isaac Bowen House (c. 1795); Waterman Hill Road.  
(Map # 36).



Town Asylum (c. 1790); Town Farm Road.  
(Map # 33)

at Quidnick were run by Nathanael Greene. Although not a native son, he is Coventry's most famous man. The Greene home (1-E) on Taft Street in Anthony, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a National Historic Landmark has been the focus of the town's major preservation effort. Restored and open to the public, it is a museum shrine to Nathanael Greene, whose name, to many, is synonymous with Coventry history, just as George Washington is to American history.

By the third quarter of the eighteenth century, Coventry was a series of rural settlement clusters linked together by two major east-west roads and many former Indian trails. The Waterman Tavern functioned as the unofficial political and governmental center. The religious center, however, was to be found as far south as Waterman's is north--at Maple Root. Here, the "new" Meetinghouse (55), built in 1797 and still in use, has remained the most influential of the Conference of Six-Principle Baptist churches.

#### NINETEENTH-CENTURY DEVELOPMENT: THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND THE RAILROAD

The first factory-system industry in the United States, textiles, originated in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, in the 1790s. A great spur to the growth in the textile industry came with Thomas Jefferson's Embargo Act of 1807, which cut off supplies of imported fabrics. Immediately, and for the next two decades, small textile mills, mostly producing cotton yarn, were established all over the state. Mills were built where water power

was available, and Coventry had an abundance of such sites. Unlike the largely seasonal eighteenth-century sawmills, gristmills and fulling mills, nineteenth-century textile mills required a settled population of workers, and in Coventry half a dozen new villages sprang up: Anthony (1806); Arkwright (1809); Shoethread (1809), now Coventry Centre; Washington; (1810) Taftville (1811), now Quidnick; and Harris (1821). In contrast to the earlier isolated rural settlements, which grew up haphazardly along the turnpikes, these new mill villages displayed a conscious attempt at planning. Uniform, company-owned housing was crucial to the success of a mill village. A steady labor force was attracted by housing which included both single- and two-family homes with enough land for kitchen gardens and by a village complete with company stores, company farms, schools and places of worship.

Of these six mill villages, many still retain some of their nineteenth-century visual character. Harris (23) is the most intact of all the villages; its mill, dense mill housing and the many elaborate Greek Revival and Victorian homes of the mill owners are intact; it has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Arkwright (2), its neighbor, has by comparison fared worse, a victim of adverse development and change. Its sense of place has been lost somewhat. Due to its siting it owed much of its livelihood to its extensions in Scituate and Cranston, and its social and industrial relationship was with the villages of Fiskeville, Jackson (no longer recognizable villages) and Harris. Coventry Centre (13), although its two mills survive along with some mill housing, has lost much



Rice City Church (1846); Vaughn Hollow Road. (Map #38-W)



Isaac Fisk Farm (1890); Plainfield Pike, Rice City. (Map #38-K)

of its other village components, such as its church, school and nonmill housing. Flat River Road (Route 117) also cuts through the village.

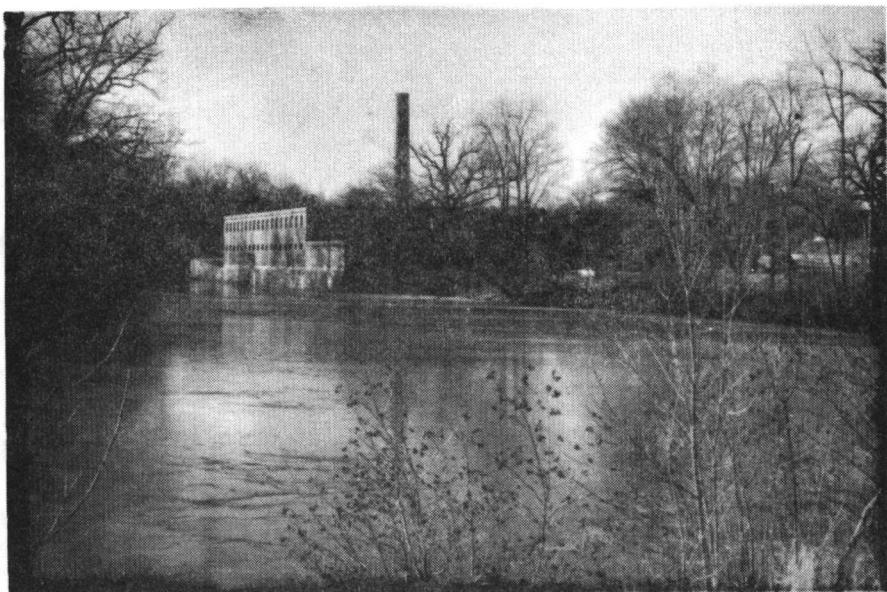
Quidnick (37), Anthony (1) and Washington (42) seem to the untrained eye like one large village. This is due largely to the widening of Flat River Road (Route 117). The road has cut each village unit in half, and destroyed the nineteenth-century quality of their main streets; yet it has also strung them together, thus reducing their individual character. These three villages, always the most prosperous and sizeable of those in Coventry, were the only ones to sustain noncompany housing. The variety in village architecture is seen in residential and commercial structures and spans several periods. By the late Victorian period, many of the other mill villages were experiencing a depression--but here the main streets and many side streets still reveal a handful of eighteenth-century dwellings and a high proportion of austere early nineteenth-century mill houses side by side with a variety of Greek Revival and Victorian residential dwellings. Taken together, they constitute wealth of vernacular village architecture unparalleled in the rest of the town.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Coventry began to institutionalize its social services by acquiring the Briggs Farm near Potterville for use as the Town Asylum and Poor Farm (33). Previously, the indigent and sick were boarded out in private homes or apprenticed as indentured servants. This area, at the eastern edge of Potterville, had been the site of several

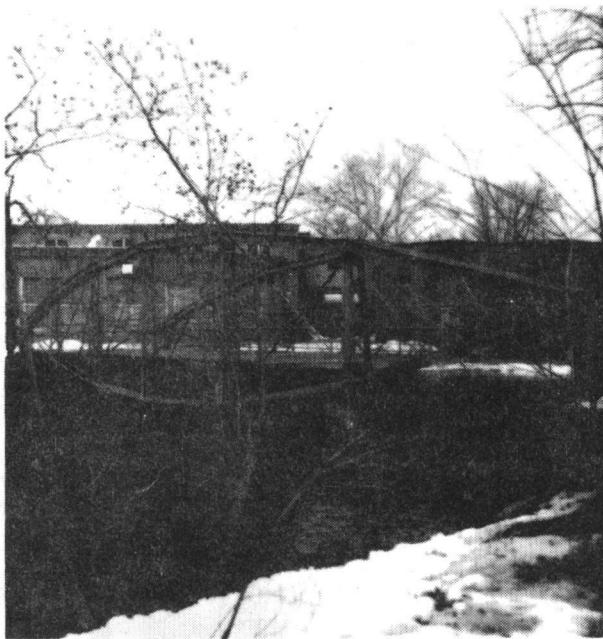
small pox hospitals in the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, it was necessary to purchase another farmstead to serve as a Pest House--quarantine center and hospital--serving the town as recently as 1911 but demolished since.

By 1856, all the important mill villages were linked by the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad, allowing for quick transportation of raw materials and finished goods. Soon the railroad was also bringing in coal to fuel steam engines, which augmented the water power available at the mill sites. At this time the population shifted the taverns and hamlet villages like Potterville, Rice City and Hopkins Hollow that had clustered about the stage coach routes began to decline and the railroad-served mill villages became the focus of new settlement. The railroad villages of Greene and Summit were established; both began as railroad stations and grew to be commercial centers in western Coventry. Many farms were deserted; villages like Rice City and Hopkins Hollow were reduced to sleepy intersections, with the new commercial and social centers shifting to Greene, Summit and Coventry Centre.

Reflecting these changes, the Town House, built in 1835 along the "Great North Road" at Potterville, was abandoned and a new Town House was proposed for Coventry Centre (13-0) in 1879. The site was chosen for its central location and accessibility by railroad. This attempted centralization of town government proved unworkable, however, and soon Washington became the town center, which it remains today.



View of Millstream at Arkwright.



Interlaken Mill Bridge (c. 1885); Arkwright.  
(Map # 2-C)

## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The textile mills were Coventry's economic mainstay until the early twentieth century when the industry suffered a general and extensive decline. Many businesses relocated in the South and a number of Coventry mills closed for good. Nonetheless, the textile industry is still the town's largest employer, accounting for over 38 per cent of all manufacturing employment. The mills at Anthony, Quidnick, Harris, Arkwright and Coventry Centre are all still in use, although some have been converted to accommodate other light-manufacturing industries.

With the upgrading of state roads, like Routes 102 and 117, in the 1920s and, more recently, with the construction of a connector from Route 3 to Interstate 95, highways are bringing Coventry closer to metropolitan Providence. As a result, the eastern half of the township is again experiencing development in the form of new homes near the established centers, as well as resort homes situated alongside the old mill reservoirs at Tiogue, Flat River and Quidnick.

## SUMMARY

Taken together, the sites and structures recorded by this preliminary survey illustrate the emergence of Coventry from a rural colonial town to an industrial center in the Pawtuxet River Valley while still retaining much of the richness of its agricultural past in the western half of the township.

The following inventory is an annotated compendium of the sites and structures which the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission considers to be of particular importance to the town's heritage and worthy of preservation. Future planning decisions affecting these properties should take into consideration their significance.



Double Mill Houses (c. 1848); Hill Farm Road, Coventry Centre.  
(Map # 13-G)



Foster Ledge Quarrymen's House (c. 1862); Trestle Trail,  
Coventry Centre. (Map # 13-P)



## II. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is a record maintained by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, of structures, sites, areas and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture. It is the official inventory of the nation's cultural and historical resources which are worthy of preservation. National Historic Landmarks, the nation's most historically important buildings and sites, are included in the National Register of Historic Places as well as other properties of national, state, and local significance which have been nominated by the states and approved by the National Park Service.

Several Coventry structures are already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Placement in the Register affords them a limited form of protection from potentially damaging federal programs through a review process. They are also eligible for certain tax benefits and federally funded matching grants-in-aid for restoration (the Nathanael Greene Homestead, for example, received a \$2,000 matching grant in 1972). As a result of this survey a number of additional structures, sites and districts have been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The list of possible National Register properties should not be considered final and absolute. As new research is conducted, as the town changes physically and as new perspectives on the community's history and what cultural properties are worth saving evolve, other potential candidates for the Register may be identified.

Structures already listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Nathanael Greene Homestead, Taft Street, Anthony (1-E)\*  
(also a National Historic Landmark)

Waterman Tavern, Maple Valley Road, Potterville (28)

Paine House, Station Street, Washington (42-Q)

For a more detailed description see Inventory and the National Register file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.

Structures, Sites and Districts Recommended for Nomination to  
The National Register of Historic Places (See Inventory  
for descriptions)

Anthony Mill, Washington Street, Anthony (1-G)

Interlaken Mill Bridge, Arkwright (2-C)

Arkwright Bridge, Arkwright (2-B)

Nicholas Farm, Nicholas Road (65)

Harris Mill Village Historic District (23)

Hill Farm, Hill Farm Road (24)

Town Asylum-Poor Farm, Town Farm Road (33)

Isaac Bowen House, Waterman Hill Road (36)

Potter-Moore House, Route 102 (71)

Rice City Historic District (38)

Read Schoolhouse, Flat River Road (50)

Ruins of Arnold Acid Works, House and Cemetery Number Forty-Two,  
Flat River Road (53)

Maple Root Baptist Church, Harkney Hill Road (55)

\*Letter and number codes appearing in parenthesis following each designated property in this list are those which identify these properties in the Inventory and on the survey map.



Anthony Mill (1874); Washington Street, Anthony.  
Front View. (Map # 1-G)



Anthony Mill. Rear View

### III. PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN COVENTRY

This inventory is an annotated key to the preliminary survey map of Coventry. The numbers refer to the map at the back of the report (e.g. 1--Anthony village).

A more detailed map at a scale of 1":1000' which locates properties and outlines districts more fully and precisely is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the Coventry Town House; copies have also gone to the State Department of Transportation, the Statewide Planning Program and the Department of Community Affairs.

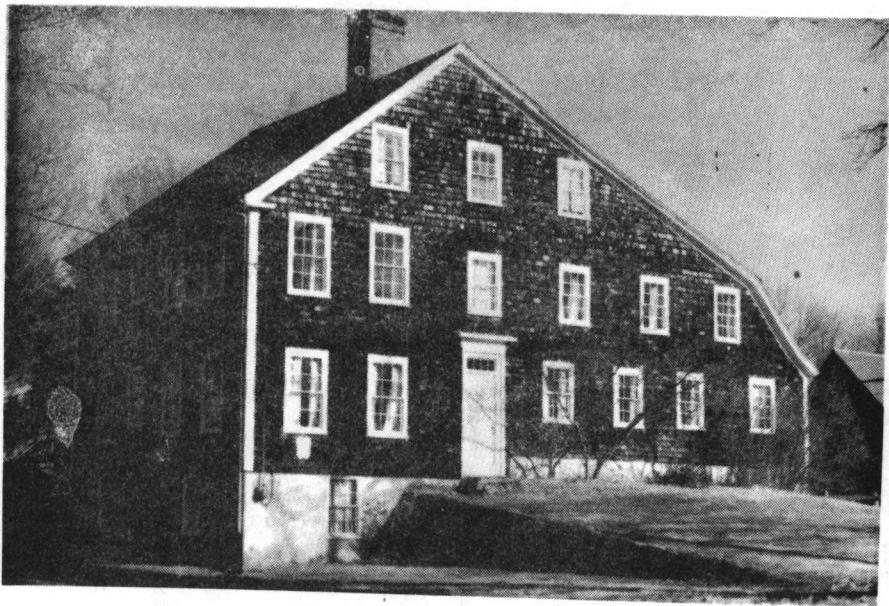
Material in this inventory is presented by geographic area--village by village, arranged alphabetically. Each village inventory is preceded by a summary of the village's developmental history. These inventories are followed by a listing of structures and sites located outside village centers. These are presented alphabetically by road with properties on those roads presented in numerical order. Dating of structures, or their historical and architectural period, is determined by use of markers, written material, nineteenth-century maps and knowledgeable residents or by an examination of architectural style and the use of certain construction materials.

1. ANTHONY

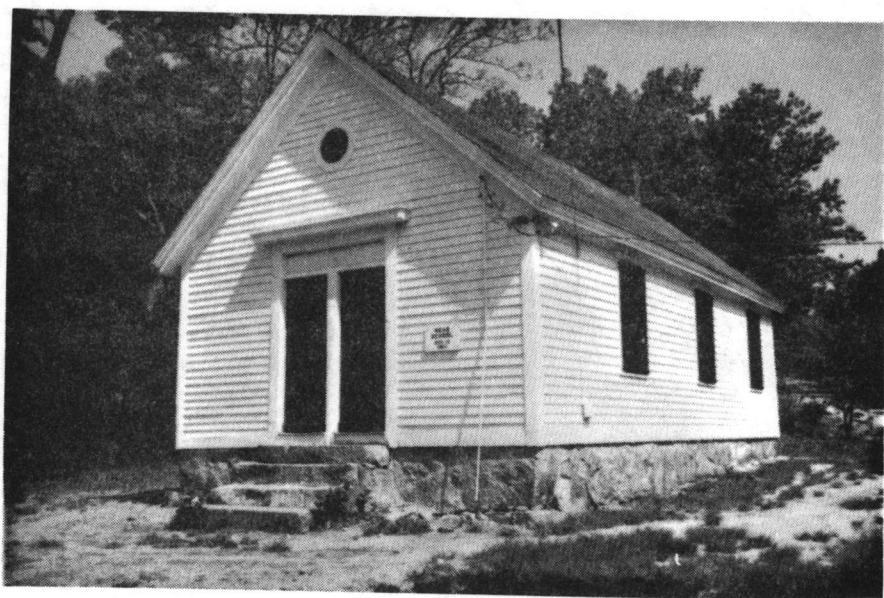
Anthony is located between Washington and Quidnick on the southwestern branch of the Pawtuxet, commonly known as the Flat River. Much of the land facing what is now the center of Quidnick from across the river was known as "Greenville" in the eighteenth century, for here, overlooking the river and the family forge, the Greenes built the "Homestead" occupied by the future General Nathanael Greene who came to Coventry to take over the management of the family's interests. The Nathanael Greene Homestead (1774), located at the foot of Taft Street, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. Nathanael Greene went on to become one of the foremost military leaders in the Revolutionary War. The present village is named for Richard and William Anthony who, with several others, formed the Coventry Company in 1805. Using the water rights sold to them along with a sawmill and gristmill by Jacob Greene (brother of General Nathanael Greene), they started spinning cotton in one of the first cotton mills in the state. This was a small wooden mill, eighty feet long, built in 1806. It was replaced by a 6-story mill in 1810, said to be the largest in the state at that time. They also built a machine shop for Perez Peck, near Peck's Pond. It was here that Peck and Sisson developed the Sisson power loom. A company-owned village was laid out with several streets of substantial 2-family houses. The village was largely a Quaker settlement, and the 1825 Quaker Meetinghouse still stands, although not used for its original purpose. In 1873, the old mills were dismantled and the 1810 mill survives as a 3-story warehouse. A 5-story stone mill was erected with an impressive tower belfry and elaborately embellished with granite and brick. The mill is still used for textile manufacture and has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Because of its location between Coventry's two other important village and manufacturing centers--Washington and Quidnick--Anthony has a large population and many buildings dating from the first decade of the 19th century survive. Due to its continued prosperity throughout the 19th century, there are also a considerable number of fine residential and commerical Victorian buildings.

ANTHONY, ARNOLD and BOSTON STREETS

- 1-A. Coventry Company Housing (1810): Substantial, 2-story, 2-family houses with gable roofs and large center chimneys, providing fireplaces in every room and separate baking ovens. There are separate entrances at the gable ends. Over forty such houses were built by the Coventry Company as housing for the mill workers in their cotton mill; the majority survive.



Paine House (c. 1748); Station Street, Washington.  
(Map # 42-Q)



Read Schoolhouse (1831); Harkney Hill Road.  
(Map # 50)

## LAUREL AVENUE

- 1-B. House (25-27 Laurel Avenue, corner Taft; c. 1885): A Late Victorian, 1½-story, mansard-roofed house with an elaborate cornice; the motifs are repeated in the matching cornice over the bay window and in the bracketed doorhood. The house was the property of Elizabeth M. Warner in 1895. The Warners were listed as farmers in the 1892 Pawtuxet Valley Directory.

## MAPLEDALE STREET

- 1-C. Anthony School (1844): A Greek Revival, 1-story school-house, with an oculus in the pedimented end gable. The gable roof is surmounted by a cupola. There are separate entrances for boys and girls at the gable end. There is a third entrance, projecting and enclosed at the side of the building. It is no longer used as a school, but for storage.

## MEETING STREET

- 1-D. Quaker Meetinghouse (1825): A simple, 1½-story, gable-roofed meetinghouse with a cemetery adjacent. Before the village was officially named Anthony, it was often referred to as "Quaker Village." Worship began here in 1813, in a schoolhouse. A lot was obtained in 1821 and the meetinghouse was erected four years later. Worship was discontinued in 1915, and the building was sold in 1926 to a club; it is still used as a club.

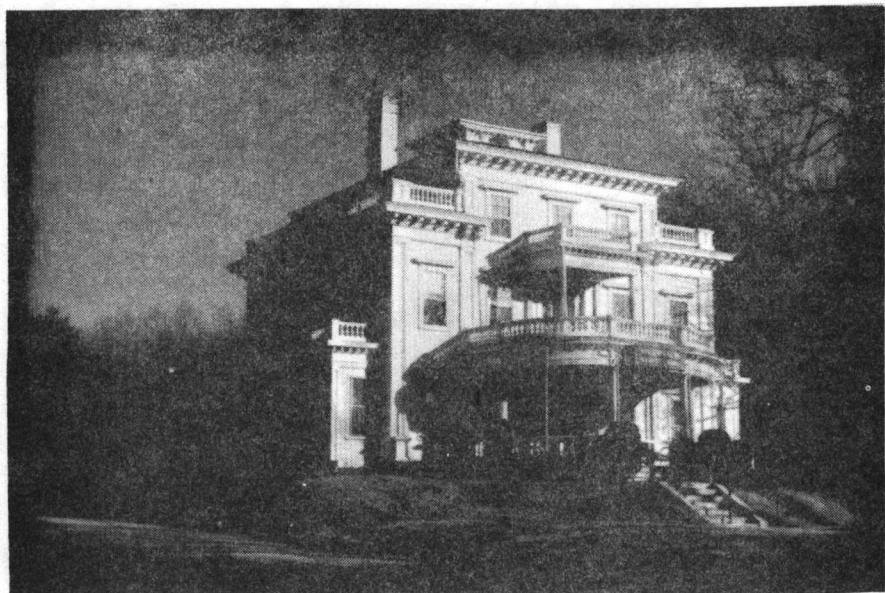
## TAFT STREET

- 1-E. Nathanael Greene Homestead (1774): This 2½-story house, set on a granite foundation, has a gable roof, two interior chimney stacks and a 4-room, central-hall plan. It was built for Nathanael Greene after he came to Greeneville to take over management of the Greene forge and other family interests in Coventry. Greene became a major Revolutionary War figure, and is often considered the ablest of Washington's generals. The Homestead has been restored and is maintained as a house museum, open to the public by the Nathanael Greene Homestead Association. The property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark.

- 1-F. Archaeological Site: Within the limits of the Homestead property are the remains of a prehistoric Indian camp site and the site of the Greene forge, located near the fall of the south branch of the Pawtuxet River.

WASHINGTON STREET

- 1-G. Anthony Mill (1874): Designed by the Providence architectural firm Stone and Carpenter. This 5-story, stuccoed, rubble-stone cotton mill has a massive central projecting tower with a belfry. The windows have brick surrounds and rock-faced granite sills. The corners of the building are delineated with quoins. Architecturally, it is one of the finest mills in Rhode Island and has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Included in the complex are the much altered remains of the 1810 Anthony Mill.
- 1-H. Mill Agent's House (617 Washington Street; early 19th century): A 2½-story, gable-roofed dwelling with splayed lintels and an elaborate portico entrance, built to house the mill agent for the Coventry Company. Eugene Warner, a lawyer, and his brother John, superintendent for the Coventry Company mills lived here in 1892.
- 1-I. Mill Overseers' House (619 Washington Street; early 19th century): A large, 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling, built to house the overseers for the Coventry Company. Part of the building overlooks Boston Street; its Washington Street facade overlooks a small green, with a bench and a war memorial, situated directly opposite the mill.
- 1-J. Coventry Bank (667 Washington Street; c. 1840): A 2½-story Greek Revival building with a gable roof and two interior chimneys. The Coventry Bank was organized here in 1852. The building has been altered; its handsome portico entrance and side porch are later additions.
- 1-K. Anthony Library (672 Washington Street; 1902): A brick, 1-story library with a slate mansard roof. The Library Association was chartered in 1808 and met previously in many locations.
- 1-L. Nina Nicholas House (681 Washington Street; c. 1882): A Late Victorian, 2½-story residence, set back from the street. It has a cross-gabled roof with a corner bay capped by a turret; there is an open porch across the front facade. The house is named for its present owner, the former owner of the Nicholas Farm. The house was built by Searles Capwell, a local builder, who ran a planing and turning mill and a sash and blind shop on the site of Perez Peck's machine shop in Anthony. Capwell built many of the Late Victorian residences in Anthony and this is a fine example.
- 1-M. Byron Read Building (702 Washington Street; c. 1882): A 1½-story mansard-roofed commercial building with store fronts across the facade of the first floor. The largest



Elisha Harris House (c. 1840); 546 Main Street, Harris.  
(Map # 23-F)



Christopher Greene House (1882); 2 Potter Court, Harris.  
(Map # 23-P)

store in town at the turn-of-the-century, it sold furniture and hardware items; an undertaking business was also located in this building.

- 1-N. Byron Read House (721 Washington Street; c. 1887): A 3-story, many gabled, Late Victorian house, built as a home for Byron Read who had the largest store in town and was also the town undertaker. The building is presently used as a funeral parlor.
- 1-O. Manchester Estate (777 Washington Street; 1808-1815): There are two houses here: a 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof and center chimney, portico entrance and a porch with a gazebo roof; and a 2½-story, square residence with a hip roof and a portico with a balustrade. Both houses were built by the Manchester family and owned by them until recently.
- 1-P. Knotty Oak Baptist Church (793 Washington Street; c. 1840): Situated at a cross roads where four cemeteries meet, the church was originally a simple Greek Revival Meetinghouse. It has been transformed by the addition of a steeple-belfry, rose-window and, more recently, a portico entrance.

## 2. ARKWRIGHT

Arkwright is situated on a very beautiful stretch of the Pawtuxet River, in the northeastern corner of Coventry and extends into Cranston and Scituate. It was known in the 18th century as Remington's Run (for the largest landowner); with the erection of a sawmill, gristmill and machine shop in the early 19th century, the village became known as Burlingame's Mills. In 1809, a consortium (James DeWolf of Bristol, Dr. Caleb Fiske and his son, Philip, and Asher Robbins) formed the "Arkwright Manufacturing Company" and christened the village "Arkwright" in honor of Richard Arkwright, the English inventor and millwright. They began manufacturing cotton here in 1810. The original mill buildings have not survived, but mill housing dating from this era survives on the south side of the river opposite the mill. In 1883, the company was sold and then incorporated as the "Arkwright-Interlaken Company." A dye house and bleachery built at that time comprise what was until recently the oldest manufactory of cotton bookcloth in the United States. These buildings have been altered and added onto in the early 20th century.

## Route 115

- 2-A Arkwright Mills: A mill complex comprising 1- and 2-story brick mill buildings dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The buildings are plain and

functional, with the only decoration being the corbelled brick cornices and the granite sills.

- 2-B. Arkwright Bridge (1888): Dean and Westbrook of New York built this 125-foot, single-span, Pratt through-truss bridge, using Phoenix columns. The bridge carries a roadway over the Pawtuxet River, just north of the mills. Built with unusually light members, this bridge is considered one of the finest surviving truss bridges in Rhode Island. It is also the only Phoenix column bridge known to survive in the state. The Phoenix column, patented by Samuel Reeves in 1862, and resembling an earlier column developed by Wendell Bollman, consists of four flanged, wrought-iron segments bolted together, like barrel staves, to form a cylinder. Phoenix columns provided greater tensile strength than cast-iron columns and were widely used in buildings and bridges by the 1870s. The bridge has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2-C. Interlaken Mill Bridge (c. 1885): This 100-foot long, single-span, lenticular truss bridge was built by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, East Berlin, Connecticut. It connected the new dye house and bleachery of the Interlaken Company on the north side of the Pawtuxet River with the former Arkwright Mills on the south bank. The lenticular, or parabolic, truss was designed in 1878 by William O. Douglas of New York. The Berlin Company had a virtual monopoly on this bridge type and this is the only lenticular truss known to survive in Rhode Island. It has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

HENRY, MORAN, PIERCE and RICHARD COURTS (on the Coventry-Scituate-Cranston line)

- 2-D. Mill Houses (c. 1820, 1880): These four short streets form the residential village cluster of Arkwright. The mill houses are substantial, 2½-story dwellings built for two families, with gable roofs, two end chimneys, and 1-story, open, attached porches across the facades, overlooking the large yards.

#### BLACK ROCK

Black Rock is situated north of the village of Anthony on the road to Arkwright. It is named for the large glacial outcrop that can still be seen on Black Rock Road. Small cotton mills located near Black Rock manufactured cotton cloth here before 1814, but these ceased production by mid-century. With the loss of its industry, Black Rock became more of an extension of the villages of Anthony to the south

and Arkwright to the north. Situated on high ground and nestling among winding roads, Black Rock is only now beginning to be affected by suburbanization.

#### BLACK ROCK ROAD

3. House (100 Black Rock Road; c. 1814): A 1½-story dwelling with a steeply pitched roof and center chimney. The house faces the Rock and not the road.
4. Black Rock: A large granite boulder, a glacial outcrop, this landmark gave its name to the vicinity.
5. House (535 Black Rock Road; c. 1840): A 1½-story Greek Revival dwelling, set gable end to the road. The roof has a modillion cornice, and the corner boards are similarly embellished with modillions and guttae. The enclosed porch across the front is a later addition.

#### GERVAIS STREET

6. House (c. 1855): An Early Victorian 1½-story house with a gable roof, set on high ground. The central doorway has a handsome door hood, supported by scroll brackets.

#### HILL STREET

7. House (53-55 Hill Street; c. 1820): A typical early 19th-century 2½-story house with a gable roof and a center chimney. The central doorway has a plain cornice and a transom light.
8. House (122 Hill Street; 1850): A 1½-story, Greek Revival house, set with its pedimented gable end to the street. It has a pilastered, side-hall entrance with side lights; the large shed dormer is a later addition. A cemetery is adjacent to the house.
9. House: (137 Hill Street; 1845): A 1½-story, Greek Revival house with a gable roof. The simple corniced doorway is elaborated with a dentil course.
10. Chace House (c. 1820): Situated alongside a brook, this 1½-story house, with a steeply pitched roof and center chimney, is located near the site of an early 19th-century cotton mill run by the Chace family. The fluted, pilastered central doorway is a later addition.
11. Lillibridge House (178 Hill Street; c. 1855): An Early Victorian, 1½-story house with a gable roof, center chimney and side wings with open porches. The doorway has a bracketed hood. A handsome stone retaining wall acts as the rear wall for the property.

12. House (374 Hill Street; 1756): A much altered mid-18th-century dwelling with a steeply pitched roof. The 1-story side ell is a later addition.

13. COVENTRY CENTRE

Coventry Centre is located centrally within the township, on the Flat River, where it descends from the Flat River Reservoir. Prior to 1800, the area was referred to as "Maroon Swamp." In it was the site of an 18th-century forge, built by the Greene family. Here bog iron was smelted and anchors were produced for use on ships in the Revolutionary War. A cotton mill was erected in 1809 and the new village was first referred to as Shoethread, and later as Central Factory. In 1845, the Whipple cotton mill was built--then sold three years later to Pardon Peckham. Peckham enlarged the village, building double mill houses, which still have their original "necessaries"--outhouses--in the back yards. The village became the seat of the Peckham Manufacturing Company and in 1859 a lower mill was built where cotton yarn was manufactured; cloth was made in the Upper Mill. Nearby--off the Trestle Trail (once the Railroad bed--Foster Ledge Quarry was opened in 1862 by Horace Foster. It was worked throughout the 19th century, providing the stone for many of the Pawtuxet Valley mills. The granite and Coventry Centre's textile goods were easily shipped out as the village was on the Providence, Hartford and Fishkill Railroad. Because of the village's central location and accessibility by rail, a Town House was built here in 1879 (the first Town House was located at Potterville) but the seat of government was soon moved to Washington, where the post office and commercial and banking centers were located. Coventry Centre exists today as a still remote village cluster; with its two mills and the railroad depot (now stores), a modern church and about a dozen houses.

FLAT RIVER ROAD-ROUTE 117

- 13-A. Double Houses (c. 1848-1849): Three, Greek Revival,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 2-family mill houses with gable roofs and shed dormers, built by Pardon Peckham for his mill hands.
- 13-B. House (c. 1810): A much altered,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, shingled dwelling with a gable roof and large center chimney. A later 1-story open attached porch covers the front.
- 13-C. Lower Mill (1859): A 3-story, stuccoed, rubble-stone mill embellished with granite quoins, lintels and sills overlooking the mill pond. The 2-story addition was built in 1864. Cotton yarn was produced here. The mill is now used for a flea market.

- 13-D. Flat River Railroad Bridge (1910): Built by the Pennsylvania Steel Company of Steelton, Pennsylvania. This steel-beam railroad bridge spans the Flat River Reservoir. Its large abutments are constructed of cut stone. The bridge is a common type of early 20th-century railroad spans. It was used by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. It no longer carries tracks. It replaced an earlier bridge on the site that served the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad.
- 13-E. Goff House (late 18th century): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house with a central chimney and dormers. The house was built by the Goff family, who sold the land for the first cotton mill at Coventry Centre.

#### HILL FARM ROAD

- 13-F. St. Germain's Store (1878): A 1-story, stuccoed, rubble-stone building with a gable roof and large basement. Heavy granite lintels support the warehouse doors. The fenestration has been altered. It was built for the Rhode Island Processing Company (the mill's owners at that time), as a store and warehouse; village meetings were also held here.
- 13-G. Three Double Houses (c. 1848-1849): Three, 2-family mill houses, 1½-stories with gable roofs and shed dormers. Private outhouses still stand in the back yards. These dwellings were built by Pardon Peckham for his employees.
- 13-H. Railroad Depot (c. 1856): A 1-story railroad depot with a gable roof and one end chimney. A narrow shed roof projects from the facade, where the building faced the platform. The building was moved from its original location, after the railroad tracks had been removed from western Coventry in this century. It is now a store.

- 13-I. Upper Mill (1875): A 3-story frame mill with a 2-story addition. T-shaped, it was built for the manufacture of cotton cloth for Spring Lake blue jeans. The brick smokestack still stands. The mill is now a used furniture and antique store.

#### PECKHAM LANE

- 13-J. Christ Church Episcopal (1917): A small, rectangular church building, built in Tudor, half-timbered style with a belfry surmounted by a cross. There is a projecting, enclosed entryway with a gable roof, located at the side of the building.

- 13-K. Pardon Peckham House (c. 1848): A 1-story Greek Revival dwelling, set gable end to the road. On high ground, the house has a 1-story rear ell. It was built for Pardon Peckham, who bought the mill at Coventry Centre in 1848.
- 13-L. Rowhouse (c. 1848): A 1½-story, Greek Revival rowhouse, with three doorways, a gable roof and shed dormers, built to house mill hands.
- 13-M. Adventist Camp Meeting Grounds: Situated adjacent to (and originally a part of) the Peckham estate is a large field enclosed by massive stone walls. It is now used as an Adventist Camp Meeting Ground. The entire Peckham Lane complex has a series of walls along the lane itself, and various rectangular stone enclosures, possibly intended to contain animals.
- PHILLIP'S HILL ROAD
- 13-N. Houses (c. 1810): Two mill houses; small 1½-story cottages with steeply pitched roofs.
- 13-O. Coventry Town House (1879): Built by Lewis Walker of Jericho (now Arctic, West Warwick) at a cost of \$1300. A large, frame, rectangular, meeting hall with a gable roof. Two doors flank a central window at the gable end. A probate court in the 1930s, it is now used for storage.

TRESTLE TRAIL

- 13-P. Quarry Men's Houses (c. 1862): Two identical, 2½-story, dressed-granite tenements, with full basements and cross-gabled roofs. The dwellings were built to house the quarry men, who worked the Foster Ledge Quarry. The buildings are built of Foster Ledge granite. One house is intact and has been restored, while the other, struck by lightning, is a partial ruin.
- 13-Q. Foster Ledge Quarry: The ledge was opened in 1862 by Horace Foster and granite was quarried here throughout the 19th century. It provided stone for many of the Pawtuxet Valley mills, like the Centerville mill in West Warwick. Horace Foster was the most prolific mason in the area; among his many building projects were the Tiogue Reservoir and dam, the Arctic Mill Store, the second mill building at Crompton, the Harris Mill at Riverpoint, abutments for many railroad bridges and the State Farm and the foundations for the State Prison in Cranston.

14. GREENE

In the 18th century, the area that is now Greene was a mere intersection of two roads--Hopkins Hollow Road (part of the 8 Rod Highway) and Coffin Road (named for the Coffin

family of Nantucket, some of whom settled here). It became a village by 1856, created solely by and for the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad. Greene served as a depot and market for the surrounding farm community, providing quick rail transport for fresh produce to Providence. The first train stopped in 1854 at a make-shift station; a new station was built in 1856, with village buildings following. Greene is located on Buckhorn Brook, two and a half miles east of the Connecticut state line and about the same distance from Summit, the next station to the east on the line. Before the naming of the new settlement by railroad officials in 1856 in honor of the Revolutionary War Hero General Nathanael Greene, the stop was referred to as "Coffin Station." By the end of the 19th century it had become an important stop on the daily "milk run" (a special milk platform was set up at the station) to Providence, as much of the city's dairy goods came from the farms surrounding Greene. It was also an important "wooding" station, supplying large quantities of lumber. The development at Greene diminished the importance of earlier centers such as Hopkings Hollow and Rice City, bypassed by the Railroad. Greene prospered not only as a depot from which lumber and dairy products were shipped out, but also as a commercial center for the neighborhood. New industry located in the village. A sawmill and a planing mill, a box factory, a horn jewelry business, an acid factory and as many as four stores were among the ventures that Greene boasted. By the late 1860s a new residential area, Benefit Street, was laid out to serve a growing populace. A section of the nearby Great Cedar Swamp was transformed into a cranberry bog, which became a thriving business in the latter half of the 19th century. The cranberry business still survives, although on a much smaller scale. Located one quarter of a mile south of Greene, is a fifty-acre site given over to the Greene Advent Camp Meeting in 1880, still an important annual religious meeting place in western Coventry. As recently as World War I, the Lewis-Peavey mill site was converted for use as an experimental laboratory, working with poison gases. Since World War II, the Greene Herb Gardens (formerly part of the Arnold Farms) was established, one of the earliest attempts at wholesale organic gardening in this country and a popular local attraction and landmark until 1972, when the scale of business was reduced drastically, continuing now only as a mail-order operation. Much industry has left, as has the railroad, but Greene remains a substantial community, if somewhat sleepy.

#### ROUTE 117

- 14-A. Railroad Depot (c. 1856): A 2½-story, frame building with a gable roof and an attached open front porch with a shed roof. It has been moved from its original location, south

of the tracks, to its present site, on the north side of where the tracks ran in the 1880s. If the date of the building were fully substantiated, this might prove to be one of the oldest surviving railroad depots in Rhode Island. It is now used as a residence and a store.

#### HOPKINS HOLLOW ROAD

- 14-B. Greene Community Church (1873): A simple, 1-story, rectangular, frame church with a gable roof, set gable end to the street. A central window in the gable end is flanked by doorways.
- 14-C. House (c. 1883): A Late Victorian, 2½-story building with a gable roof. Fish-scale shingles differentiate the second story. The building was used as a hall at one time.
- 14-D. W. V. Phillips Store (c. 1856): Once the main store and post office, this is a 2½-story, gable-roofed Greek Revival building set on a high brick basement with a store entrance on the first story and a residential entrance of simple Greek Revival proportions on the second story. Built by Whipple Phillips.
- 14-E. Library (1928): A 1½-story frame, Neoclassical library, set on a full basement story of field stone.
- 14-F. Ionic Lodge (1873): A 2-story frame building, set with its pedimented gable end to the street. Small, bracketed cornices act as window lintels. Built by Whipple Phillips, the building is often referred to as "Whipple's Hall." It housed many organizations and activities: Sunday School, Grange meetings, skating and many theatricals and dances.

#### 15. HOPKINS HOLLOW

Two miles south of Greene is the hamlet of Hopkins Hollow. This area was first settled by Captain Richard Rice of Warwick who built a sawmill, gristmill and house here before 1750. By the first quarter of the 19th century, the name Rice's Mills disappeared from use and from maps. Jeremiah and Samuel Hopkins moved into the hollow, built a mill and a blacksmith's shop, and the name of the area soon changed. The mill site is now part of the Arnold Farms. The church survives, as does the schoolhouse, but the population of the area is such that neither are in use.

#### HOPKINS HOLLOW ROAD

- 15-A. Hopkins Hollow Church (1862): A simple rectangular church building with a gable roof and two front doors at the gable end. Originally a Christian Union Church established by missionaries from Rice City, the congregation voted to join the Baptist conference in 1894. The adjacent cemetery predates the church; it was organized in 1840.

- 15-B. School (1872): A 2-room, rectangular schoolhouse with a gable roof; small brackets support the window lintels, and Victorian door hoods embellish the two doorways at the gable end. This is the second school to serve this hamlet; the first, built in 1822, fell into disrepair and had to be replaced. The present schoolhouse is located closer to Greene than the first.
- 15-C. Roaring Brook Farm, site of Rice's Mills: The farm is situated on Roaring Brook and is the site of Rice's Mills, a mid-18th-century mill complex. The farmhouse is a 1½-story, Greek Revival house with a gable roof, pilastered cornerboards and a simple doorway with side lights. Many alterations to the house have taken place, including large shed dormers and additions to the side and rear. On the property are a gristmill, a rare up-and-down sawmill and a blacksmith's shop. The gristmill is the third on the site and dates from the mid-19th century. The original up-and-down sawmill did not survive and was replaced by this one, brought from Hopkinton, Massachusetts. The blacksmith's shop is not original, although there had been one at the site; this building is a reproduction.
- 15-D. Harris Store (c. 1835): A Greek Revival, 2½-story, gable-roofed building with a receding side ell with entrance. In the 19th century, a store was started here by Elisha Hopkins for an invalid son. It was continued after 1858 by John Harris and is listed in the Beers 1870 Directory. A store was located here until the 1920s.

#### SITES AND STRUCTURES IN THE GREENE AND HOPKINS HOLLOW ENVIRONS

##### LEWIS FARM ROAD

16. Lewis Mill Ruins and Peavy Cemetery: Massive stone foundations and terraces remain, straddling the Moosup River. The early 19th-century Lewis mills complex once included a sawmill, gristmill and cider mill. Several gravestones and monuments to the Peavey family, who ran the mills by 1895, are on the property. The mill buildings were converted and added onto in World War I for use as an experimental laboratory testing poison gases.

##### NARROW LANE

17. Arnold Home Farm: A large complex of farm buildings, many with fine decorative stone foundations. A house stood here before 1838, when it burned. The present house has been added onto many times, more than doubling its size. It now stands 2½-stories, with many gables and bays, showing the random eclectic growth of a country estate built up over a

period of more than a century by the Arnold family. The look of the house, overall, is early 20th century rustic Colonial Revival. The fine large barn with belfry dates from 1905. A well manicured farm estate, site of the Greene Herb Gardens from 1942 to 1972, the Arnold Farms have become a local landmark.

18. House: An Early Victorian, 1½-story house set on a high stone foundation, with a gable roof, two interior chimneys and small shed dormers. The first story is clapboarded, with cut shingles on the second story. The building has a gabled portico entrance and a side ell with a gabled porch. To the side stands an outbuilding, a double stable or garage with diamond panes in the gables, with a covered walkway separating the two sheds. The property is enclosed by massive stone walls.
19. American Cranberry Company: A cranberry bog was formed in the 19th century, three miles south of the village of Greene near the West Greenwich border in part of the Great Cedar Swamp. Many disputes regarding ownership of the bog ensued; the town took it over and sold it to Abiel T. Sampson in 1862. The present L-shaped, 2½-story, gable-roofed, barn-like building is said to be the third on the site, probably dating from the late 19th century; it was used for berry processing. The building is sited alongside a stream, forded by a picturesque stone bridge. It is now called the Coventry Cranberry Company; the bogs are still in production.
- PERRY HILL ROAD
20. "The Little House" (c. 1789): An 18th-century, 1½-story, shingled house, four bays wide, with a gable roof and center and end chimneys. A rear addition connects the house with outbuildings. A stone tower is located on the property.
21. Fox Hill Farm (early 19th century): A 1½-story, 5-bay house with a gable roof, dormers and two end chimneys. The portico central doorway has a fanlight and sidelights. Massive stone walls surround the property and continue along the road.
22. Hidden Hollow Farm (mid-19th century): A 1½-story farm-house with a steeply pitched roof and gable dormers, with many alterations and additions. The property is distinguished by its setting in a cluster of pine trees, near a pond and is surrounded by fine stone walls.

23. HARRIS

Harris is located on a picturesque section of the northern branch of the Pawtuxet River, in the northeastern corner of Coventry, overlapping into West Warwick. The first mill built at Harris was a stone, spinning mill built after the War of 1812 by Caleb Atwood. In 1821 Elisha Harris (later Governor of Rhode Island) bought the site and the adjoining Potter farm, and this is the location of the present-day village. In 1851, a new mill was built, which still stands. A third mill and dam were built in 1860, but only the dam survives. Located behind the 1851 mill and to the northeast are several streets lined with houses built for the mill workers. The houses, for one and two families, occupy small lots, some abutting the mill yard. Nearby stand the mansions of the mill agents and industrial owners. As it stands now, Harris is a well preserved village; many original elements have been kept and there are few extraneous modern intrusions. It has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

ELM STREET

- 23-A. Mill Houses (c. 1821): Five, 1½-story, gable-roofed single-family mill houses.

HARRIS STREET

- 23-B. Mill Houses (c. 1825): Four, Greek Revival, 1½-story, 2-family mill houses with gable-roofs.

- 23-C. House (60 Harris Street; c. 1830): A Greek Revival, 1½-story dwelling, set on high ground facing Terrace Avenue. A substantial house, it has a pedimented end gable, set gable end towards Terrace Avenue.

HIGHLAND STREET

- 23-D. Mill Houses (c. 1825): Ten, two-family mill houses, 1½-stories with gable roofs and separate entrances with stoops.

- 23-E. Potter House (32 Highland Street: c. 1870): A 2-story, gable-roofed Late Victorian dwelling with Stick Style trussing in the center gable. Owned by the Potter family in 1870, who had at one time farmed all the land that is now Harris and Arkwright. A family cemetery is on the property.

MAIN STREET (Route 115)

- 23-F. Elisha Harris House (546 Main Street; c. 1840): Built for Elisha Harris, founder of Harris Village, this fine Greek Revival house is one of the most elaborate of the

period in Coventry. Its 3-bay core stands three stories high, stepping down to two, with 1-story wings at both sides creating a 7-bay front. It has a bracketed low-pitched roof with balustrades and a belvedere and a semi-circular entrance porch topped by a 2nd-story balcony. It was later occupied by Henry Howard, Harris' son-in-law, who also became Governor of Rhode Island. There are numerous rear additions. It is now the River-view Nursing Home.

- 23-G. Howard House (550 Main Street; c. 1885): A 3-story, Late Victorian, cross-gabled house with a wrap around porch, owned by the Howard family in 1895, the mill owners at that time.
- 23-H. Worker's Housing (c. 1825): A cluster of small, 1½-story, 3-bay cottages with steeply pitched roofs and large center chimneys. Four survive on the street side, with three more opposite, along the river. Some of the cottages are intact, but many have been severely altered.
- 23-I. Mill Tenements (568, 574 Main Street; c. 1825): Two, large, multi-family mill tenements, 2½-stories with gable roofs and center chimneys.
- 23-J. Former Elder Tavern Meetinghouse (580 Main Street; 1829). This large, 2½-story, gable-roofed building was once the Elder Tavern Meetinghouse, located in West Warwick. It was bought by Elisha Harris and moved here in 1842 and converted to tenements.
- 23-K. House (584 Main Street; c. 1840): A handsome, 1½-story, Greek Revival dwelling owned by the Harris Manufacturing Company and probably used to house an overseer. Gable roofed, it has paneled, pilaster cornerboards and a portico entrance. There are numerous side additions.
- 23-L. Edward Bucklin House (590 Main Street; c. 1860): An Early Victorian, 2½-story, Italianate villa with a bracketed hip roof, 1-story side wings and a large portico entrance with an elaborate doorway with fan. It was owned in 1895 by Edward Bucklin, treasurer of the Arkwright-Interlaken Company.
- 23-M. Harris Mill (618 Main Street; 1851): Constructed of stuccoed, rubble stone, the mill (set gable end to the street) stands 3-stories with a clerestory monitor. The design was ascribed to Providence architect James Bucklin by the noted architectural historian Henry Russell Hitchcock. In his book on Rhode Island Architecture, Hitchcock considers the Harris Mill to be one of the finest mills in the state. It originally had a

fine, frame, Greek Revival belfry, but this no longer survives. The Harris Manufacturing Company, incorporated in 1865, produced heavy cotton sheeting. During the 20th century when the mill became part of the Arkwright-Interlaken Company, textiles continued to be made here. Since 1956, however, the structure has been used for light manufacture by the Victor Electric Company.

- 23-N. Harris Fire Station (701 Main Street; 1889): Set on the Coventry-West Warwick line is a handsome, Late Victorian brick and frame fire station with elaborate terra-cotta trim. It was formerly the Phoenix Fire Company.

#### MILL STREET

- 23-O. Mill Houses (c. 1825): Six, 1½-story, Greek Revival, two-family mill houses, many with the original door enframements and transom lights.

- 23-P. Christopher Greene House (2 Potter Court; 1882): A large 2½-story, Queen Anne style dwelling, decorated with cut shingles, stucco and half-timbering, and cut-brick chimneys, with a matching carriage house at the rear. Built for Christopher Greene, owner of the Clyde Print Works in nearby West Warwick, it is the sole example of an urban Queen Anne style dwelling in Coventry.

#### TERRACE AVENUE

- 23-Q. Mill Houses (c. 1821): Five, 1½-story, single-family mill houses with gable roofs.

- 23-R. House (15 Terrace Avenue; c. 1825): A 1½-story Greek Revival house, Victorianized by the addition of a central projecting bay and an attached, open porch.

#### 24. HILL FARM

The Hill family has owned this 200-acre farm since 1741, when the homestead was built. The farm was their mainstay, but by the mid-19th century other activities supplemented the family income, such as the knitting of cotton stockings which were then sold locally. In 1877, James H. Hill started a japannery for "japanning" (covering with a hard coat of paint and laqueur) zinc tips of shoe laces, laces being an item produced by several Rhode Island textile mills. He built a second house for outside help, originally for two families. A four-family house for more help was added later and two more houses were built in 1909. These two, identical to each other, were erected for James H. Hill's sons.

The business of making shoe lace tips continues, but plastic acetate has replaced zinc, and machines have replaced the outside help for the most part. The farm stretches to the edges of Johnson Pond, fed by the Big River and now connected by the Flat River as part of the Flat River Reservoir. By 1925, the first water-side resort cottages had been built and the Hills entered the resort industry, renting and selling cottages along the pond's edge, while the remaining open fields on the property are now rented out to be planted with feed corn.

off HILL FARM ROAD

- 24-A. Japannery (1942): This is the third japannery on the site; the second and largest of the three buildings burned in 1942 and the japannery was rebuilt on a smaller scale on the old brick foundation. No traces of the first (1877) japannery survive. A plain, 1-story, barn-like building with a gable roof, the japannery has no special design, merely providing shelter for the machinery and japanning activity.
- 24-B. Hill Homestead (1741): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed dwelling with a dutch kick at the cornice line. The house has been much altered over the years but the massing appears to remain basically original.
- 24-C. Hill Houses (1909): Two identical 2½-story residences with the central bay of the buildings set back, while the side bays project, topped by gables. They were built by James H. Hill for his two sons.
- 24-E. House (c. 1877): Built when the first japannery was being erected, as a 2-family house for outside help. The many gabled, asymmetrical, 2½-story structure is decorated with cut shingles and sports a side bay, capped by a turret.
- 24-F. Tenement (late 19th century): Built as a 4-family tenement, originally rented to employees of the japannery, the house is two stories high, six bays wide and has a hip roof.
- 24-G. House (late 19th century): A 1½-story house with a gable roof and two 1-story ell's. It was moved to this location in this century, to be closer to the road.

POTTERVILLE (MAPLE VALLEY) ENVIRONS

Originally settled by Thomas Whaley, the area became known as Whaley's Hollow and was the site of several sawmills in the 18th century. With the building of the

"Great North Road" in 1714, this area became more populated, and many of the lots along the highway were settled by the Whaley and Bowen families. Potterville was the governmental center of the township for over a century after the town's incorporation. The Waterman Tavern was established here in 1747 and was frequently used for town meetings; stocks and a whipping post were erected nearby in 1766, and in 1835 Coventry's first official Town House (now demolished) was erected. About 1830, Samuel Bowen located a tannery nearby, and in 1844 a sawmill, erected by Samuel Wright, near his home on Maple Valley Road, was converted into a bobbin factory by Robert Potter (who gave his name to the settlement). The factory supplied bobbins for use in the Pawtuxet Valley cotton mills. In the late 19th century, when the governmental center was moved to Washington, several lace mills were built in Potterville, employing the local population. Now a rather sleepy settlement with no apparent industrial base (all the lace mills have burned), Potterville strikes one more as a district than a village. It is known today as Maple Valley.

#### HALL ROAD

25. Vaughn House (c. 1786): A Federal, 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof, large center chimney, and a side entrance with side lights. The building has been altered; in the middle of the 19th century, Greek Revival detail was added and a rear addition with matching detail was built. It was the property of George Vaughn as early as 1851.

#### MAPLE VALLEY ROAD

26. House (c. 1840): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house with a central doorway with side lights, located at the corner of Matteson Road, opposite the site of the 1835 Town House (demolished).

27. Samuel Wright House (c. 1781): This 1½-story, gable-roofed house with a center chimney and central doorway has been rebuilt (due to fires) and altered many times, but using the same foundation. Now, it most closely resembles a Greek Revival dwelling. Nearby is the site of the Samuel Wright sawmill, later the Potter bobbin factory (demolished).

28. Waterman Tavern (c. 1747, or earlier): Built by John Waterman, it is a simple, 2½-story, 5-bay, frame building, gable-roofed with a large center chimney and a central doorway. Waterman's first tavern license dates from 1747, and the building was used for town meetings until the Town House was built nearby in 1835. The French forces commanded by Rochambeau camped in the fields below the tavern on their way to Yorktown in 1781 and on their way home to France the following year. Lafayette is also said to have stayed here,

leaving behind a sword mark above one of the fireplace mantels. The tavern is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

29. Parker Woodland: 250 acres of woodland given to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island in 1941 as a wild-life refuge by George Parker, Town Clerk of Coventry at the beginning of the 20th century. It has more than two miles of hiking and walking trails through woodland and along stone mounds and rock ledges. The remains of a 20th-century sawmill complex are also within the property near the forks of the Turkey Meadow and Pine Swamp brooks. An invaluable cultural resource, this tract of woodland preserved by the Audubon Society allows the public to experience the magnificence of Coventry's natural scenery.
30. Whaley Homestead (c. 1740): A modest 1½-story dwelling with a steeply pitched roof, this house is built into the side of an embankment, allowing for a full basement story. It was built by Thomas Whaley, the first settler here, who later became deacon of the Maple Root Church. It was used as a school in the early 19th century.
31. Whaley House (c. 1840): Situated next door to the Whaley homestead and alongside Whaley Brook, this is the second house built by the Whaley family. It is a large, 2½-story, somewhat altered (due to fire) Greek Revival dwelling, set gable end to the road. Gable-roofed, it has a pedimented end gable, two interior chimneys and paneled, pilaster corner boards. Map references show this to be the property of J. Whaley in 1851.
32. Amasa Relph House (c. 1840): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival dwelling with a side ell. It was the property of Amasa Relph, a farmer in 1851.

#### TOWN FARM ROAD

33. Poor Farm-Town Asylum (c. 1790): Formerly the Joseph Briggs farmstead, the property was bought by the town by 1853 for use as a Poor Farm and Town Asylum. The farmhouse is a handsome late 18th-century, 2½-story structure with a gable roof. For a rural farmhouse, it has an unusually fine pedimented doorway flanked by fluted pilasters and topped by a fanlight. The building has a large rear addition, probably added after 1853, to provide extra room for the poor and indigent townfolk who could board here free of charge. The farm was in operation until the late 1930s and was sold a decade later. The house is intact (although in need of restoration) as are the farm outbuildings--a barn and a wood shed. It is an important landmark in the social history of the town and an exceptionally fine example of a late 18th-

century farm complex. It has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

34. Salisbury House (c. 1850): Situated alongside Sawmill Pond and Boyd brook, this is a fine Early Victorian dwelling, 1½-stories with a gable roof and two interior chimneys. It has an elaborate doorhood and an oculus above the doorway. It was built by the Salisbury family, who ran a sawmill here in the middle-to-late 19th-century. Mill remains are still evident.

#### WATERMAN HILL ROAD

35. House (c. 1810): A 1½-story, Federal style dwelling with a gable roof. The doorway is flanked by paneled pilasters, surmounted by a blind fan. The building has a 1-story side addition, built in 1942, but carefully matched to be compatible with the main house and its cornice detail.
36. Isaac Bowen House (c. 1755 ell, 1795): The oversized and spacious ell with large sleeping loft predates the construction of the main house. The handsomest of its period in Coventry, the 2½-story, gable-roofed main house has a large center chimney and a fine central doorway flanked by fluted pilasters terminating in Ionic capitals, and capped by a pediment with a semicircular fanlight with tracery. The Bowens were the first major landowners in the area and were active in town affairs from the time of the town's incorporation. Of the many houses built by the family, this is the finest and the only one that survives. It has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

37. QUIDNICK

In the 18th century, the land between Anthony and Quidnick was the site of a village referred to as "Greeneville." It was named for the Greene family who came to Coventry in the mid-18th century to set up a forge to produce ships' anchors. Other members of the many branches of the Greene family settled here and early accounts say it was a thriving commercial and industrial community until the forge discontinued production in about 1795. (See Anthony for further information on the Greene family.) Then Greeneville became the site of a paper mill, sold to Stephen Taft in 1811. He converted the mill to cotton and built several small houses; the village was known as Taftville until it was sold to A. & W. Sprague in 1846. The Spragues also bought Quidnick Pond and turned it into a reservoir. A massive, new, stone mill was built in 1848 and the present well planned village was laid out: single-family houses along North Street and 2-family houses on

South Street, a brick company store (now Moore's Garage) and a superintendent's house (now Manny's Restaurant) located on Washington Street, along with several multi-family tenements or boarding houses. Mill houses (now demolished) lined Quidnick street directly opposite the mill and a company farm and piggery were contained nearby within massive granite walls, since torn down. The Number Two mill was built in 1869, southeast of the 1848 mill, and had a separate dam. Quidnick became the jewel of the Sprague textile empire (one of the most important firms in Rhode Island economic and industrial history). Textile manufacture continued into the 20th century, but the site is presently occupied by American Hoechst, a chemical dye-stuff manufacturer. The village today is still dominated by the mills, but the streetscape is much changed. The view of the superb granite mills is blocked by an aluminum warehouse, the granite farm walls are gone, as are all the houses (save one) that faced the mill, and the other company buildings along the main street (Washington Street) have been much altered and converted to new uses. The street itself has been widened and this has done much to disrupt the 19th-century village streetscape. Despite the changes, Quidnick still retains much of its village plan, with neat rows of houses and its reason for being--the two granite mills--intact.

#### FAIRVIEW AVENUE

- 37-A. Fairview Avenue streetscape: A streetscape comprising early mill houses and Greek Revival dwellings interspersed with later Victorian houses. Fairview Avenue was a well travelled portion of the Coventry-Cranston Turnpike; built in 1814-1815 and financed by Richard Anthony, it provided access to Providence from the Anthony mills.
- 37-B. Quidnick Baptist Church (1885): Built by Horace Foster (no relation to the master mason of the same name, who built the mill complex), it is a much altered Queen Anne style, formerly clapboard, gable-roofed church building, with a conical side tower and modified portico side entrance.

#### NORTH STREET

- 37-C. Mill Houses (c. 1815): Eleven early 19th-century, 1-family mill houses; 1½-stories with steeply pitched roofs and end chimneys. These smaller cottages, only three bays wide, are remnants of the mill village of Taftville.

#### PULASKI STREET (formerly the Crompton Road)

- 37-D. House (232 Pulaski Street; c. 1885): A Late Victorian 2½-story, frame house with a bracketed mansard roof with gable

dormers, set on a high English brick basement, with a 2-story front porch supported by turned posts. It was the property of Thomas Finan in 1895.

- 37-E. House (271 Pulaski Street; c. 1860): An Italianate, bracketed, 1½-story gable-roofed farmhouse with a center gable, a heavy bracketed cornice with pendants, a 1½-story side-ell with a partially enclosed porch. The doorway has an elaborate hood. It was the property of Paul Ash in 1892, who ran a liquor store and livery stable on the property.

#### QUIDNICK STREET

- 37-F. Number One Mill (1848-1849): Built by Horace Foster, master mason, for A. & W. Sprague, as a cotton mill. The mill, built of granite from the Sprague-owned quarry at Oneco, Connecticut, is four stories high with a clerestory monitor roof and a central tower. The belfry on the tower has been removed. The mill has been modernized for use as offices and the fenestration has been altered.

- 37-G. Number Two Mill (1869): Built by Horace Foster for A. & W. Sprague, this smaller granite mill is three stories high with a pitched and dormered roof and a central stair tower. Presently it is used for storage.

- 37-H. Mill House (c. 1848): A 1½-story, Greek Revival mill house with a gable roof and small shed dormer. This is the only house left of the many that lined this street facing the mill. It is set on high ground; a portion of the heavy granite retaining wall survives.

#### SOUTH STREET

- 37-I. Mill Houses (c. 1848): Five, 1½-story, 2-family mill houses with gable roofs, small shed dormers and two interior chimneys.

#### WASHINGTON STREET

- 37-J. Mill Houses (1849): A group of 4-family tenements lining both sides of the street; many have been altered. They are 2½-story, Greek Revival tenements with gable roofs, two interior chimneys and pilaster cornerboards. Some have attached porch entrances with shed roofs.

- 37-K. Quidnick Company Store (487 Washington Street; 1849): A 2½-story, brick, mill store, built by Horace Foster for A. & W. Sprague. It is presently used as Moore's Garage.

- 37-L. Superintendent's House (495 Washington Street; c. 1848): A frame 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof and portico entrance. Much altered, it is used as a restaurant. This was the home of Albert Knight, the superintendent of the Quidnick Mills in 1892.
- 37-M. Railroad Bridge: Built originally in the mid-19th century for the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad. The massive stone piers constructed by Horace Foster, date from that period, although the bridge itself is an early 20th-century replacement.
- 37-N. Mill Houses (533, 535 and 537 Washington Street; c. 1848): A cluster of three, 1½-story, gable-roofed Greek Revival dwellings, set gable end to the street, overlooking the Pawtuxet River and the railroad bridge.

38. RICE CITY

Rice City is located in northwestern Coventry. The proposed Rice City Historic District is comprised of a 2-mile stretch along the Plainfield Pike (Route 14), with the village center located at the junction with Vaughn Hollow Road and the former industrial and commercial center located at the junction of Flat River Road (Route 117). The settlement is traditionally said to have been founded in 1736 by Adam and Gabriel Love and was located along the "Great North Road," built in 1714. In 1794, this road, running from Providence to Norwich, was repaired and taken over by a turnpike company and the Plainfield Turnpike became the second toll road in Rhode Island. Rice City was located halfway between Providence and Norwich and became a popular overnight stop for the stagecoach lines. Located along the turnpike at Rice City were a tollgate and booth where the tolls were collected. The tollbooth still stands, one of the few remaining in Rhode Island. Due to the heavy traffic along the road, three taverns prospered here by the end of the eighteenth century. It was Samuel Rice, the inn-keeper of Rice Tavern, who, on opening day in 1796, named the village "Rice City." At midnight, he is reputed to have climbed up to the ridge pole of the tavern with a bottle, which he smashed against the chimney to christen the building and the surrounding area. Rice City had a succession of churches located here in the 18th century and was at that time the religious center of western Coventry. The present church (1846) is the third on virtually the same site, replacing an 1815 church, which displaced the first, built in 1783. Rice City was divided into two school districts: Rice City and the McGregor District; and the three schools that were built still stand. The oldest school, the

Democrat School, was a private school, built by subscription before 1812. It was sold to the public in 1817 and served the village until 1846, when the new schoolhouse was built. The McGregor District School, built in 1812 on Gibson Hill Road near the Connecticut border, closed in 1907 and has since been moved, although not far; today it is in use as a chicken coop. The two village schools, the church and the tavern serve as the visual focus of the village. Vaughn Hollow, located just north of the village center was the site of several small, seasonal gristmills and sawmills, supplying Rice City and its environs. The hollow is named for the Vaughn family, who settled here in the early 18th century and ran the mills. To the southwest, near the intersection with Route 117, is Fairbank's Corner. Located on the Moosup River, it was the site of several milling enterprises in the first half of the 19th century. By mid-century, the Fairbank's store, tailor shop and slaughterhouse became the commerical center not only for the village but drew many customers from nearby Foster and Connecticut. By the latter half of the 19th century, depopulation had begun. The stagecoach lines discontinued service as the railroad became more important. With the change in transportation, traffic declined and the turnpike no longer served as the primary trade route. When the railroad line was built through western Coventry in 1854, it bypassed Rice City. The station was located one and a half miles to the southeast and generated the new village of Greene. Maps reveal that many Rice City residents moved to Greene by 1870. The post office closed and relocated at Greene; most of the farmsteads along Gibson Hill Road were abandoned by 1895. The Fairbank store closed in 1881, and none of the stores that were established after that time had any similar impact in bringing people to Rice City. Rice City began as an 18th-century farming settlement whose growth was generated by the turnpike trade and the stagecoach lines. Now a sleepy roadside settlement undisturbed for a century, except for some residential development on its outskirts, Rice City remains relatively unchanged, retaining its architectural and historical integrity. The Rice City Historic District has been approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### BARBS HILL ROAD

- 38-A. Tamarack Farm (1824): Built by John Vaughn who ran sawmills and gristmills in the hollow. It is a handsome, 1½-story, gable-roofed farmhouse, set on a high stone foundation and attached to outbuildings.

- 38-B. Caleb Vaughn House (c. 1750, 1840): Built by Caleb Vaughn, one of the incorporators of the town of Coventry. A 1½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, center-chimney dwelling with a 1-story side addition. The house was moved from the top of the knoll behind the present site in 1840. Rebuilt at that time, its present appearance owes much to the Greek Revival--its facade articulated by arched, paneled pilasters serving as corner boards and door enframement.
- 38-C. Bates House (c. 1745): A 1½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed dwelling with a rebuilt center chimney and a rear ell; the windows are very close to the eaves. The central doorway has side lights. William and Francis Bates ran a gristmill in the hollow.
- 38-D. George Vaughn House (early 19th century): A 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling, five bays wide with a center chimney; the windows are close to the eaves. The central doorway has side lights. The house was rebuilt in 1852 and a side addition was added.

#### FLAT RIVER ROAD-Route 117

- 38-E. George Parker House (c. 1774): A 1½-story, 5-bay house with a gable roof and a center chimney, with a dentil course at the cornice line and a fine central doorway with side lights framed by paired fluted pilasters. The 3-bay side addition was built c. 1805. It was the home of Ezra D. Bates, a local tailor in the mid-19th century.
- 38-F. Bates Tailorshop (c. 1850): A long, 1-story, shingled, gable-roofed shed, part of which was the 19th-century tailorshop of Ezra D. Bates, who lived directly opposite.

#### PLAINFIELD PIKE - ROUTE 14

- 38-G. John Greene House (1732, 1760): A 1½-story, 5-bay house with a steeply pitched roof, shed dormers and a center chimney. The 2-bay, 1-story ell predates the main house. According to deeds, the house was sold in 1778 by John Greene to John Kelly.
- 38-H. Tollbooth: A small 1-story, gable-roofed, booth-like structure made of unfinished vertical boards. The entrance is at the gable end, with a small window opening to the right of the door. It was used as a tollbooth for the Plainfield Turnpike from 1794 to 1866 and is one of the few remaining tollbooths in Rhode Island. According to local belief, this structure actually predates' development of the "Great North Road" as a tollroad. The building is said to have been built in 1732 and was used as a relay-remounting station.

- 38-I. Rice Tavern (c. 1796): Built by Samuel Rice, the tavern stands two-and-a-half stories high, five bays wide, with a gable roof and center chimney. It was an overnight stop for the Providence to Norwich stage. It ceased being a tavern by 1866 and was converted to a residence for Dr. P. K. Hutchinson, the local physician and surgeon.
- 38-J. House (c. 1840): A Greek Revival, 1½-story house, five bays wide, gable-roofed with gable dormers with a 1-story side ell with an open porch.
- 38-K. Isaac Fisk Farm (1890): A 1½-story, gable-roofed Late Victorian house with a side ell, set on a white quartz foundation. The central doorway is flanked by bay windows whose roofs support an open porch. To the right of the main house stand four other structures; an out-house (1887); a small cottage (said to be the c. 1742 ell of the first house on the site); another, larger, late 19th-century cottage; and a shed-like structure which housed the blacksmith's shop. Isaac Fisk was the blacksmith in the late 19th century.
- 38-L. Fairbank Store (c. 1868): A 2½-story, bracketed Victorian building with a gable roof and gable dormers, set gable end to the road. The open attached porch across the facade is a later addition. The building was used as a general store until 1881, selling meat, groceries, clothing and furniture. An open walkway at the rear connects it with the main house.
- Fairbank House (1826): A small, gable-roofed, 1½-story, granite, Greek Revival cottage with two end chimneys and a large shed dormer with Gothic lights probably added in the late 19th century. The Moosup River runs through the property and was dammed as early as 1811 when a gristmill and a carding mill were built here. George Fairbank, for whom the "corner" is named, settled here in 1826. He built a woolen mill which served the many local farmers who raised sheep; it was said that they could bring the wool to Fairbank's mill to have it processed, after which finished articles of clothing were produced by seamstresses in the small tailorshop opposite the mill. The mill burned in 1866 and was never rebuilt. Its ruins are under the approach to the bridge across the Moosup, just west of the complex.
- 38-M. McGregor Tavern Site (1783): The tavern burned at the turn-of-the-century. This is an interesting archaeological site (containing foundation ruins), for this tavern was the only one of the three in Rice City to become a temperance tavern, doing so in 1831.

- 38-N. House (c. 1845): A Late Greek Revival, 1½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, center-chimney dwelling with doric pilaster corner boards. The central doorway has a hood supported by paired brackets; the window lintels are supported by smaller brackets.
- 38-O. McGregor District School (1812): A 1-story, 1-room schoolhouse with a gable roof. The school closed in 1907. The building was more recently moved from its original location, on the eastern side of Gibson Hill Road, to the west side, nearer the Plainfield Pike; it is presently being used as a chicken coop.
- 38-P. Gibb's Tavern Site (1791): The tavern was located adjacent to Carbuncle Pond--a local natural landmark and the setting for several Indian legends. Tradition says that the Indians owned a carbuncle, a valuable gem, which they feared the settlers would steal; in order to prevent this they threw the carbuncle into the pond. The Gibb's Tavern burned in 1924, but the foundations and the chimney base are still visible as well as the retaining wall and foundations of a hired hand's house--with a 19th-century pot-bellied stove standing in the cellar hole.
- 38-Q. Place Homestead (c. 1790): A 1½-story, 5-bay dwelling with a steeply pitched roof, a 2nd-story end overhang and a rebuilt center chimney. The open porch was added after 1894. The family cemetery is adjacent. There are numerous farm outbuildings.
- 38-R. Fairbank's Tailorship (c. 1835): A 1½-story, gable-roofed Greek Revival Cottage, only three bays wide, used as a tailorshop by George Fairbank. Seamstresses were paid in goods from the store.
- Fairbank's Barn-Slaughterhouse (c. 1870): A large barn-like structure with two cupolas, used as a slaughterhouse by George Fairbank and his son Elbridge.
- POTTER ROAD
- 38-S. House (c. 1855): A mid-19th-century, 1½-story, 4-bay house with a center chimney. It is set back in the woods, off the road.
- 38-T. Potter House (1852): A 1½-story, 5-bay gable-roofed house, altered by a front projecting porch enclosure. The house was built on the site of the original Potter homestead of c. 1754.
- VAUGHN HOLLOW ROAD
- 38-U. C. B. Andrews' Store (c. 1885): A late 19th-century, 1½-story, gable-roofed building, incorporating a general

store and residence. It is now used as a dwelling.

- 38-V. Nathan Corey House (late 18th century): A 1½-story, 5-bay dwelling with a gable roof; it was extensively altered in the late 19th-century by the application of cut shingles and a new pedimented porch entrance. Nathan Corey was a member of the first church in Rice City in 1783 and later subscribed to the Democrat School.
- 38-W. First Christian Church of Coventry (1846): A Greek Revival, gable-roofed church building with a square enclosed belfry and two front doors at the gable end. Originally a Baptist congregation formed in 1813, it changed its affiliation to the United Church of Christ in 1881. The most influential church in western Rhode Island in the 19th century, it achieved prominence mainly through the teachings and character of Elder James Burlingame, who presided over the church for over fifty years.
- 38-X. Rice City School (1846): A Greek Revival, 1-room public school with a gable roof and open belfry. Set gable end to the road, it has two front doors. The school closed in 1949.
- 38-Y. Democrat Schoolhouse (pre-1812): A small, 1-room, schoolhouse with a gable roof, it was built by public subscription as a private school and was sold to the public in 1817 for \$60 by Sally and Ebenezer Rice. It served as the village schoolhouse until 1846, when the new school (38-X) was built. At this date, this school building was moved from the tavern lot to the opposite side of Vaughn Hollow Road.
- 38-Z. Obadiah Potter House (1804): A 1½-story, 5-bay, frame house with a steeply pitched roof and a center chimney; the windows are close to the eaves. The 1-story side porch is a later addition. The wellhead dates from the mid-19th century. Obadiah Potter ran a store here in the early 19th century.
39. SUMMIT
- Though located on a ridge between the watersheds of the Flat and Moosup Rivers, the area now called Summit was known as Perry's Hollow in the 18th century. It was the site of a sawmill, gristmill, store and no more than five houses. The village grew up when the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad came through in 1856 and established a station. The village's name became "Summit" because it was the highest point on the railroad line. The railroad is gone and the depot demolished, although the other public buildings have survived.

## FLAT RIVER ROAD-Route 117

- 39-A. Summit Baptist Church (c. 1865): A simple, small church building with a gable roof and a small belfry. The projecting, enclosed, gabled entryway was added after 1900.
- 39-B. The Summit Free Library (1885): Formerly Nixon's Hall, it was converted to library use in this century. It is a simple gable-roofed building with two front entrances, enhanced by the addition of elaborately modillioned and bracketed doorhoods.
- 39-C. House (c. 1820): A 1½-story, gable-roofed house with a 5-bay facade, large center chimney and 1-story side ell. The building has curious fenestration--narrow 4-over-4 windows.

## LOG BRIDGE ROAD

- 39-D. House (c. 1860): A mid-19th-century, 1½-story house with a Victorian portico entrance; a mansard roof was added later in the 19th century.

## TIOGUE

Located one mile southeast of Washington on Arnold Road, this tiny hamlet was the site of a cotton yarn mill referred to as "Pleasant Factory" in the early 19th century. In the hands of the Anthony brothers (Jabez, William and Edward) it became a rope, cord and banding mill by 1850. A steam-driven rope walk, 1080 feet long, stood nearby and produced anchor ropes until the Spanish American War. The hamlet was renamed "Barclay" by the Anthonys, who were Quakers, for Robert Barclay, a prominent English leader of the Society of Friends. Situated near Lake Tiogue was the Arnold Farm (demolished), which gave its name to Arnold Road. This area has seen much 20th-century development. There are many lakeside summer cottages, some dating back to the first two decades of the 20th century, and many fine new homes have since been built in the area. Never a sizeable settlement, virtually all traces of "Barclay" have been obscured by 20th-century subdivisions.

## ARNOLD ROAD

40. Sam Tarbox House (c. 1820): An early 19th-century, 1½-story dwelling, gable-roofed with a center chimney and a central doorway with a transom. It was the property of Sam Tarbox in 1851.

HOLMES ROAD (off Arnold Road)

41. William H. Anthony House (c. 1845): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival double house with a handsome doorway enframement and side lights. It has been enlarged and altered by side additions and large shed dormers. The property of William H. Anthony in 1851, the house originally overlooked the Rope Walk.

42. WASHINGTON

Located on the Flat River in eastern Coventry, Washington was first settled in the 17th century, but was burned out during King Philip's War of 1675-1676. It was the site of several gristmills, fulling mills and sawmills run by the Brayton family in the 18th century, and the area became known as Brayton's Mills or Braytontown. The oldest surviving building is the Paine House, built in 1748 by Francis Brayton, and used as a tavern for over a century. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1810, when the Washington Manufacturing Company was established here, the village became known as Washington. Coventry's largest and most prosperous village during the 19th century, Washington could boast as many as six different industrial enterprises at one time, including woolen mills, machine shops and mills making yarns and carpet warps. Although some of the small mill houses, dating back to the establishment of the Washington Company, still stand, the last mill here was demolished in 1935. This makes Washington unusual: with no mills left standing and its main street now a major through road, the village tends to blend in with its neighbors, Anthony and Quidnick. Washington was located on the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad, and the railroad company built a station, engine house, freight house, water tank and round house here, making it an important railroad center for the Pawtuxet Valley. Unfortunately, none of the railroad buildings survive. Due to its prosperity during two centuries, Washington incorporates a variety of architectural styles. It presents a well kept village streetscape along Main, South Main and Wood streets. Washington had the first post office in Coventry, and has been the governmental center of the township since the erection of the Town Clerk's Office in 1881.

CADY STREET

- 42-A. Schoolhouse (1844): A 3-room, 1-story, gable-roofed, school building with a pedimented end gable, closed oculus and a square belfry. Separate, projecting, enclosed entrances for boys and girls exist at either side of the building. The building has been recently acquired by the Coventry Historical Society; plans call for its conversion for use as a local museum.

FLAT RIVER ROAD-Route 117

- 42-B. Mill Houses (c. 1812): A row of six, 1½-story, gable-roofed mill houses built for workers at the Washington Company mills.

Abbots Crossing Farmstead (c. 1885): A 1½-story, Late Victorian farmhouse and two barns, all decorated with plain and cut shingles. This farmstead marks the western boundary of Washington, where the village gives way to the agricultural hinterland.

FRANCIS STREET

- 42-D. S. F. Richmond House (4 Francis Street: c. 1880): A 2½-story, Late Victorian gable-roofed, 2-family dwelling with a bracketed cornice and an elaborate door hood and 1-story side wings. It was the property of S. F. Richmond, owner of the Richmond Marble Works, in 1895.

- 42-E. House (15 Francis Street): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Late Victorian cottage, set gable end to the street. Paired brackets delineate the cornice lines of the roof, side porch and pedimented door hood.

MAIN STREET

- 42-F. House (28-30 Main Street): A 2½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival dwelling, Victorianized by the addition of a bracketed side bay window and an ornate attached open front porch, using pierced-work ornament.

- 42-G. Town House (75 Main Street; 1941): The present Coventry Town House was built in the town's bicentennial year. It is a 1½-story, brick, public building in "Colonial" style.

- 42-H. Washington United Methodist Church (81 Main Street; c. 1831): A large, frame, gable-roofed, Greek Revival church, set gable end to the street. It has a square belfry, topped by a weather vane, and a small, gabled portico entry. Built as a First Congregational Church, it changed to a Methodist affiliation during the latter half of the 19th century. Its design appears to have been modified at that time..

- 42-I. Houses (120-22, 124 Main Street): Two 18th-century houses, almost hidden in the bustle of 20th-century Main Street. The first is a small, 3-bay, 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof and large center chimney. The second, is a 1½-story cottage (built c. 1740), with a gable roof and a center chimney; its entrance has been moved to the gable end.

- 42-J. Post Office (175 Main Street; 1965): Washington was the site of Coventry's first post office. This building, built of brick in a modern "Colonial" idiom, is now the town's main post office.

- 42-K. House (220 Main Street): An Early Victorian, 2-story, 3-bay, square house with a hip roof.

#### MAPLE AND PEARL STREETS

- 42-M. J. Johnson Houses: Two, almost identical, Late Victorian, 1½-story, gable-roofed houses with the end gables decorated with modillions; the window enframements are elaborately decorated with cookie-cutter trim; the porches are similarly detailed. J. Johnson (who ran a general store) owned both these properties in 1895.

#### PARK STREET

- 42-N. Dr. F. B. Smith House (2 Park Street): Originally a Greek Revival, 2½-story, gable-roofed house, it was remodeled in the late 19th century with the addition of a front porch, 2-story side bay windows and a 3½-story, gable-roofed square tower with a bracketed cornice, bargeboards, tower dormers and a finial. The property of Dr. F. B. Smith in 1895, local inhabitants still refer to the building as Dr. Smith's House. It has been converted to apartments.

#### SOUTH MAIN AND WOOD STREETS

- 42-O. Streetscape: Both these side streets present a homogeneous streetscape of 18th- and 19th-century residential buildings in a variety of styles, but similar in scale, well kept and preserving the village quality of residential life.

- 42-P. House (347 South Main Street; c. 1845): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house with a Victorian porch and side addition. This house is all that remains of "Spring Lake"--located one mile south of the center of Washington on South Main Street. First known as "Whitman's Factory," and then Spring Lake, it was the site of an early carpet warp mill, which became part of the Peckham manufacturing empire in 1865, producing Spring Lake blue jeans.

#### STATION STREET

- 42-Q. Paine House (1748): Built by Francis Brayton, the largest land holder here, who also ran the gristmill, sawmill and fulling enterprises at what was then called "Braytontown." The house is a large 2½-story shingled building with a central chimney and an eccentric "saltbox" roof profile. Used as a tavern by 1785, it was first known as the Brayton Tavern and then, in the 19th century, as the Holden Tavern. Named for its last occupants, the Paire House was given to the Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society in 1953 by Mrs. Zilpha W. Foster and is now used as a house museum. A schoolroom was run at one time within the building, and this has been restored, displaying school memorabilia from Coventry, including a desk from the Hopkins Hollow School

and the bell from the Rice City School. It is the oldest building in the village and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

- 42-R. Town Clerk's Office (1881): A Late Victorian, 1-story brick, public building with a gable roof, set gable end to the main street, with a corbelled brick cornice, set on a granite foundation, and using granite trim. The facade fenestration has been changed; large plate-glass picture windows have been installed and the doorway has been moved. Most recently, the brick was painted with bright red high gloss paint. The building is now used as a fire alarm station.

#### STRUCTURES AND SITES OUTSIDE VILLAGE CENTERS AND DISTRICTS

##### ANDREWS ROAD off Weaver Hill Road

43. Andrews House and Cemetery Number Thirty-one: A 1½-story, gable-roofed, mid-19th-century farmhouse with a 1-story side ell, a barn and outbuildings. Foundations of an earlier house exist on the property as well as the family cemetery which is surrounded by an enclosure made of smooth round stones.

##### BOWEN HILL ROAD

44. House: A 2½-story, Federal style dwelling with rear and side ells; it is gable-roofed and has a new exterior chimney.
45. House: A much altered but probably 18th-century, 1½-story dwelling with a gambrel roof.

##### COLVINTOWN ROAD

Located north of the village of Washington, and stretching to the Scituate town line, this area has always been a rural farming district, named for the Colvin family, some of whom still reside here. The area was not isolated, as the Colvintown Road was frequently used for travelling north from Washington to the Hope Furnace. The settlement was prosperous enough to support a school (no longer standing) in the 19th century.

46. Willow Rock Farm and Cemetery Number Fifty-Three: An early 19th-century, 1½-story farmhouse with side wings and a gable roof with shed dormers, set well back from the road. It was owned by the Johnson family as early as 1851. The family cemetery is located near the roadside.

47. Site of Burlingame Farm and Cemetery Number Fifty-four:  
Settled before 1745 by the Burlingame family, the present farm complex comprises several houses (one--Greek Revival one--modern) and a large handsome barn with a cupola and weather vane. The Burlingame family cemetery dates from the 18th through the 19th century and is located on the property.
48. Nichols House: A large early 19th-century, gable-roofed double house with two interior chimneys. Transom lights are the only ornamentation on the plain doorways. Map references show this building to have been the property of a Colonel Nichols as early as 1851.
- FISH HILL ROAD
49. House (c. 1840): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house, articulated with paneled pilaster corner boards, a plank cornice and an entablature and flanking pilasters forming the entrance.
- FLAT RIVER ROAD (Route 117)
50. Read Schoolhouse (1831): A 1-room schoolhouse with a gable roof, set gable end to the road. Two center doors at the gable end provided separate entrances for boys and girls. Built on land donated by the Read family, it was the last 19th-century Coventry schoolhouse in operation; it closed in 1951. It has since been restored and is the headquarters of the Coventry Historical Society. The finest example of an early 19th-century schoolhouse in mint condition in Coventry, it has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
51. Houses (c. 1820): Two virtually identical, early 19th-century houses, 1½-stories, gable-roofed with center chimneys, they have 5-bay facades with central doorways. The flat-topped doorways are simple, vernacular expressions of folk art, with flanking fluted pilasters capped by a broken frieze, the central portion of which is a 5-light transom. Flanking the transom are unusual tree motifs cut into the door casings.
52. Thomas Arnold House, Cemetery Number Forty-Two and Ruins of the Arnold Acid Factory (c. 1826): Thomas Arnold came to Coventry in 1826 from Warwick, having inherited a farm here from his father. He built a house and an acid factory on the property. The house, a simple 2½-story Greek Revival building with later additions including a large gable dormer and a side addition, has pilaster corner boards and a columned portico entrance. The Acid Factory was in operation for fifty years, producing acid from wood, used in the making of calico. The ruins of this early industrial complex are a visual landmark, set on high ground, with the family cemetery nearby. The ruins stand as important relics of a

forgotten industry. The site has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

54. Read House (c. 1825): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house made of stuccoed rubble stone. Built in the early 19th century by the Read family, for whom the surrounding school district was named.

#### HARKNEY HILL ROAD

55. Maple Root Baptist Church (1797): A simple, 2½-story, frame meetinghouse. The projecting, enclosed entryway is a 20th-century addition. Organized in 1762, this became the largest and most important of the Six Principle Baptist congregations in Coventry. This is the second building on the site. Adjacent and opposite are the two cemeteries associated with the church. In continuous use since 1797, it has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

56. Coventry Pines Golf Clubhouse (1838): A 2½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney, 5-bay, Greek Revival dwelling; with paneled, pilaster corner boards, a plank cornice and window enframements embellished with a Greek fret motif. The central doorway has side lights and a projecting pedimented portico.

57. Houses: Two, 2½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival houses, raised on a high brick basement and joined together, and a shell of a late 19th-century, 1½-story mansard-roofed dwelling hidden behind the two earlier houses. The latter is distinguished by rather sophisticated detailing, such as wood roof shingles cut to resemble a patterned slate roof, while each window surround is decorated with cookie-cutter Eastlake floral designs.

58. Windy Parks Farm (1814): A 2½-story, Federal style house, five bays wide, with a gable roof and large center chimney. It was built by Israel Wilson who owned the farmland opposite as well as Quidnick Pond where he ran a fulling mill, sawmill and a gristmill prior to selling the pond for use as a reservoir to the Spragues in 1846. One of the handsomest dwellings in the township, the Israel Wilson House has a fine pedimented doorway flanked by fluted pilasters and capped by a semicircular fanlight with tracery. The central core of the building is intact, although there are several additions to the sides, but these do not mar the integrity of the facade.

59. "The Old Knight Farm" (late 18th century): 1½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed center-chimney dwelling with a side ell. Most of the land in this vicinity changed hands between 1770 and 1799, and many of the deeds show that there were houses on some of the lots at that time. Local historians refer to this farmhouse as the "old Knight Farm," after its owner in the 1870s.

60. Ruins, Enclosures and Walls: Located close to the Quidnick Reservoir are the remains of several foundations of roughly laid stones and several stone enclosures. Stone walls line the approach road and remains of stone field enclosures crisscross the now heavily wooded property.
61. **HILL FARM ROAD**
- House (1721): An early 18th-century, 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house with a later 18th-century side ell and with two interior chimneys. It is said to be the Beriah Wall homestead, moved to this location in 1751 from a site nearer the Flat River.
- HOPE FURNACE ROAD**
62. Franklin House (c. 1825): An early 19th-century, 1½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney house; it has a simple pilastered doorway. By 1851, it was the property of J. Franklin.
- HOPKINS HILL ROAD**
63. Ezekiel Potter House (301 Hopkins Hill Road; 1772): A 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling with a large center chimney and a 1-story side ell with a gabled roof above.
64. House (321 Hopkins Hill Road; c. 1840): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival dwelling with cornerboards, a plank cornice and doorway with an entablature and sidelights.
- NICHOLAS ROAD**
65. Nicholas Farm (1813): At one time a working farm covering more than 1,000 acres and stretching into Connecticut, the Nicholas Farm was so large and isolated that it merited its own schoolhouse; the Nicholas District School served the family into this century, but has since burned. The farm is the best kept example of a working farmstead in Coventry, complete with farmhouse and outbuildings. The house dates from 1813; 1½ stories with a gable roof, it has a later Greek Revival ell. Also on the property is a large barn with a cupola, a swill house, a corn crib and a wellhead. All are intact; the only change being that they have all been shingled in this century. A homogeneous, architecturally intact farm complex is rare; one so well preserved is even rarer. The farm complex has been recommended for nomination to the National Register.
- PERRY HILL ROAD**
66. House (late 18th century): A 2½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed dwelling with a central chimney; set well back off the main road. The 19th-century Andrews family cemetery is nearby.

MEERS HILL ROAD

- SAND HILL ROAD (continued) 0
67. Tavern Site: Ruins and foundation walls of substantial colonial tavern site can still be seen alongside the road. The tavern is said to have been an overnight stop for the East Greenwich to Hartford stagecoach.

### SISSON ROAD

[Sisson Road] was a major Indian trail and later an important early local road, secondary to the Plainfield turnpike. It is lined with very thick, beautifully laid field-stone walls.

68. Broadwall Farm (c. 1800): A 2½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney dwelling with a 1-story side ell. The simple doorway, with sidelights has been moved from its central position and a bay window was inserted. There are traces of stone walls that formerly divided the fields. Numerous, very handsome, 20th-century barns and outbuildings complete the complex.

69. Sisson House (c. 1800): A small, 2½-story shingled cottage, only four bays wide, with a gable roof and a center chimney. It has a plain doorway with sidelights and a more recent gabled portico with trellised sides. It was built by the Sisson family (for whom the road was named).

70. Sheldon House: A 2½-story, 5-bay, Federal dwelling with a gable roof and a center chimney, embellished with later Greek Revival details, as seen in the central doorway.

71. Potter-Moore House (late 18th century): A 2½-story, 5-bay house with gable roof, center chimney and a side ell. The doorway is flanked by paired fluted pilasters, topped by a semicircular wooden fan and partially enclosed by a gabled portico. This is a fine, simple example of a late 18th-century vernacular farmhouse and has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

72. Woodlot Farm (1737): A small, 18th-century, 1½-story, center-chimney dwelling with a steeply pitched roof and several side additions. This was once part of the Benjamin Cary estate, located not too far from Carr Pond. It is presently owned by the Rhode Island artist Maxwell Mays.

### WEEKS HILL ROAD

### PERRY HILL ROAD

Located less than a mile east of the village of Summit and divided by the railroad line is the area known as Weeks Hill, named after John Wickes, the first landholder (holding

- title to the land since 1728). The hamlet is clustered around a brook, also named for Wickes. Although a small settlement, it did support a school which also served the village of Summit in the 19th century.
73. John Wickes House (1779): A 2½-story, shingled, 5-bay, gable-roofed house with a large center chimney. Built by John Wickes, a descendant of John Wickes I, who was one of Samuel Gorton's associates in the Shawomet Purchase.
74. Oliver Waterman Houses: Two, Greek Revival, 1½-story buildings with gable roofs and gable dormers located diagonally across from each other; consequently one of the two buildings is really located on Camp Westwood Road. In 1851 both were owned by Oliver Waterman, who ran a store here.

## STREET INDEX

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, street entries can be found in the Inventory under Individual Structures outside village centers.

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The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
(401) 277-2678

Frederick C. Williamson, State Historic Preservation Officer

Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman

Eric Hertfelder, Executive Director

Author:

Vivienne F. Lasky

Photographer:

Walter Nebiker

Cartographer:

Northern Consulting Associates Ltd.

Editors:

David Chase

Bernard Mendillo

Cover Design:

Susan Dynes

Typist:

Mildred A. Mann

Cover Illustration: Double mill houses (c. 1848);  
Coventry Centre. (Map #13-G).