

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



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

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Since the original publication:

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

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

Cover Illustration: Washington County Courthouse (1775, 1876; 1329 Kingstown Road; #3-T) and County Records office (1857/58; 1331 Kingstown Road; #3-U). From c. 1890 photo by W. B. Davidson, courtesy of Rhode Island Historical Society.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT  
TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

1984

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
150 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

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## PREFACE

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

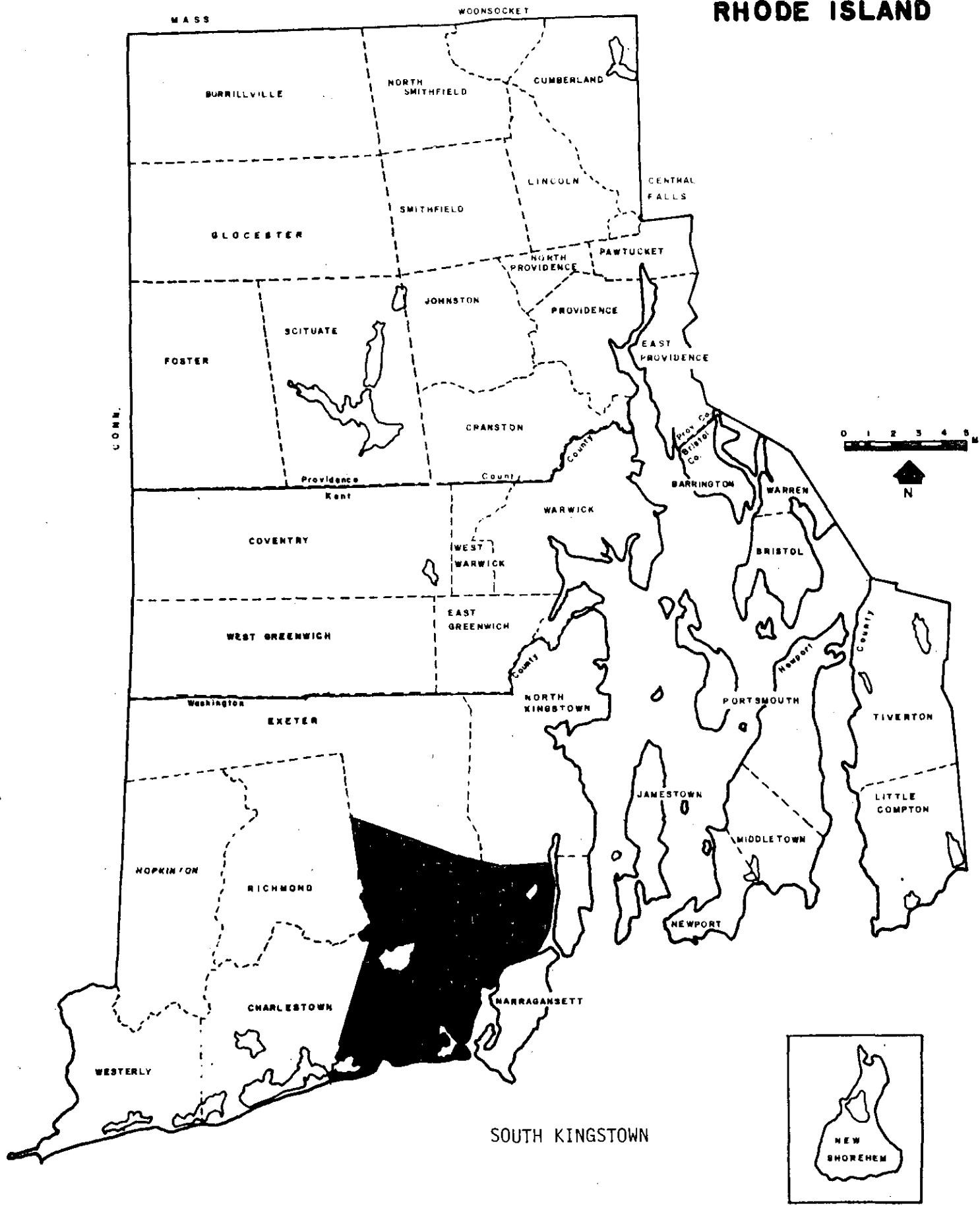
Upon completion of the survey, finished maps are developed and a brief report written. The result is a preliminary document--useful until a full-scale, intensive, cultural-resource survey of the community can be completed. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission will conduct such intensive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

## METHODOLOGY

The preliminary surveys are accomplished by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on an appropriate map each building or site of particular architectural, visual, cultural, or historic significance. Each property is photographed and recorded on a standard data sheet which includes a physical description and notations concerning history, use, condition, and architectural style or period. The significance of each property is evaluated in a preliminary fashion and properties are designated as being in one of three categories: properties already on, or determined by the federal government to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; properties recommended at the staff level for nomination to the Register; and other significant properties, some of which with further study and review, may be determined to be eligible for the Register. Known archeological sites are mentioned only incidentally in these studies to provide historical context. The major emphasis of the South Kingstown survey and report is on extant historic buildings, a list of which is provided in Appendix A.

Research was conducted at several libraries, principally the Rhode Island Historical Society Library and the Providence Public Library. Information on the National Register properties was obtained from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission files. Several South Kingstown libraries and the archives of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society also yielded information. Nineteenth century maps (as listed in the bibliography) were useful in associating individual properties with previous owners, and in providing insights about the growth and development of villages and communities. All known possible sources of information, including town and county histories, reports, gazetteers, and newspaper and travel accounts, were examined; they provided most of the information used in the report (see Bibliography). For South Kingstown, the most important source of information was Cole's 1889 History of Washington and Kent Counties. In addition, the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society and knowledgeable residents were consulted. Most helpful were Kenneth Mars, who reviewed the original survey and the preliminary draft, and Margaret Shunke and William Metz, who reviewed the preliminary draft and provided useful comments and data. Caleb Davis identified difficult to locate properties along Post Road and in the Matunuck Hills; Mason F. Crocroft also led several field visits to the Matunuck Hills and obtained data on those properties and for the Watson Tract; Barbara Hale Davis was knowledgeable about the Matunuck-Perryville area; Mary Du Moulin helped identify properties designed by her late architect husband, Rockwell King Du Moulin; Sally Wilson helped in unraveling some Hazard family "knots" in the Peace Dale area; and Kevin Munroe also contributed some items used in the report. Historical Preservation Commission staff who reviewed and contributed to this report include Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman of the Commission, William MacKenzie Woodward, and Edward F. Sanderson. Archeologist Paul Robinson wrote the section on Native Americans. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission is also indebted to Town Planner Anna Praeger and the Town of South Kingstown for their cooperation, particularly their assistance in preparing a large scale map of cultural resources; to the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society for their financial support which made publication of this report possible; and to the many other unnamed individuals who assisted by providing information on their houses and property.

# RHODE ISLAND



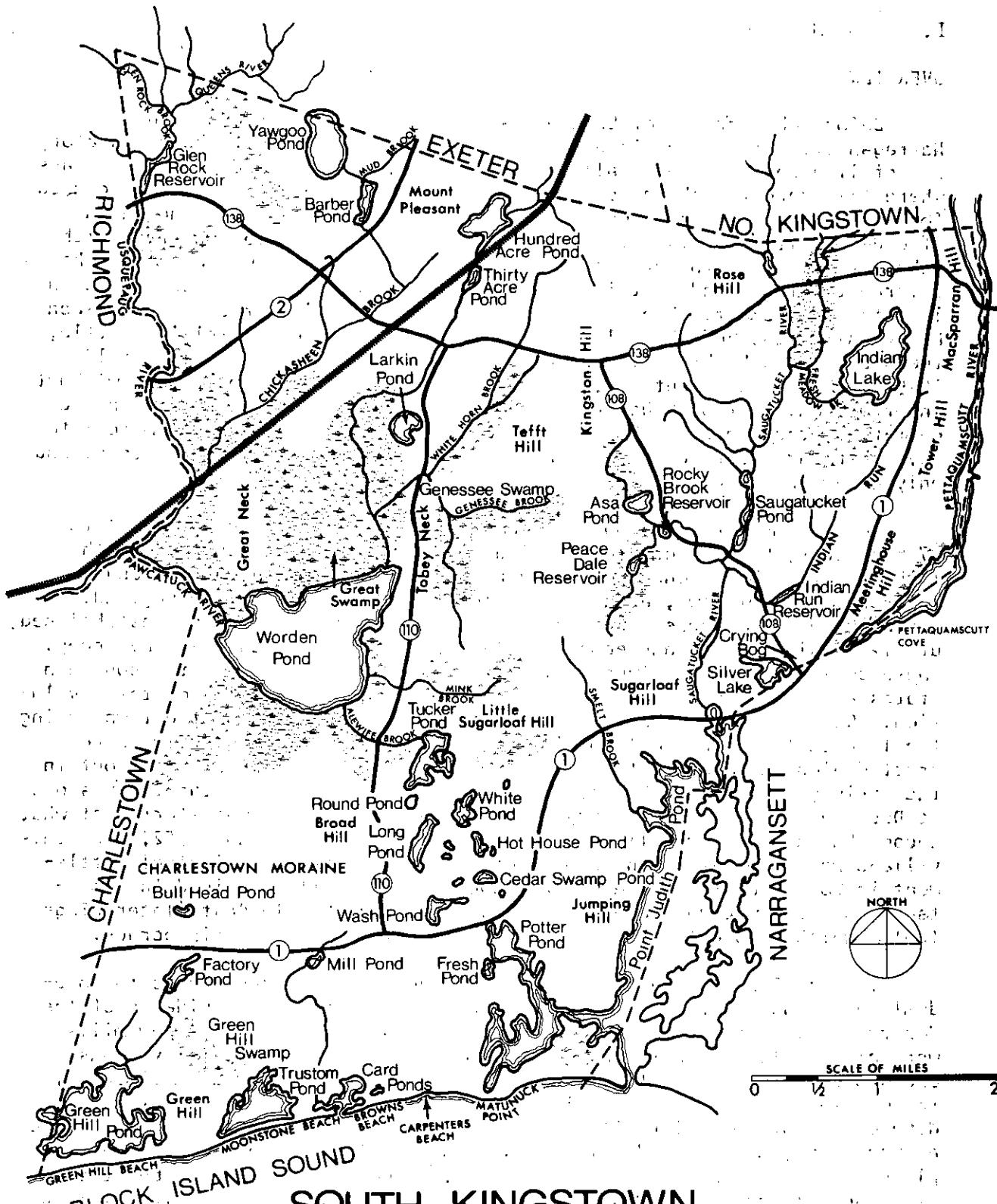
## I. ANALYSIS

### OVERVIEW

Before the arrival of European settlers, Native Americans--the Narragansett tribe--inhabited what is now South Kingstown. Their migratory way of life centered seasonally near the shores of the ponds and the oceans, where they caught fish and shellfish and planted crops, and in the secluded forests, which provided food from animals, nuts, and berries, and which afforded shelter in winter. The Narragansetts also carried on trade with other tribes and with Europeans. In 1657/58, a group of white men purchased a large tract of land that included today's South Kingstown, opening up the land for settlement. Two decades later, King Philip's War erupted between Native Americans and the colonists. After the war's most decisive battle, the Great Swamp Fight, which occurred in South Kingstown on December 19, 1675, and the subsequent death of King Philip, settlement proceeded without interruption. Although Native Americans had occupied the area for untold centuries, the impact of South Kingstown's first residents was limited; today, there are no readily visible traces of their activity in the town, and only a few Indian place names.

Some farms were laid out and some houses were built during the late 17th century, but the greatest period of land settlement occurred in the 18th century, when along the low-lying and water-oriented eastern and southern parts of town, an aristocratic society, unique to New England, known as the Narragansett Planters, evolved. Large estates were established, utilizing slave labor and economically based on horses, cattle, and sheep. These commercial plantations, which shipped their products to the southern states and to the West Indies, prospered until about the time of the Revolution. Other, smaller, farms were created throughout much of the town during the 18th century, and small mills, sawing wood and grinding grain, were erected along waterways at various localities. The Post Road, laid out in the early years of the 18th century, supported taverns and stagecoach stops at Dockray Corner and at Perryville. A small community was started at what became known as Tower Hill, and, especially between 1732 and 1752, when this village was the seat of the county courthouse it was the principal settlement in South County. After 1752, however, Tower Hill declined in importance when a new county courthouse was erected at Little Rest (later Kingston), which became the center of the town's intellectual aristocracy.

In the 19th century, agriculture was eclipsed by industry as the predominant economic activity in town. Peace Dale, under the guidance of the Hazard family, became the leading manufacturing center. Large new mills were also built in Wakefield, where commercial growth, especially banks and stores, transformed this village into a relatively large settlement by the mid 19th century. The mills at Rocky Brook were responsible for the development of a smaller village there. Smaller factories were constructed at Usquepaug, Mooresfield, Glen Rock, and Biscuit City, putting these places on the map as settled communities. Schools and churches built outside the villages served the dispersed rural population. A railroad, laid



## SOUTH KINGSTOWN

### PHYSICAL FEATURES

out through the northwest corner of town in 1837, by-passed all the villages, but eventually helped create the small community of West Kingston and provided transportation for students after the agricultural school and experiment station (later the University of Rhode Island) was established at Kingston in 1888. During the last half of the 19th century, several rural estates were created, mostly along Post Road. The beach areas, especially Matunuck began their development as summer resorts, and summer visitors began to frequent the town. The Narragansett Pier Railroad, built in 1876, served Peace Dale and Wakefield while shuttling passengers and freight between Kingston Station and fashionable Narragansett Pier (which was part of the town of South Kingstown until 1901).

In the 20th century, the automobile made the town increasingly more accessible from the state's major urban areas to the north. The college grew considerably; it was renamed the University of Rhode Island in 1951. Kingston remained a quiet, residential village, seemingly unmoved by the passage of time, while its importance was overshadowed by the development of Wakefield as the commercial center for this part of Rhode Island and by the removal of the county courthouse in the last decade of the 19th century. The beach areas underwent an "explosion" of summer houses and cottages, particularly at Matunuck and Green Hill. The nearby Matunuck Hills, sparsely populated since the 18th century, were newly discovered and became a fashionable summer retreat for Providence families. Farming continued as a minor occupation. Commercial fishing also continued as a relatively small scale enterprise, while recreational boating became popular during the 20th century, its activities abetted by the development of marinas along Point Judith Pond.

Material evidence of the Narragansett Planters, of the town's first settlement at Tower Hill and of all the early mills is almost nonexistent today, but the lives and activities of South Kingstown's former residents are remembered in Indian sites, villages, hamlets, farms, houses, mill sites, schools, churches and bridges. These, and other historical and cultural resources constitute important components of the town's heritage.

#### LOCATION AND POPULATION

South Kingstown, about 30 miles south of Providence and part of Washington County, is bordered on the south by Block Island Sound (the Atlantic Ocean). The town's boundaries with its neighboring towns are both natural and artificial. The Pettaquamscutt River and Point Judith Pond make up most of the boundary with the town of Narragansett to the east, while the Usquepaug River forms most of the boundary with Richmond to the west. Most of the western border with Charlestown and the northern boundaries with Exeter and North Kingstown are straight-line, man-made boundary lines.

South Kingstown is irregularly shaped. It is about 10 miles long from north to south, while its east-west dimension varies from about eight miles at the north to about six miles along the ocean. The town's 20,411 population (1980) is unevenly distributed. Most people live in the Wakefield-

the west to the sandy soil of the coastal plain, which extends from the Peace Dale-Rocky Brook area in the east central part of town, which contains about half of the entire town population. Kingston contains a sizeable number of permanent residents, largely in suburban tracts near the village proper, but much of its population is seasonal--students attending the University who live in dormitories and houses on or near the campus, which is just north of the village center. In contrast to the educational center at Kingston, the town's other seasonal residents are attracted by South Kingstown's recreational and climatic amenities--its lakes, ponds, and the ocean. Sizeable summer communities beginning with Snug Harbor along Point Judith and Potter ponds in the east, include the Matunuck Beach colony, Carpenter's Beach, and the relatively sedate and quiet Green Hill summer community. Smaller seasonal populations are scattered about inland--in the Matunuck Hills, along Indian Lake, and along the smaller ponds, and the town hosts summer camps for boy scouts, girl scouts, and the YMCA, among others. Outside the villages, most of the town's residents are dispersed throughout the town, especially along and near Route 1. The western part of South Kingstown, which includes the large and virtually uninhabited Great Swamp, and much hilly topography, is relatively sparsely populated.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Route 1, known by several names and approximately following the path of the old Post Road laid out in the early 18th century, crosses the eastern and southern parts of South Kingstown. A new section of highway--the Oliver Hazard Perry Highway--was built in the early and mid 20th century, bypassing Wakefield and Perryville. An easily-traversed highway, it carries large volumes of traffic in summer as part of the expressway link between the Providence metropolitan area and the Narragansett and South Kingstown shore areas. Route 138, a major east-west artery in southern Rhode Island, connects I-95 in Richmond to the west with Newport to the east. The section of Route 138 between Kingston and Route 1, at MacSparron Hill, known locally as Mooresfield Road, is heavily used by University of Rhode Island students. Route 108, connecting Kingston with Point Judith, crosses Wakefield at Dale Carlia Corner, southern Rhode Island's largest shopping center; it is well traveled by university and local residents. The South County Trail, Route 2, a 1930s highway laid out across country, passes through the sparsely-populated northwest part of town. It carries a relatively light volume of traffic. Route 110, Ministerial Road, is a small, lightly traveled road, scarcely more than a country road; it also is used largely by university students as a direct route between Kingston and the popular Moonstone and Matunuck beaches.

The main line of Amtrack between Boston and New York crosses the northwest part of town, with a station at West Kingston that serves a small number of commuters. A limited bus service is also available.

#### GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS\*

South Kingstown's landscape, a complex interface of land, vegetation, and water, is a product of millions of years of geological formation,

\*Refer to the Map of Physical Features following page 1 for locations.

weathering, and erosion and of the more recent transformation of the land surface by glaciers. Topographically, the town has several distinct areas. Between Route 1 and the ocean and Point Judith Pond is a flat or gently rolling coastal plain punctuated by several large salt ponds and lined by sandy barrier beaches. North of the coastal plain in the southern part of town is a belt of knobby terrain known as the Matunuck Hills, heavily overgrown with laurel and rhododendron and containing about a dozen, deep, clear, spring-fed ponds. About half of the town's granite-floored interior, north of the Matunuck Hills and west of Tower Hill Road, is an area of swamps and hills, interspersed with a few flatter, more habitable areas. A steep escarpment about 100 feet high and known variously as MacSparran Hill, Tower Hill, and Meetinghouse Hill, separates the more erosion-resistant rocks of the interior from the weaker rocks of the Narragansett Basin. The Pettaquamscutt River and Point Judith Cove lie at the western end of the Basin.

The land rises from the southern coast to the relatively low and broad northern hills. Mount Pleasant, at 322 feet above sea level, near the Exeter line, is the town's highest elevation. Nearby Rose Hill and Tefft Hill and several unnamed hills attain maximum elevations of from 221 to 270 feet. Summits in the Matunuck Hills are from 150 to 200 feet above sea level.

Most of South Kingstown's interior is underlain by younger granitic material than the rest of interior Rhode Island. A medium-grained, pink granite formation, the rock was more extensively quarried in Charlestown and Westerly than in South Kingstown. Here, it supplied material for almost all of the building foundations for more than two centuries, and was used to build entire buildings, most notably several at the college at Kingston. There are several abandoned quarries in the town today.

Continental glaciers--vast ice sheets overriding the land--of the recent geologic past, are chiefly responsible for South Kingstown's present topographical variety. The southward-moving ice mass carried large quantities of soil and rock which were deposited indiscriminately over the land when the ice sheet melted about 11,000 years ago. In several places where the ice sheet remained stationary for long periods of time while ice movement continued to carry forward boulders, soil, clay, and other materials, in conveyor-belt fashion, long ridges of earth, known as end moraines, were formed. The Charlestown Moraine, extending from Wakefield to Watch Hill, is an excellent example of this geological form. A sinuous ridge ranging in elevation from about 150 to 200 feet, it lies north of U.S. Route 1, which approximately follows its southern boundary. East of Route 1, the moraine has a more subdued topography, probably the result of post-glacial erosion. In places, large ice blocks were left standing after the glacier's retreat. Subsequently covered up with material deposited by glacial meltwaters, depressions resulted when the ice chunks melted, creating a very irregular landform known to geologists as kame-and-kettle topography. Tucker Pond, Long Pond, White Pond, Cedar Swamp Pond, and Wash Pond are the largest of the many water-filled kettle holes in South Kingstown.

Before glaciation, rivers and brooks draining the interior followed relatively short and well-defined routes to the sea. Glacial deposits, particularly the creation of the Charlestown Moraine--essentially a massive earth dam--blocked the pre-existing waterways. Poor drainage north of the end moraine created numerous swamps and ponds, including Worden Pond and the Great Swamp. Because of glacial interference, the Pawcatuck River, only five miles from the sea where it leaves the Great Swamp, meanders almost twenty miles before reaching the sea in Westerly. All of the town's waterways are relatively short, in length. Unsuitable for navigation, they were harnessed for power beginning in the early 18th century. The smallest brooks supported only grist and saw mills and small textile factories, while the larger and more even-flowing Saugatucket River served a number of 19th century mills that were the nucleus for several communities, ranging in size from Mooresfield to Peace Dale.

South of the Charlestown Moraine, vast quantities of glacial meltwater, heavily laden with rock and soil, created the coastal plain of generally sorted beds of gravel, sand, and clay. At that time, sea level was lower than at present. Over the thousands of years since the retreat of the continental glacier and the return to "normal" sea levels, the outwash deposits were worked and reworked repeatedly by storms, tides, and currents, to produce a long barrier beach, ponds, and marshes. South Kingstown's coastal ponds, or lagoons, include Green Hill Pond, Trustom Pond, and Potter Pond. Beaches along the gently curving oceanfront include Green Hill Beach, Moonstone Beach, Browning's Beach, Carpenter's Beach, and Matunuck Beach. For the first few centuries of settlement the beaches were used primarily as a source of seaweed and driftwood, but beginning in the late 19th century, their recreational potential was discovered and today a large summer population occupies the entire stretch of shoreline.

Originally forested, then cleared to a large degree for farming by Native Americans and early European settlers, much of South Kingstown has reverted to forest. Parts of the town--the swamps and the more rugged slopes and rocky areas--are still sparsely inhabited, including the large, state-owned Great Swamp, now a wildlife management area. The Great Swamp remains in a largely wild state, as do the Matunuck Hills. Settled by Europeans as early as the 18th century, and now an area of widely-dispersed summer houses, its rugged terrain, covered with Rhode Island's most extensive and luxuriant growth of laurel and rhododendron offers views of Block Island to the south and crystal-clear ponds below. The Matunuck Hills is an exceptionally fine and rare landscape.

A knowledge of South Kingstown's land forms provides insights into the town's settlement and land use history. At various periods of time, as perceived by the different groups of settlers, from the original inhabitants to the present residents, the town's varied natural resources have played a role in the town's history and are intimately bound with its cultural resources.

## PREHISTORIC NATIVE OCCUPATION AND SETTLEMENT

Human presence in Rhode Island, and probably in South Kingstown, stretches back ten thousand years before Roger Williams was granted the land that became Rhode Island in 1636. Over this long period of prehistoric Native American occupation, substantial changes occurred in the physical environment and in human subsistence practices. The climate warmed, melting the last glaciers, causing sea level to rise as much as fifty feet, and transforming the landscape from spruce-dominated to deciduous forest. For most of this period, the Indians relied on wild plants and animals for their sustenance, using the coastal and interior areas at different times of year to take advantage of the seasonal availability of different foods and other necessities. During the late spring and summer, prehistoric people lived along the coast, harvesting herring and shellfish. As fall set in and winter approached, the same group would journey inland for dependable supplies of firewood and favored hunting grounds. By 1000 A.D. the Indians were beginning to supplement their diet with domestic crops. As agriculture was gradually adopted, corn, squash, beans, and pumpkin were cultivated.

The greatest environmental changes occurred during the Paleo-Indian Period, from 8000 to 6000 B.D. As the climate warmed and the glaciers melted, sea level rose, inundating the coastal plain rivers and forming Narragansett Bay. Spruce forests gave way to pine and later to oak. Mastodon, caribou, moose, and giant beaver inhabited these forests and were hunted by the Paleo-Indians. Sites from the Paleo-Indian period are rare because there were relatively few inhabitants at this time; there is only one such site recorded in Rhode Island, in Lincoln on the Wescott Reservoir.

During most of the Archaic Period (6000 to 500 B.C.) the climate continued to warm, becoming even milder than it is today between 3000 and 1000 B.C. Sea levels continued to rise, reaching a level close to today's by about 3000 B.C. This stabilization of the environment allowed the formation of extensive tidal mud flats which supported the growth of abundant shellfish populations. Forests continued to change from the earlier conifers to a deciduous woodland which sheltered a greater variety of animals and plants, and thus could support a greater number of human beings. This increase can be read in the archeological record. There are more Archaic sites, located in a wider range of habitats and containing a far broader assortment of artifacts, than in the Paleo-Indian period. Among these artifacts are tools for hunting deer, birds, and small mammals, for preparing nuts and other wild plant foods, and for working wooden objects; a variety of projectile points, some probably the first true arrowheads, typically fashioned of quartz, quartzite, or green shale; and scrapers and drills, probably used to prepare hides or other materials for clothing or adornment. Ground stone gouges and axes and soapstone bowls appear for the first time.

Archaic sites are most commonly found on freshwater streams and saltwater inlets and coastal ponds. At these locations, spring runs of herring or salmon were harvested and shellfish of various kinds were gathered.

There are many Archaic sites in South Kingstown, around Potters and Trustom ponds and along fresh water rivers and streams. Most noteworthy is a winter encampment along the Chipuxet River, a 35-acre site protected from the harsh coastal winter storms and located to take advantage of both interior and coastal resources. At this site, artifacts representing household activities were recovered as well as ornamental objects and hunting equipment. The presence of these artifacts and the wide range of human activity they represent suggest a semi-permanent winter settlement, perhaps similar to the winter settlements observed by Roger Williams in the 1630s.

During the Woodland Period (500 B.C. to 1500 A.D.) the climate cooled slightly and the forest took on a hickory-chestnut composition. Sites dating from this period are larger than earlier sites because larger groups began living together, managing and harvesting the abundant nut crops or exploiting the coastal shellfish and spring runs of alewife and other anadromous fish. The oil from nuts probably was extracted and stored for the winter in clay pots, while fish were dried and packed, enabling some groups to live in the same area year-round. When the climate warmed again slightly later in the period, the growing season increased, allowing a predictable yearly harvest of corn and other domestic crops. These agricultural products helped ensure an adequate food supply and further encouraged year-round residence in one place, although inland hunting and gathering probably were continued.

Woodland period sites in South Kingstown are located in much the same places as sites from the earlier Archaic period. The presence of shell and grit-tempered ceramic vessels represent a technological change from the earlier soapstone bowls. This is accompanied by less diversity in the shapes of projectile points. Together, these two changes suggest a more specialized society, a specialization encouraged by the overall increase in population size.

Eventually the de-emphasis on seasonal movement to procure food and the growing emphasis on agriculture led to the establishment of permanent camps along the coastal plain and fertile flood plain terraces along the rivers. By the time of the first European contact, in the early 1500s, the Indians were settled around a number of semi-permanent villages led by chiefs called sachems. They were subjects of the Narragansetts whose domain included all of what is now Rhode Island west of Narragansett Bay.

The Narragansetts maintained other settlements in addition to a main village. These settlements were linked to the seasonal availability of different foods and other necessities. According to Roger Williams, each family maintained summer gardens on the coastal plain. Following harvest, inland hunting camps were established, and in the spring, families would move to locations along the rivers and inlets to harvest migrating fish. The major settlement, however, was an inland village from which all of these seasonal activities were coordinated and where the sachem probably resided year round. In addition to these activities, the Narragansetts were noted for their manufacture of shell and metal objects and their abilities as stone masons.

Prior to permanent European settlement in New England, Indian contact with explorers and traders resulted in the spread of diseases for which the native peoples had no resistance. Between 1616 and 1619 these diseases struck the coastal tribes of southeastern New England with great severity, depopulating whole villages and upsetting traditional tribal boundaries and alliances. The Narragansett Indians, who were not effected by the epidemic and were only lightly touched by the smallpox epidemic that followed in 1633-1634, became the dominant tribe in New England.

#### THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Although the initial contacts between Native Americans and Europeans were made through traders in the early 17th century, most of the interaction between the two groups was limited to several trading posts. European settlement of the South Kingstown area did not begin until after the Pettaquamscutt Purchase of 1657/58. Taking up the land proceeded slowly thereafter, interrupted by King Philip's War of 1675-76. Following the war, settlement proceeded unabated as the Pettaquamscutt proprietors built houses, established farms on large tracts of land, and laid out roads inland and along the shore.

#### Native Americans and Early Europeans: Contacts, Contracts, and Conflicts

Fort Ninigret, in Charlestown, used as a trading post by the Indians in prehistoric times, was occupied again in the early 17th century, soon after Dutch explorer Adrien Block explored the Rhode Island coast in 1614, and Dutch traders began exchanging cloth and arms for furs from the Indians. Because of the contact with Dutch traders, the Narragansetts became middlemen with inland tribes, who eventually became economic subjects of the Narragansetts. Narragansett dominance over adjacent tribes was confirmed after the Wampanoags to the east were decimated by a plague about 1620, and the Pequots to the west were defeated by combined Narragansett, Mohegan, and Colonial forces in about 1636. With a population of about 30-35,000, the Narragansetts became the largest and most powerful tribe in New England, and were reportedly the best farmers among the Atlantic seaboard aborigines (C. Woodward, 1971). The land, cleared of woods for a distance of from eight to ten miles inland from the sea, was described as level and open country in a 1643 report to Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts. In 1637, Roger Williams set up a temporary trading post in what is today North Kingstown. Here in 1643, he established a permanent post, which, taken over by Richard Smith in 1651, became known as Smith's Castle, or Cocomscussoc. During the mid-17th century, a trading post was also established in a house built by Jireh Bull on the east slope of Tower Hill, near the Pettaquamscutt River.

In 1657/58, several Narragansett sachems--Quassaquanch, Kachanaquant, and Quassauack--sold the land, loosely referred to as the Narragansett Country, that included South Kingstown, Narragansett, and parts of North Kingstown and Exeter. This, the Pettaquamscutt Purchase, and several later purchases, opened up the land for settlement. Each of the original Pettaquamscutt proprietors received choice tracts along the water, including Boston Neck and Point Judith in today's Narragansett, and at Matunuck Neck



Pettaquamscutt Rock: off Middle Bridge Road. (#46)



Quaker Burial Ground (Historical Cemetery No. 95  
(1710): Tower Hill Road. (#131)



Dugway Bridge: Dugway Bridge Road. (#31)

and the Back Side (the area west of Potter Pond in South Kingstown and Charlestown). Other parcels, owned in common, were offered for sale, and one tract of 300 acres near Worden Pond was set aside for a minister's income. In 1665, the Narragansett Country became "ye King's Province". The present towns of South and North Kingstown, Exeter, and Narragansett were all part of Kingstown. The county, later known as Kings County, was renamed for George Washington following the war for independence.

The relationship between the Indians and European settlers had been strained from the days of initial European settlement. Continued friction between the two groups erupted into war when the Wampanoags, under King Philip, engaged in several skirmishes with white settlers, beginning in June, 1675, in what was then Plymouth Colony. Although they were the strongest Indian group in southern New England in 1675, the Narragansetts did not immediately enter King Philip's War, but attempted to maintain neutrality. The Narragansetts did, however, accept Wampanoag refugees which the sachem Canonchet refused to turn over to the United Colonies. The colonists, angered by this refusal, declared war on the Narragansetts in November, 1675. On December 15, 1675, Indians attacked and burned Jireh Bull's garrison house and 15 men, women, and children died. Several days later, on December 19th, the colonial forces reached the palisaded village of the Narragansetts, deep in South Kingstown's Cedar Swamp. In the battle of the Great Swamp, many warriors, women, and children died when the colonial army burned their palisaded settlement. King Philip was killed in August, 1676, terminating the war. The remaining Narragansett Indians followed several directions; some settled in Charlestown with the Niantics who had remained neutral during the war, while others moved west into New York state and Canada. In addition, others were sold into Caribbean slavery, or worked locally for white families.

#### European Settlement

European settlement of South Kingstown had begun with the Pettaquamscutt Purchase of 1657/58. By 1675, a few houses had been built, some of which may have survived King Philip's War; others were built following the defeat of the Indians. By the end of the 17th century, inland farms were being established.

According to William Davis Miller (1933), houses were built at Tower Hill between 1658 and 1669. Originally established along the west bank of the Pettaquamscutt River, at the foot of Tower Hill, the settlement, gradually extending up to the hill's crest, became the community known as Tower Hill.

Large farms were established in other parts of the town. William Knowles was at Little Rest Hill in 1671; farms there averaged 500 acres. Robert Hazard built a house and was living near Little Rest before 1687. By the time he died, in 1718, he had increased his landholdings considerably and his family had become the largest and most powerful of the Narragansett Planters. Robert's oldest son, Thomas, further increased the family landholdings. In 1698, he purchased more than 900 acres from Samuel Sewell, 300 acres on the west side of the Saugatucket River, near today's Peace Dale, and 600 acres on the "Back Side"--west of Matunuck Neck.

Roads were laid out from Tower Hill inland and north and south. Some of the early roads are today's Tower Hill Road, Saugatucket-Curtis Corner roads, originally Broad Road, leading to the ministerial lands; Rose Hill Road and the road leading to and through Little Rest; North Road; South Road; and Mooresfield Road. Along the roads and on the large farms, farmhouses were built. William D. Miller's, Early Houses of the King's Province (1941), includes drawings and brief accounts of about a dozen early houses, most with large stone chimneys at or near the end of the house. South Kingstown Quakers had a monthly meeting before 1699, and reportedly, a Congregational society was formed in the late 17th century also, but no meeting houses were erected during the century. Jireh Bull rebuilt his house soon after King Philip's War; but it later fell victim to neglect. Another old house, the Dale Carla House, built in 1693, may have been the oldest house in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase when it was torn down in 1958 to make room for a bank building, but several early houses still stand in South Kingstown. The best preserved is the Samuel Perry House (#43)\*, built some time between 1696 and 1716 in the Matunuck area. Two old Congdon family houses (#79 & 82-A), reportedly built during the last decade of the 17th century, both with massive stone chimneys, underwent extensive renovations in the early 20th century which transformed them in size, scale and spirit.

#### THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Agriculture was the dominant economic activity and way of life throughout the 18th century. Although many of South Kingstown's farms were largely non-commercial, family-run enterprises, a plantation system based on large tracts of land and slave labor prospered in the coastal parts of South Kingstown and adjacent towns for most of the century. Increased population and land settlement spawned several small communities, notably Tower Hill and Little Rest, each in turn having served as the county seat with its courthouse. Several places, including Usquepaug, Wakefield, Glen Rock, and Biscuit City had their beginnings around grist and/or saw mills, while several houses appeared in conjunction with stage coach taverns along the Post Road, which was laid out early in the century. Many houses erected in the town during the 18th century--good examples of Colonial and Federal era architecture--have survived to the present.

#### The Narragansett Planters

Through a unique combination of circumstances, particularly large landholdings, favorable climate, fertile soil, proximity to water, and slave labor, a landed aristocracy called the Narragansett Planters evolved in the southeast

\*Numbers in parentheses refer to the Inventory (Section III) and to the Map of Cultural Resources following page 126.



Samuel Perry House (1696-1716): 844 Matunuck  
Schoolhouse Road. (#43)



Henry Palmer House (1721): 557 Succotash Road.  
(#74)



Henry Merchant House (pre-1760): South County  
Trail. (#119)

corner of the King's Province (Washington County). Beginning in the 1660s and ending about a century later, with the peak period of prosperity between about 1740 and 1763, the Narragansett Planters were an aristocracy of stock farmers and dairy men who derived their wealth from the land; an anomaly in Rhode Island, this society had no parallel in the rest of New England.

The southern coast of Rhode Island, surrounded and enveloped by water, enjoys the best climate for agriculture in New England. In addition to the tempering effect of the sea, which resulted in milder winters and less snow-fall than in inland areas, the even distribution of rainfall assured good pasture lands. The productive lowland along tidal rivers and inland ponds, with rich soil and herbage, provided excellent pasturage for horses and grazing for cattle, while the upland areas, such as the Matunuck Hills, with numerous stone-covered slopes, was admirably suited to sheep. Proximity to water was also essential for relatively quick and cheap transport of agricultural products; the numerous coves were suited for docks which enabled direct shipment. At a time when travel by road was difficult, water also permitted easy access and transport of goods to Newport and elsewhere by ferry.

An important factor in the growth and development of the Planter society was the ownership of large tracts of land along the fertile coastal plain, extending from MacSparran Hill and Boston Neck along the shore to the Champlain tract in Charlestown, a district about 20 miles long and two to four miles wide. By the mid 18th century, the Robinsons and Hazards had acquired large estates in the midst of the Pettaquamscutt country. Rowland Robinson owned a 3,000-acre tract centered on his estate at Silver Lake in today's South Kingstown.

The princely estates, many thousands of acres in extent, required a large labor force, which was provided by tenants, hired hands, indentured servants, and some Indians held as slaves, but mostly by black Africans. It is likely that the use of Indians as slave labor began after King Philip's War; the transition to African slaves was easily accomplished because of the large number of Rhode Island vessels sailing the world's oceans, many actively involved in the slave trade. Slavery, both Negro and Indian, reached a development in colonial Narragansett unusual in the northern colonies. By the first half of the 18th century, South Kingstown, except for Newport, had the largest number of enslaved Negroes. According to the Census of 1730, three quarters of all the 1,648 colored slaves in the colony were in Newport and the Narragansett Country. In that year, South Kingstown contained 965 whites, 333 Negroes, and 223 Indians. By about 1748, South Kingstown had the highest number of slaves in the colony.

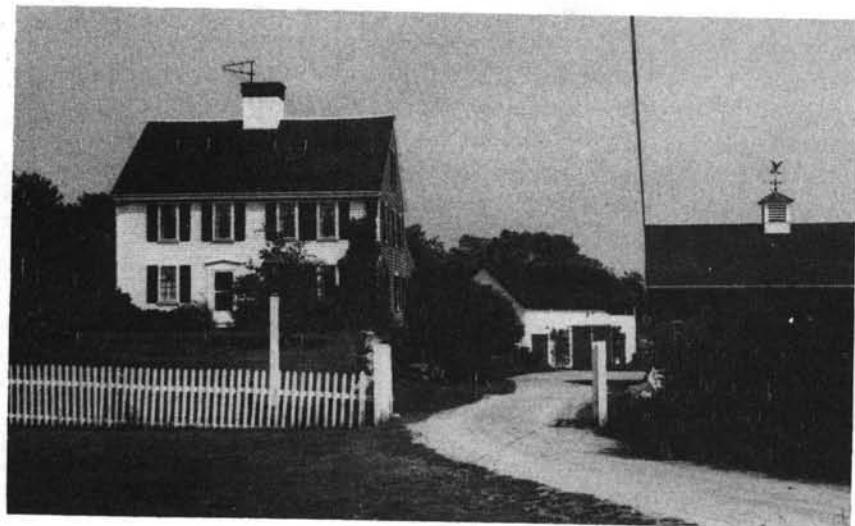
The mainstay of the Planter's economy was horses, and cattle and sheep and their by-products. John Hull, one of the original Pettaquamscutt Purchasers, took an early interest in horse breeding; by 1680, the Narragansett Pacer, which originated here and became the most popular horse in the colonies, was being exported. It became the favorite saddle horse because it had the least fatiguing gait over rough roads, and was extensively



William Congdon House/Brookfield (c. 1690, 1930):  
159 Post Road. (#79)



Weeden Farm/Willow Dell (1753, 1871 et seq.):  
Post Road. (#100)



Rocky Meadows Farm (1754): 205 Post Road. (#87)

advertised in Charlestown, South Carolina, between 1734 and 1740. The Pacer was also in great demand in Cuba and in the French islands of the West Indies, where it was used to turn sugar mills, and in Dutch Guiana.

Next in importance to the Pacer were cattle and dairy products. Rhode Island dairy cows were exported to other colonies and to the West Indies, although most were retained for dairy uses. The cattle grazed in herds of 100 to 150 head on the largest estates. An excellent cheshire cheese, known as Narragansett cheese was made on each estate having a cheese house. It was produced in great quantities and widely exported to the colonies and the West Indies; much of it went to Boston. Butter was also exported, but in relatively small quantities, as were hides cured in several local tanneries.

Sheep, introduced into the stony upland pastures of the Narragansett country before 1675, made this the greatest sheep-raising area of New England. At one time, there were flocks of almost 1,000 sheep. The great production of wool resulted in the erection of several fulling mills in town.

The major crop was corn, which became the bread grain of the colony. Almost all the corn stayed in the colony. Several grist mills, one built as early as 1661, ground corn into white corn meal, which was used to make johnny cakes. Other crops included tobacco, rye, hemp, flax, used for weaving into linen, and oil from the seeds. Lumber was cut in the Cedar Swamp adjoining Worden Pond and floated to the northern shore of the pond, where, on a lot known for generations as the Landing, or Framing Lot, was hewn, cut, and framed. Most of the lumber was used for boats built in several shipyards along the Pettaquamscutt River.

The leaders of the Narragansett society were, for the most part, well-educated men, some of whom possessed large collections of books. For instance, the home of Reverend James MacSparran, an Episcopal clergyman, who settled here about 1733 at a home and farm known as The Glebe (#140), was the center of hospitality and intellectual life, where such visitors as Dean Berkeley were entertained. The Planters also went across the bay to Newport for recreation and social hospitality. Children were tutored, and libraries were collected. Horse racing on the beaches fox hunting, and dances were other forms of entertainment.

As a number of favorable conditions created the Narragansett Planters, a series of unfavorable circumstances brought an end to their opulent way of life. Some of the Planters were members of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, the first group to perceive the evils of Slavery and to work for an end to the system. Voluntarily at first, then through legislation, slavery was halted. The Negro population was increasing in greater proportion to the white population until 1756; after that, the situation was reversed, and an important labor source for the Planters slowly dwindled. Another problem was that the Narragansett Pacer had been exported in such great numbers that the breeding stock was depleted. By 1800, there was only one Narragansett Pacer left in Rhode Island (the breed only survived several years longer in Connecticut). Finally, the division of estates, curtailment of trade with

the West Indies, and fluctuating currency in the colony, also contributed to the decline of plantation output by 1763. The Plantation system was permanently laid to rest with the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Although an important part of Rhode Island history and a unique way of life in New England for about a century, the Narragansett Planters left few material remains.

### Early Settlements

Tower Hill and Little Rest, the major settlements of the 18th century, owed at least part of their growth to the successive establishment of the county court house in each community. Each place also supported a church. Several other small communities evolved during the century, but, unlike Tower Hill and Little Rest, they were sited along waterways whose water power was utilized in the operation of small grist, saw, and fulling mills.

At Tower Hill, at the junction of Post Road (now Tower Hill Road), Torrey Road, and Saugatucket Road, a Congregational society formed and met. Here the renowned minister, Samuel Niles, served from about 1702 to 1710. During the 18th century, the Narragansett Country experienced remarkable growth. In 1729, when King's County was incorporated, the Colony's judicial system was revised with each county to have a jail and its own court house where the General Assembly would meet on a rotating basis. Tower Hill was chosen as the site for the Kings County Court House, and the General Assembly met here for the first time in 1732. In the same year, a new Congregational church was erected. Dr. Joseph Torrey was ordained and began his service at Tower Hill in 1732; he remained here for 60 years as physician and pastor. The neglect of the court house at Tower Hill and agitation for a new court house led to the removal of the county seat from Tower Hill to Little Rest in 1752; henceforth there was little further activity at Tower Hill. A post office and a school house were built, but the Congregational church was sold in 1791.

At Little Rest, originally comprised of large farms, the first house lots and small holdings were laid out in the first decade of the 18th century. By 1752, when the court house and jail at Tower Hill had deteriorated to a bad state of repair, Little Rest was a thriving community. Several influential residents successfully petitioned the General Assembly to relocate the court house and county seat to Little Rest, citing the advantage of a more central location and promising that they would soon build "three good taverns" for the entertainment of those attending the courts. By the end of the 18th century, Little Rest was a well-established village, and for more than a century thereafter, Little Rest (later Kingston) prospered and its native sons, notably Elisha R. Potter, Sr., (1764-1835) were important and influential in town and state affairs.

Usquepaug, along the Queen's River, lies along the western border of the town with Richmond, and most of its buildings are in that town, but, by a quirk of geography, the river and mills built along it were included in the town of South Kingstown. A grist mill was erected about 1700; by 1706, a weave shop and a fulling mill had been added, but the community grew slowly,

if at all, throughout the 18th century. At first known as Cottrell's Mill, the place was renamed Robinson's Mills, then, in 1716, became Mumford's Mills, a name it retained for more than a century afterward.

Wakefield began in the early 18th century as a small mill village along the Saugatucket. A grist mill, a saw mill, and a carding mill were built at a site several hundred feet above the present dam and a handful of houses were erected along nearby Post Road. About 1765, a snuff mill was built. Dockray Corner, a small section of Wakefield west of the present village center, was relatively important in the 18th century. In 1745, a tavern and stagecoach stop were established at the Willard Hazard Tavern (#13-YY), and a store opened there in 1769.

At Glen Rock, a small community grew up around a grist mill and a saw mill which were probably erected in the early 18th century. Another small locality that came into existence in the 18th century was Biscuit City, where a small mill is mentioned in a 1795 deed. In 1716, a grist mill (#59) was built by Samuel Perry in the Matunuck area, north of Moonstone Beach. Unlike the other small 18th century mills, it never generated a settlement but today it is still in operation, grinding corn for johnny cake meal by water wheel.

#### Rural Settlers

While a few families were living in the grand manner along the fertile and hospitable coastal plain, most of the town's farmers were living at a subsistence level on smaller, often rocky and hilly farms dispersed throughout the town. These farmers grew crops, raised animals, and engaged in other activities mostly to provide for their own families. Some of the hard work they underwent is manifested today in the many miles of stone walls they built as they cleared their fields, and in many of the old cart paths and roads connecting the scattered and isolated farmsteads. These ways formed the pattern for the present road system in town.

Among South Kingstown's rural settlers were Indians, mostly descendants of the Narragansetts, and, in the latter part of the 18th century, Blacks. According to census data in 1730, there were 225 Native Americans in town. In 1782, 32 Indians were counted. (In 1790, they were counted with the Black population.) Blacks in South Kingstown numbered between 333 and 453 during the century. After attaining their freedom, many settled in the more remote interior sections of town, especially in the Matunuck Hills and along Ministerial Road. These freedmen included Ned Watson, a preacher; Guy Watson, hero of the Revolutionary War Black Regiment; Cuff Tory, a fisherman; and Sylvia Tory, the mysterious witch of Ministerial Road, who was the only former slave who could purchase her land.

#### Colonial and Federal Era Houses\*

The South Kingstown survey recorded 84 buildings dating from about 1700 to 1830. The mostly wooden, box-like houses built at that time were

\*See Appendix A for a list of noteworthy architectural resources.



George Fayerweather House (1820); 8 Mooresfield Road,  
Kingston Historic District. (#3-Z)



Elisha Potter Reynolds House/The Homestead (1809):  
Kingston Historic District. (#3-E)



Wilkins Updike House (1819): 1276 Kingstown Road,  
Kingston Historic District. (#3-E)

of massive post-and-beam construction, joined together by pegs. The most common types were the two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed structures built on an end-chimney 3-bay plan, or a more or less symmetrical five-bay scheme with a central entrance and a large center chimney. Kingston village has an important concentration of fine, large houses, most dating from the first decades of the 19th century. Good rural examples include the pre-1760 Henry Marchant House (#119) on South County Trail and the Palmer Gardner House (#67) on Mooresfield Road. The smaller one-and-a-half story version of this basic house type is also widespread throughout the town. These basic types formed the core of South Kingstown's domestic architecture. They remained an important part of the town's building tradition and comprised a significant part of its housing stock until well into the 19th century, largely defining the town's visual character. Depending on the age and scale of these early houses, they vary primarily in roof form, detail, and plan.

The gable roof remained a standard form throughout this early period, and in fact continues so in the present, but nine or more gambrel-roofed houses from the Colonial period have survived to the present time. The gambrel-roofed Perry House (#86), built in 1815, is a late example of this roof form, which was more popular before the Revolution.

Detail on South Kingstown houses was minimal. The exterior focus, the entrance, usually has a plain surround, simply framed with flat pieces of wood. Others have only a row of transom lights, often five in number, above the door. Four houses in Kingston--the John Douglas House (#3-K), the Wilkins Updike House (#3-E), the Thomas P. Wells House (#3-S), and the Luke Aldrich House (#3-FF)--have rare, narrow and tall entryways, topped with a 5-light transom and a moulded cap. Very few of these Federal era houses have the fine entryways common to their urban counterparts. The most noteworthy are those at Shadblow Farm (#126), which has a pedimented entry with fluted pilasters and transom lights, and the Cottrell Homestead (#139), which has a fanlight in addition to its pediment and fluted pilasters.

As the center chimney remained standard for South Kingstown's early houses, so did the five-room plan. From a small entryway, or porch, large rooms were located to the left or right, with three rooms across the back of the house. Only a very few early houses recorded in South Kingstown made use of the center hall, paired-end-chimney plan, and they are among the larger, more elaborate examples. The three finest Federal houses in town are the Asa Potter House (#3-G), the Thomas Taylor House (#3-J), and the Like Aldrich House (#3-FF), all in Kingston and all built within two or three years of one another. Large, block-like structures, two have hip-roofed porticoes, and all have a roof balustrade composed of block panels alternating with decorated openings.

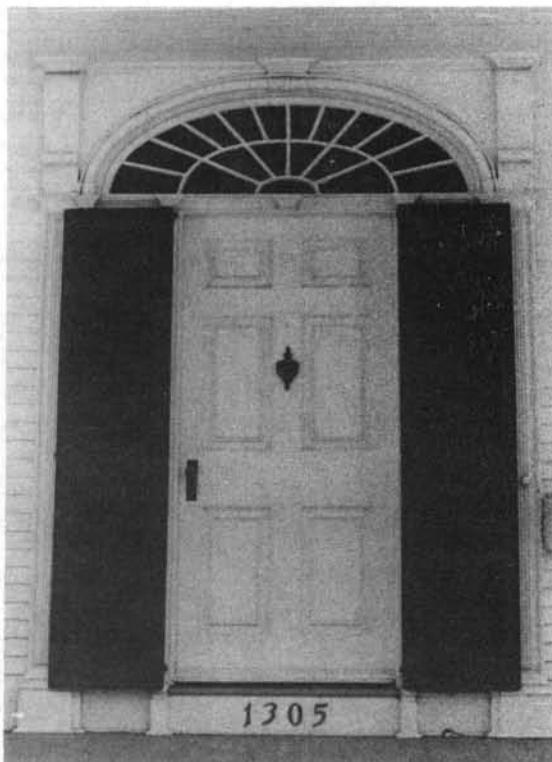
Although some of the early houses have undergone alterations and additions which have compromised their original appearance, many exist today in a largely unaltered and relatively well-preserved state.



Kingston Congregational Church  
(1820); 1334 Kingstown Road,  
Kingston Historic District. (#3-V)



John Douglas House (1753);  
1308 Kingstown Road, Kingston  
Historic District. (#3-K)



Thomas S. Taylor House (1827):  
1305 Kingstown Road, Kingston  
Historic District. (#3-J)



Thomas P. Wells House (1832):  
1328 Kingstown Road, Kingston  
Historic District. (#3-J)

## THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

### 1800-1840

By the early nineteenth century, Tower Hill had remained a small, community, whereas Kingston was entrenched as the town's most important village. By this date, the present network of roads had been developed. Some roads served as important highways, while many others were mere links between farms. Farming itself continued to be the mainstay of the economy, but small industries--saw mills, grist mills, and blacksmith shops--served the local population. Boatbuilding along the Pettaquamscutt River together with a little fishing, both relatively insignificant in the overall town economy, furnished some employment. The Industrial Revolution, however, which had started in Pawtucket with Samuel Slater's 1790 cotton mill, began to stir the town to a new awakening. While the small textile mills started at Green Hill, at Glen Rock, at Mooresfield, and in the Matunuck area, had little impact on settlement, manufacturing of cotton and wool on a larger scale at the textile mills of Usquepaug, Rocky Brook, Peace Dale, and Wakefield resulted in the development of small villages, or hamlets, in the early 19th century. These places later grew into sizeable communities. In 1837, the New York, Providence, and Boston Railroad, known locally as the Stonington line, was laid out across the northwest corner of South Kingstown, and a station was built west of Kingston, near Waites Corner Road. A stage line was established connecting the West Kingston station with Kingston, Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier.

#### Little Rest (Kingston)

The Pease and Niles gazetteer, published in 1819, described "Little rest hill" as a small but pleasant village occupying a prospective and interesting site near the center of town, with about 25 dwellings, the court house, and a bank (incorporated in 1818). Between 1802 and 1832, 13 dwelling houses and several other buildings (as recorded in the inventory) were built in the village, architecturally some of the finest in town (see Appendix A). In 1819, the Pettaquamscutt Academy started; it became the Kingston Academy in 1826, and was enlarged in 1832. In 1820, the Congregational church was moved from Tower Hill to Little Rest, where a new meeting house was erected.

The Fayerweather blacksmith shop was begun in Kingston during this period. The blacksmith shop was owned and operated through the 19th century by two generations of the Fayerweather family, descendants of a freed Black slave, George Fayerweather, who was once the property of the Reverend Samuel Fayerweather of the Glebe. George's son, George II, was a blacksmith and carried on his trade in Kingston Village by 1809. In 1819, George II purchased land from James Helme, Jr., and the blacksmith shop was moved to the north side of Mooresfield Road on the outskirts of the village, where it continued for the rest of the century.

Luke Aldrich, a cabinetmaker, was another craftsman who was active in Kingston early in the 19th century, and southern Rhode Island's first newspaper, the Rhode Island Advocate, was published in the village in the 1830s.



H. Eldred House (c. 1822): 150 North Road. (#71)



Shadblow Farm (1810): Tower Hill Road. (#126)



Thomas S. Taylor House (1827): 1305 Kingstown Road, Kingston Historic District. (#3-J)

Two important community leaders during this period were Elisha R. Potter and Wilkins Updike Potter, Kingston's most prominent and influential son, served as a member of Congress, as Rhode Island Commissioner of Education, and as a Rhode Island Supreme Court justice; he was an historian, author, and leader of an active intellectual and social community. Updike, who moved to Little Rest before 1819, was an author, historian, and lawyer who also served as a representative in the General Assembly.

#### Peace Dale

The first mill site at Peace Dale was along the Saugatucket River about 300 feet north of the present mills. Here, in the 18th century, farmers brought their flax to be manufactured into linseed oil (from the seed) and linen cloth (from the fiber). By the late 18th century, a water-powered fulling mill and a grist mill, owned by John W. Knowles and Joseph Congdon, were also operating at the site. In 1799, Rowland Hazard returned to South Kingstown from Charleston, South Carolina. He purchased the fulling mill in 1804 where he manufactured rolls of carded wool, and in 1811 he acquired the linseed oil mill. In 1814, Hazard purchased four looms, which were installed in the mill and were weaving woolen cloth by 1815. The consolidation of all the manufacturing processes, from carding to finishing, in a single mill, gave the woolen industry a fully developed factory system a year or two ahead of the cotton industry. In 1819, Isaac P. and Rowland G. Hazard succeeded their father in the business; by 1821, they had installed a power spinning jack and begun the manufacture of Kersey cloth and linsey-woolens. The latter were woven by hand until the installation of power looms in 1828. Peace Dale, named for Rowland Hazard's wife, Mary Peace, remained a small community during the early part of the 19th century. In 1823 it had only 5 houses, the mills, a store, and about 30 inhabitants.

#### Wakefield

In the 18th century, Dockray Corner, with its stagecoach stop and tavern, was the center of activity in the Wakefield area, but the development of the textile industry in the village created a new center of interest. About 1807, Joseph Congdon started a carding mill along the Saugatucket River. In about 1820, the mill property was acquired by James Robinson. The Robinsons retained the mill for several decades; they also built at least two stores, and erected several fine dwellings along Post Road west of the river. By 1822, Wakefield had 9 houses, a store, a grist mill, a saw mill, a blacksmith shop, carding mill, and about 60 inhabitants. In the next two decades, two religious societies erected church buildings--a Baptist church, built in 1830 near River Street, then the easternmost part of the village, and an Episcopal church, built in 1840 off the main street west of the river.

#### Other Villages and Manufacturing Activities

During the early 19th century, mill sites along the town's smaller waterways were developed or expanded, in some places creating small communities. Rocky Brook, under the Rodman family, was transformed into a prosperous mill village. In 1821, Samuel R. Rodman purchased Rodman ancestral land here. By

the 1830s, at least two textile mills were in operation along Rocky Brook, and several dwellings had been erected for workers and others. A short distance downstream from the village of Rocky Brook, Joseph Hazard established a small axe factory in the 1830s, which he rented to Stephen C. Fisk and Stephen E. Wright in about 1835. At Usquepaug, a grist mill was erected in 1807, and a carding mill went up soon after, but the major impetus to growth in the village was the construction of the Independence Mill in 1836. It manufactured Kentucky jean cloth and employed several workers who lived in nearby houses. Upstream from Usquepaug, Barber's Mill, a small, remote locality, was the site of early grist and saw mills. Barber's Mill which later became known as Glen Rock, remained a tiny settlement in the early 19th century. Another small settlement developed at Biscuit City. Sold in 1808 to the South Kingstown Cotton Manufactory, the mill there manufactured cotton for 11 years before being converted into a carriage and wagon factory. In 1830, the mill was sold at auction and used as a grist mill thereafter. At Mooresfield, the site of an 18th-century grist mill and a later fulling mill, a 2-story mill was built in 1836.

Several other sites were developed for manufacturing textiles in the early 19th century. None of them ever grew large enough to warrant a place name; they consisted only of a mill and perhaps a house for the mill owner-operator. In the Green Hill area in the southwest corner of town, along two, small, sluggish brooks, two textile mills were erected in the early 19th century. A small cloth factory, identified as Browning's Factory on an 1831 map, burned in 1837. East of Moonstone Beach Road, another mill, perhaps built by a member of the Carpenter family, manufactured woolen cloth. In the northern part of town, Amos Wells built a carding mill around 1828, but it proved financially unsuccessful and eventually became a grist mill. Only one other structure, a house, was associated with this mill site.

Boatbuilding during these years occurred on a small scale along the shores of the Pettaquamscutt River. Only a handful of men engaged in this activity, and sites were few. The Dolphin, built in 1813, was the first of at least ten boats launched by Captain John Aldrich Saunders from the Tower Hill area. These boats were part of the larger Rhode Island coastal trade fleet that played a continuing and important support role in the state's economic life.

#### Agriculture and Fishing

Although South Kingstown had several villages, large and small, and several industrial sites, the dominant economic activity during the early 19th century continued to be farming. Pease and Niles' 1819 gazetteer noted eight grain mills and two clothiers works in South Kingstown, but deemed the town's manufacturing and mechanical employments inconsiderable. South Kingstown was a flourishing agricultural township whose prevailing gravelly loam soil, which was generally strong, fertile, and adapted both to grazing and grain cultivation, supported many excellent dairy farms and good crops of Indian corn, barley, oats, and rye. Dairying was the major agricultural interest. Fisheries, on the shore of Narragansett Bay (Narragansett was then part of South Kingstown) and in the salt ponds, were of some importance, yielding considerable quantities of

alewives, bass, perch, and smelt. Most of the fish were exported to Providence, Newport, and New York City.

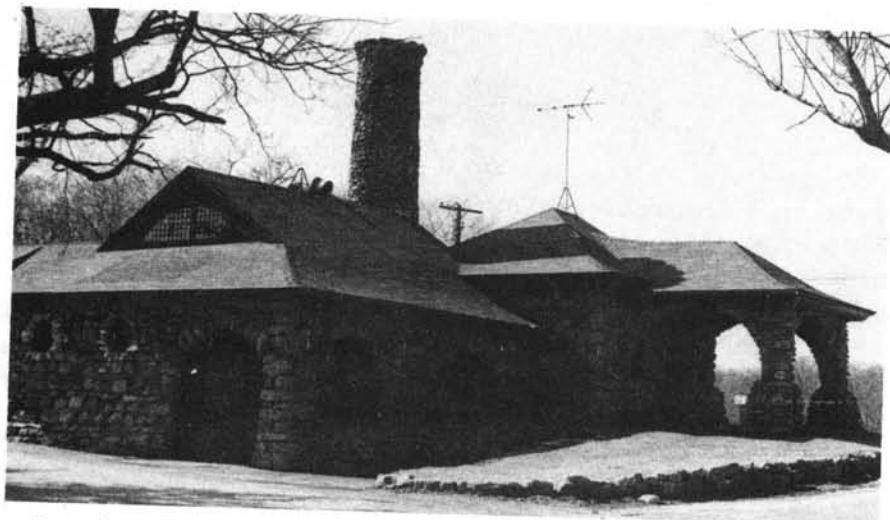
### 1841-1875

The full force of the Industrial Revolution finally arrived in South Kingstown in about the 1840s. New, large, efficient factories went up in Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Rocky Brook, transforming these hamlets into urban villages. Under the leadership of the Hazards, Peace Dale rapidly became the largest settlement. Wakefield, led by the Robinson family, increased its industrial capabilities and began to assume its role as the commercial center of South Kingstown, while Rocky Brook, under the Rodmans, also grew as new factories were built. Textile mills also were located at water power sites in remote localities such as Mooresfield, Glen Rock, Green Hill, and Matunuck. Farming lingered on as a widespread occupation of many town residents, but the value of the town's agricultural products was decidedly secondary to manufacturing.

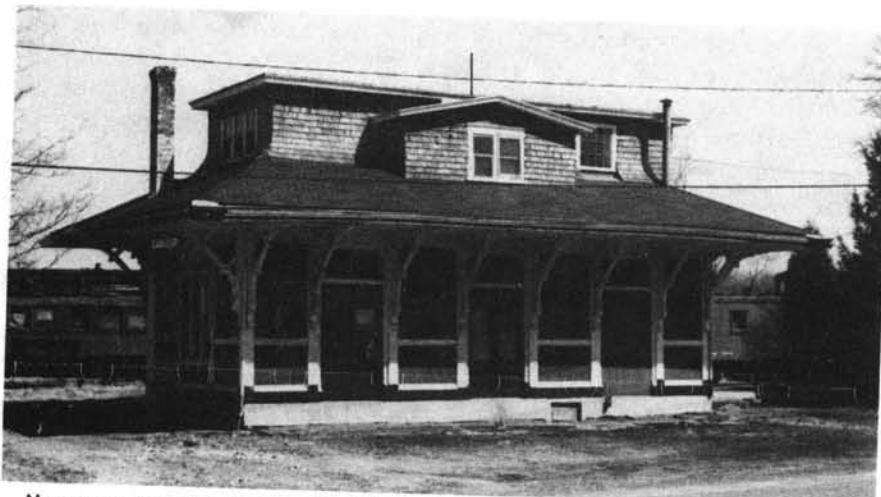
### Kingston

In Kingston, building activity had peaked by 1840; few buildings were added to the heart of the village (that part now included in the Kingston Historic District). But the village continued to prosper, and its estimated population rose from 191 in 1865 to 267 in 1875. Kingston remained the leading center of intellectual and social life in the town. The court met here, attracting lawyers and other professionals; the Caleb Westcott Tavern (#3-L), owned by Philip Taylor, then his son, John, was the stage coach stop on the run between the train station in West Kingston and Narragansett Pier; a saving bank was established in the 1850s; and the Kingston Seminary (#3-EE) opened in 1853 (it closed as a school in 1863).

The Fayerweather blacksmith shop continued in business, and apparently the demand of increased industrial or building activity offset the declining agricultural economy. A surviving account book shows that George Fayerweather II made tools, nails, hinges, and other architectural items in addition to shoeing draft animals and sharpening or repairing blades. The business was successful enough for George II to take his sons into partnership with him. George III, who had been plying the blacksmith trade in Connecticut since 1832, moved back to Kingston in 1855 with his wife, Sarah, and their children, and entered into some manner of partnership with his brother, Solomon. Sarah Harris Fayerwether, a graduate of the Prudence Crandall School in Connecticut was an abolitionist who was held in high esteem by William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass, who reportedly stopped at the Fayerweather house on visits to Rhode Island. Besides being the center of blacksmithing activities in Kingston, the shop was a favorite gathering place for villagers, and travelers often stopped there in order to get a drink of water from the nearby well. Upon the shop's huge doors were posted advertisements, notices, and news of public interest. By the 1880s, Solomon Fayerweather was the sole surviving village blacksmith. He retired in 1895 or 1896, and in the 1920s or 1930s the shop finally collapsed.



Pumping Station/The Pump House (1889): Kingstown Road, Rocky Brook Historic District. (#9-C)



Narragansett Pier Railroad Station (1876): Railroad Street, Peace Dale Historic District. (#7-R)



Kingston Railroad Station (1875): off Kingstown Road, West Kingston. (#14-A)

## Peace Dale

Peace Dale in the mid 19th century underwent a radical transformation. The old mill was replaced by a new mill at a new site, around which grew a complex of mill buildings. The legacy of the Hazards, who owned the mills and the village, further includes several fine dwellings set on large, landscaped lots, and a number of private and public structures, many of them built of stone. The Hazard family's humanitarian, intellectual, and industrial influence and concepts spread beyond the village and town boundaries.

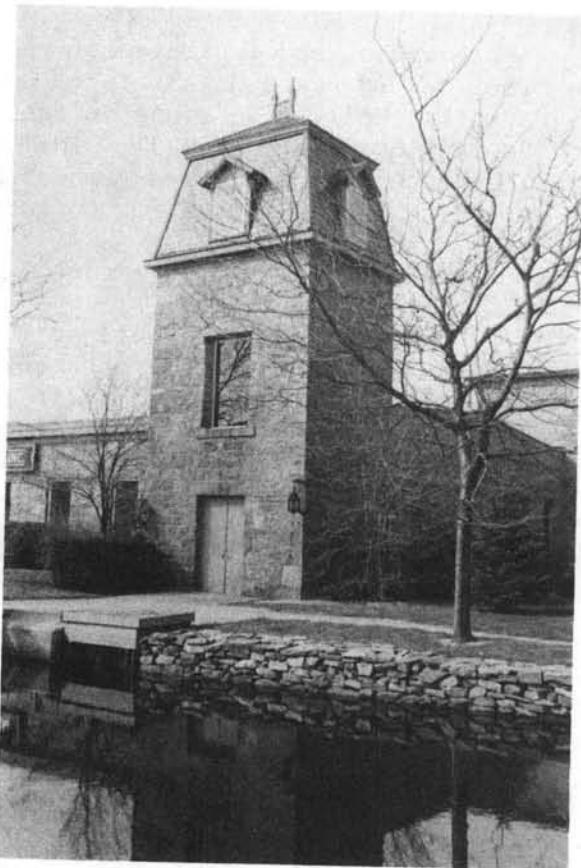
Rowland Hazard's original mill along the Saugatucket was destroyed by fire in 1844. Soon after, a new mill was built at the site of the present mills, in the center of Peace Dale village; a 1-story, stone structure with a bell tower, it manufactured fine woolens, including the well-known Peace Dale shawl. In 1856, a mill complex was created by the construction of several stone buildings, including the large, stone, office building (#7-L) across the road from the mill. Steam replaced water power after the Civil War, and in 1872, a large, 3-story, stone mill was built and began manufacturing cheviots and serges. Mill houses were built to accommodate the many workers, and several churches were established in the village--a Friends Meeting House (#7-U), built in 1857 on Columbia Street, and the Peace Dale Congregational Church (#7-F), also on Columbia Street, completed in 1872. During the mid-19th century, Peace Dale was the largest village in town, with a population of 741 in 1865 and 855 in 1875.

Rowland Hazard, the founder of Peace Dale, left the village for New York state (where he died in 1835). His sons and grandsons continued to run the mills and play an active role in the village and state. Isaac Peace Hazard (1794-1879) and Rowland Gibson Hazard (1801-88) took charge of the Peace Dale mill in 1823, eventually transforming it into a large and flourishing industry. In addition, Isaac Hazard took an active role in improving conditions for the poor and insane and was instrumental in the founding of Butler Hospital in Providence. He later moved to Newport. Rowland G. Hazard, a vigorous anti-slavery fighter and acquaintance of John Stuart Mill, wrote several essays on free will and language. Thomas R. Hazard (1797-1879), whose interest in sheep earned him the nickname, "Shepard Tom", worked with his brother, Isaac, for humanitarian causes. Thomas, author of the Jonny Cake Papers, was president of the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company from 1848 to 1864. Joseph Peace Hazard (1807-94), who built the axe factory near Peace Dale in 1835, was an extensive traveler and later was one of the pioneers in the development of Narragansett Pier.

Rowland (1829-98), son of Rowland G. Hazard, graduated from Brown University in 1849, toured Europe in 1852-53, and returned home and built Oakwoods in 1853-54. Before this time, Hazards had occupied earlier extant dwellings, including Dale Carla House, a 17th-century house near today's Dale Carla corner, and the Hazard Homestead (#7-M) at the south end of Saugatucket Pond. In addition to Oakwoods, another residence was built about 1855, for Rowland G. Hazard. Both were built in the Gothic style and occupied large, landscaped tracts whose grounds included exotic trees, vegetable and flower gardens, a



Peace Dale Congregational Church  
(1870-72): Columbia Street, Peace  
Dale Historic District. (#7-F)



Peace Dale Mills (1847 et seq.)  
Kingstown Road, Peace Dale  
Historic District. (#7-1)



Rodman Mill (1847); 1853 et seq.): Kingstown Road,  
Rocky Brook Historic District. (#9-D)

green house, and fruit trees. Rowland Hazard's architectural interest were realized in Peace Dale's large worsted mill, Congregational church, Hazard Memorial Hall, five stone bridges, and Oak Dell Cemetery, and Wakefield's South Kingstown Town Hall. In 1864, as treasurer and senior partner of the Peace Dale Mills, he remodeled tenement houses and began the policy of building single houses for workers, set within a system of public gardens.

#### Rocky Brook

There was considerable activity along Rocky Brook during the mid 19th century. At the village of Rocky Brook, itself, Samuel Rodman and Sons (Isaac Peace and Rowland) built a 3-story, stone mill (#9-D) in 1851; in 1853, they built a smaller mill a short distance downstream, at the waterfall near Hopkins Lane. Mill houses also were built in the village, and a church (#9-G) was erected in 1852. The mill near Hopkins Lane later burned and was never rebuilt.

Along Rocky Brook near Peace Dale, Stephen Fisk became sole manager of Joseph Hazard's former axe factory. About 1845, Fisk obtained a set of woolen cards and looms and began the manufacture of kersey cloth, employing 11 men and 11 women in 1850. His business grew in the 1840s and 1850s; eventually he purchased a tract of land and built a house at what later became the commercial section of Peace Dale known as Fisk's Flat.

#### Wakefield

Although Wakefield grew considerably during the mid 19th century, it remained second in population to its upstream neighbor, Peace Dale. Its old mill, originally further upstream, was superceded by a new mill complex at a new mill site near the dam at Post Road. During this period, a carriage manufactory, several stores, banks, and hotels, and two new churches were added to the village, which was expanding eastward along Post Road and along High Street.

Wakefield's commercial and industrial development during this period occurred near the Saugatucket River, largely because of the activities of the Robinson family. By 1850, a new stone dam and two stone mill buildings were constructed at the new site near Post Road. William Robinson's mill manufactured satinets, cashmeres, and jeans. Kentucky jeans and doeskins were being manufactured in 1867 when the wooden part of the mill complex burned and the present stone mill (#13-F) on High Street was constructed. Near the mills, Sylvester Robinson built a store (#13-AA) in 1846; soon after, two banking institutions were built along Post Road at the end of High Street. In 1852, a new Baptist church (#13-PP) was built; in the same year, the first Roman Catholic priest arrived in town. The Catholic society built a small church on High Street in 1854; in 1860, they purchased the nearby Baptist church. Major stores were established in Wakefield during this period. The leading merchant and developer of Wakefield, William G. Kenyon, came to the village in 1855; he purchased a store which launched his successful business career. In 1863, he bought the Stephen A. Wright farm, then in the heart of Wakefield, and until the time of his death in 1877, he developed the

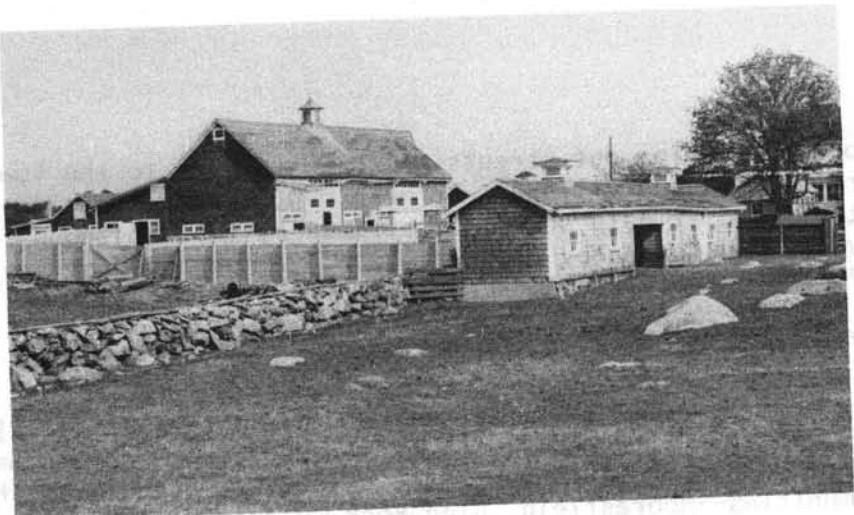
property, laying out streets which were given to the town. Several hotels were also in the village. Before 1870, a large carriage manufactory was established at Main and River streets by the Armstrong family, who lived in several houses nearby and were locally important for several decades. In 1870, the Riverside Cemetery (#13-J) was platted.

#### Rural South Kingstown

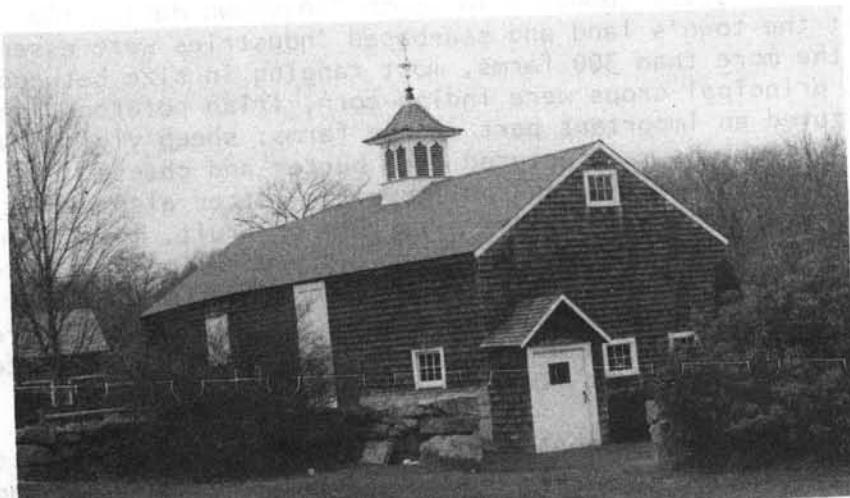
Farming remained an important activity in the mid 19th century. Farms were dispersed throughout the town, along the highways and byways and down innumerable private lanes. Manufacturing continued as the focus of several communities--Mooresfield, Glen Rock, Usquepaug--and a few other small mills continued operating elsewhere. Several Baptist churches were also erected and about a dozen, 1-room schoolhouses served rural scholars.

Statistics compiled in South Kingstown during the mid 19th century show that the town's land and sea-based industries were essentially non-specialized. On the more than 300 farms, most ranging in size between 50 and 199 acres, the principal crops were Indian corn, Irish potatoes, and oats. Animals constituted an important part of the farms; sheep yielded wool and cows produced milk which was manufactured into butter and cheese. In addition, there were horses, oxen, swine, and poultry, the latter also producing eggs for home and market. Orchards provided a variety of fruit, mostly apples and their by-product, cider, and garden crops included onions, carrots, beets, beans, and peas. Woodlots contributed timber and wood for fuel; driftwood was also picked up along the shore. Products of the sea and shore included fish seined for manure and food, a relatively large quantity of oysters, and lesser amounts of clams and scallops.

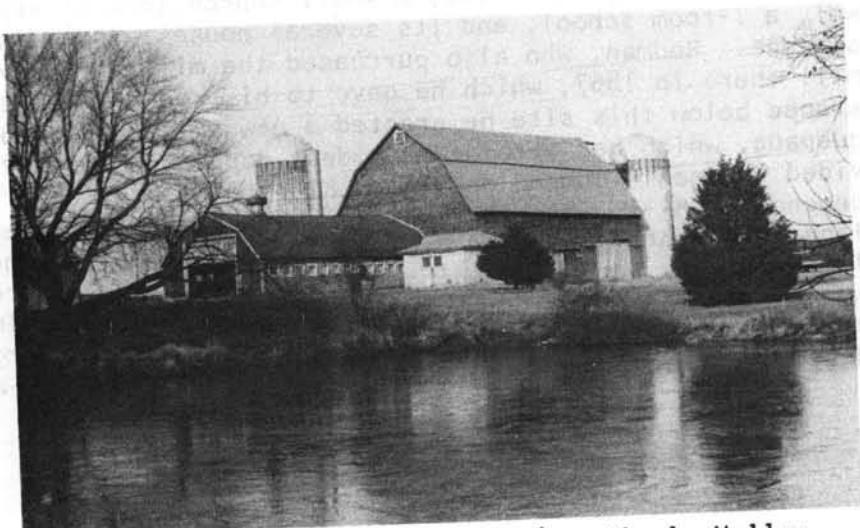
Manufacturing continued at scattered localities in the interior. Mooresfield began a period of quiet prosperity after Daniel Rodman purchased the mill property there. In 1841, he reactivated the mill built only a few years earlier, and manufactured kersey cloth. In 1850, the Mooresfield mill had 10 workers; in 1869, between 18 and 20 people were employed. Mooresfield itself remained the size of a hamlet: even in its heyday, it could only boast the mill, a store, a post office, a small church (one of several Negro churches in town), a 1-room school, and its several houses, including Daniel Rodman's own residence. Rodman, who also purchased the mill property at Glen Rock, built a mill there in 1867, which he gave to his son, Daniel B. Rodman. A short distance below this site he erected a new grist mill and saw mill. Nearby Usquepaug, which had attained a modest population of 162 in 1865 (about evenly divided between Richmond and South Kingstown), suffered the loss of the Independence Mill, which burned in 1866 and was never rebuilt. The Rhode Island census of 1875 counted only 122 inhabitants in the village. At Green Hill, a 2-story wooden building for weaving cloth was erected in the 1840s. A woolen mill near Moonstone Beach continued operating in the mid 19th century. Except for Usquepaug, none of these rural places was large enough to be considered a village by Rhode Island census takers in 1865 and 1875.



Green Farm/Windy Meadows (19th century et seq.):  
Matunuck Schoolhouse Road. (#44)



Barn at Valley Ranch (Late 19th Century): South  
Road. (#114)



Farm Complex (Early 20th Century): Jingle Valley  
Road. (#34)

Continued rural growth spawned a number of small institutions. During the decade of the 1840s, several Baptist church were erected in the hinterland. Two of these were built in 1843--the Free Will Baptist Church at Curtis Corners and the Queens River Baptist Church (#11-F) near Usquepaug. At Perryville, a Baptist Church (#8-A) was erected in 1845.

After about 1860, Blacks moved into Biscuit City, including George and Sima Gambia, noted story tellers of their day, and a locality called Castle Hall was a public gathering place, where meetings, weddings, and other activities were held.

The free school act of 1828 was largely responsible for the establishment of schoolhouses throughout the town. By 1879, there were seventeen school districts in today's South Kingstown, each with a school building near its geographical center. These small, one-room structures served the rural inhabitants until the early twentieth century. None has survived intact to the present, for most were sold and converted to residential use; one old schoolhouse at Tower Hill is now a garage.

#### Mid-Nineteenth Century Architecture

As in many rural areas, building in South Kingstown continued to follow well established patterns throughout the eighteenth and into the nineteenth century. By the 1830s, however, these forms began to be replaced, particularly in large, expensive buildings, by more romantic and picturesque elements. Nineteenth century builders and architects took advantage of an ever-widening eclectic range of sources, forms, and details, and the buildings of the period include a progression of Greek, Italian Renaissance, and Gothic-inspired buildings.

During the 1830s, stylish buildings were being built in the Greek Revival mode, romantically inspired by the temples of ancient Greece. The fifteen Greek Revival houses recorded in South Kingstown, simple versions of the style, are characterized by pedimented gable ends, heavy cornices with unadorned friezes, and channeled pilasters at the corners of the building. The pedimented gable end often faced the street in urban settings; here, however, there is only one pedimented end-gable house, at 327 Main Street (#13-CC) in Wakefield. Perhaps the commonest and most recognizable form is the trabeated doorway--vertical pilasters carrying a broad, horizontal entablature; pedimented entrances are found on only a few houses. Most of the town's recorded Greek Revival buildings are in Wakefield, which underwent considerable growth during the 1840s. Almost all are two-story buildings with gable roofs; several, however, have monitor roofs, and one has a hip roof. Only one Greek Revival house was recorded, (#44) at the Green Farm.

During the 1850s, the taste for Italian Renaissance models became fashionable. Both the solid, foursquare Renaissance palace and the picturesque, asymmetrical, bracketed villa were much admired. Isaac Peace Rodman's 1855 house (#35) on Kingstown Road, a stone house with a cupola, is Italian



Isaac Peace Rodman House/The Stone House (1855):  
961 Kingstown Road. (#35)



Hazard Memorial Hall/Peace Dale Library (1891):  
Kingstown Road, Peace Dale Historic District. (#7-K)



Davis Hall (1891, 1895, 1959): University of Rhode  
Island. (#10-C) Photo by Keith Morgan.

in spirit, as is the 1861-63 George E. Rose House (#105) on Rose Hill Road. The c. 1860 Watson House (#13-V) at 141 Main Street in Wakefield has an elaborate porch reminiscent of those on Italian villas.

While full-fledged Italianate houses are not common in South Kingstown, the bracket, an important decorative component of the style, became an extremely popular element in mid-nineteenth-century dwellings. Its popularity was encouraged by its availability, permitted by the industrialization of the lumber industry. Handsome bracketed buildings include the pair of houses, c. 1865, (#11-B,C) in the Usquepaug Road Historic District and the 1853 Kingston Seminary (#3-EE) on North Road in Kingston.

Fanciful wooden trim also is a hallmark of the carpenter Gothic structures built in the town throughout the middle years of the century, ranging from the Gothic Revival structures of the 1850s through the Modern Gothic of the 1870s. Several houses in Wakefield have elaborate carpenterwork: the c. 1860 John Armstrong House (#13-RR) on Main Street and the c. 1875 Michael Shoughro House (#13-VV) on Oakdell Street, a fine Gothic cottage that incorporates elaborate trim in the gables. The town's two railroad stations--at West Kingston (#14-A) and at Peace Dale (#7-R), the latter for the Narragansett Pier Railroad--were built in 1876, and both show the development of the Modern Gothic or so-called "stick style" in their use of strapwork, exaggerated brackets, and surface articulation.

1876-1900

During the last quarter of the 19th century, significant changes took place in South Kingstown. A railroad was constructed between Narragansett Pier and West Kingston, where a new court house was built. Although the new railroad bypassed Kingston, a farm near the village was chosen as the site of a new state college, thereby adding a new dimension to the life of the ancient village. Peace Dale remained a Hazard stronghold, with the mills continuing to produce goods and the village population continuing to grow. The Wakefield mills continued to operate, but their importance was overshadowed by the transformation of this village into a commercial hub. Rapid population growth made it the largest village in South Kingston by century's end. The rural mills were waning, either closed down or just holding their own, and all the rural villages were in decline. Agriculture, important in the early 19th century, did not keep pace with industry and relatively declined by the end of the century. The town's recreational appeal was manifested in the development of several large estates, created from former farms, and in the growing popularity of the coastal areas, beginning soon after the Civil War; by century's end, large numbers of summer visitors frequented South Kingstown's shore.

Kingston

Toward the end of the 19th century, Kingston declined in overall importance as a village in the town, but the creation of a major learning center here secured its future, with ultimate ramifications for the rest of South Kingstown.



H. Case House/Valley Ranch (c. 1860 et seq.):  
South Road. (#114)



John L. Sheldon House (c. 1888): 33 Highland  
Avenue, Wakefield. (#13-L)



Michael Shoughro House (c. 1875): 9 Oakdell Road,  
Wakefield. (#13-VV)

The construction of the Narragansett Pier Railroad in 1876 brought an end to the stage run and, eventually, to the old stage coach tavern in the center of Kingston. In 1877, a new town hall was built in Wakefield, and in 1894, when a new courthouse was completed in West Kingston, the old Kingston courthouse became a library and auditorium. The Kingston Academy burned in 1882 and was replaced by a new public school building erected nearby. Described as "a quiet and aristocratic" village, Kingston was valued for its sedate charm. Although its population was increasing and several fine Victorian houses were built at the east end of the village, growth was slow compared to the manufacturing villages to the south. By 1895, with 409 inhabitants, Kingston was the fourth largest village in town.

Kingston's relatively remote location, near a large, fertile farm available at a reasonable price, and the persistent efforts of several local town leaders, resulted in the selection of the Watson Farm as the site for a state agricultural school and experiment station (established in 1889). The co-educational College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts was established in 1892, and the first commencement was held in 1894. The old Oliver Watson farmhouse remained on the campus, and three other college buildings were erected--Taft Hall (1889), Davis Hall (1891), and Lippitt Hall (1897). By century's end, the new college was becoming a vital and integral part of the Kingston community.

#### Peace Dale

According to a statement issued in 1889 by the owners of the Peace Dale mills, there were difficulties associated with wool manufacturing because of harmful tariff regulations, but goods continued to produced with a high degree of perfection. Peace Dale serge won first prize at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Peace Dale woolens were later exhibited at the Paris World's Fair (1901) and the St. Louis Exposition (1904), and uniforms were made for the Army and Navy and the New York police department. The industrial village grew. According to the Rhode Island census, the population of Peace Dale grew from 855 in 1875 to 1,047 in 1895. In the decade of the 1890s, employment in the mills averaged 750 people.

Rowland Hazard's eminence in Peace Dale continued in the latter part of the century. In 1880, he provided money for a high school, and during the 1880s, he designed and built seven stone bridges in the village, mostly single-arch spans; the Church Street Bridge over the Saugatuck River was considered the widest stone arch bridge in the state at that time. One of the town's enduring monuments, the Hazard Memorial Hall (#7-K), was erected at the village center in 1891.

In 1881, Rowland Hazard introduced the manufacture of soda ash, and formed the Solvay Process Company of Syracuse, New York. Rowland's son, Frederick, went to New York state in 1884, but Rowland's other children, Rowland G., Caroline, and Helen settled in Peace Dale. Rowland G. became president of the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company and president of the Narragansett Pier Railroad.



Usquepaug Road Bridge, No. 35 (1931): Usquepaug Road. (#136)



Stone Bridge (1880s): Columbia Street, Peace Dale Historic District. (#7-D)



Stone Bridge (1880s): Railroad Street, Peace Dale Historic District. (#7-Q)

Several Hazard houses were built or enlarged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Architect Frank Angell greatly enlarged and remodeled Oakwoods in 1887 by the addition of a library, a ballroom, and a mansard roof. The Gothic cottage built about 1855 was made over into a country-style Tudor mansion known as Holly House under the direction of Charles McKim of McKim, Mead, and White. Another fine Victorian mansion, The Acorns, (#7-A) was created in 1894-95 for Helen Hazard by enlarging an earlier house moved to the present site. The four Hazard houses built or enlarged in the late 19th century, and the Scallop Shell, built in 1910 by Caroline Hazard, were located within a short distance of one another on a large tract of land north of Kingstown Road.

While the central core of Peace Dale village was dominated by large, stone Hazard-built structures, the area to the west, along Kingstown Road, emerged as the commercial center of the village. This area was owned by Stephen Fisk until his death in 1870. In 1872, David Northrup, a prosperous local farmer, opened a general store (with a public hall on the second floor) on land acquired from the Fisk estate at Fisks Flat. Growth of this section was encouraged by construction of a station on Railroad Street when the Pier railroad was completed in 1876. In 1885, John A. Allen, who was a grocer at nearby Rocky Brook, opened a small grocery store here, and in 1895 he built a larger store (now Nick's Spa). The Fagan Block, a 2-story, brick, flatiron plan building, was erected near the railroad trestle in 1899.

In the late 19th century, manufacturing ceased at Rocky Brook. In 1877, the upper mill was gutted by fire, but its stonework remained intact. The mill along Rocky Brook, west of Kingstown Road, also ceased operations by the end of the century, for it and its mill pond were purchased by a water company (chartered in 1887). In 1889, a pumping station was built, and the pond supplied water for Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier. This public service improvement was a sign of the area's growing urbanization.

#### Wakefield

Wakefield's commercial and residential growth continued in the late 19th century. Its population increased to 1,543 in 1895, surpassing its neighbor, Peace Dale. In the 1880s, at least five major new businesses located in the village. A large bank building was erected at the Saugatucket River bridge in 1889. Like many other contemporary small town commercial buildings, it housed retail businesses on the first floor, offices on the second, and a public hall above that. Kenyon's Department Store (#13-LL) a large, frame building, went up in the heart of the village in 1891. In 1899, the Bell Block (#13-00), a 3-story, brick building, was erected nearby. The Sheldon Building (#13-00), a furniture store, was moved here from its original site west of the bridge and set next to the Bell Block.

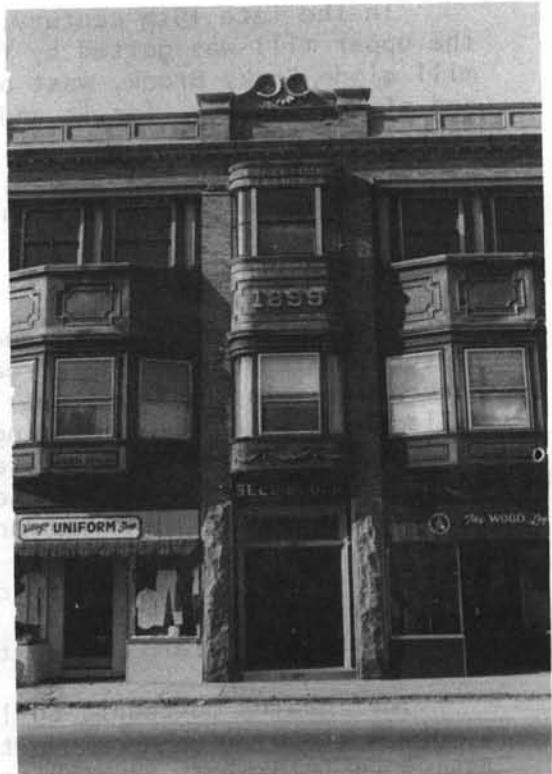
The leading merchants built fine houses in the village, befitting their economic status in the community. John Sheldon erected an unusual, shingled residence (#13-L) at 33 Highland Avenue in about 1888, and Louis Bell put up a Queen Anne style residence (#13-M) at 8 Kenyon Avenue in 1898.



Commercial Blocks: Sheldon Block (c. 1875) and Bell Block (1899): 502-522 Main Street, Wakefield.  
(#13-00)



South Kingstown Town Hall (1877):  
High Street, Wakefield. (#13-1)



Bell Block (1899): Main Street,  
Wakefield. (#13-00)

TWO new churches were added to Wakefield in the last decades of the 19th century--the Christ United Methodist Church (#13-D) on Columbia Street, and the Union Chapel (#13-K) on High Street. In 1883, Episcopalians built the handsome The Church of the Ascension (#13-II) in the center of the village, using cut stone from a recently burned mill on Rocky Brook in its construction. The Narragansett Grange, the first grange society in Rhode Island, was organized in 1887. After meeting in private homes, the society purchased the old Temperance Hall, which was later moved to its present site behind the Masonic Temple on Columbia Street. A large new residential area in Wakefield was created south of Main Street and many houses were erected in the village in the late 19th century. By 1900, houses lining Columbia Street, High Street, and Kingstown Road linked Wakefield, Peace Dale, and Rocky Brook into a continuous and relatively large settlement. The combined population of 3,285 in 1895 was more than half of the town's total population.

#### Rural Mills and Villages

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the small, rural mills and villages which had grown up over the previous century entered a period of decline and gradual abandonment. The Mooresfield Mill, which had enjoyed its greatest prosperity in the years before and during the Civil War, became idle in 1876, and Daniel Rodman's small settlement, which in its heyday had only the mill, a small Negro church, a schoolhouse, and several dwellings, became a small residential hamlet. At Glen Rock, owned by Daniel Rodman's son, the woolen mill probably had ceased production by 1900, but a saw mill and grist mill continued in use. Downstream, at Usquepaug, a grist mill, the forerunner of today's Kenyon's Grist Mill, was built in 1886, but the village was already declining in vitality and population. A small "suburb" of Usquepaug materialized just east of the village, near Queen's River Baptist Church. James Webster, a former tavern keeper at Usquepaug, moved here, built a house (#11-E) in 1883, and established a carriage business that lasted into the 1920s. At Green Hill, one of two mill sites had a working grist mill until after 1870, when it too disappeared from the map. George Carmichael, owner of a mill at Shannock, acquired another Green Hill mill, which was subsequently purchased by William P. Barney in 1888 and was operated for about 20 years before becoming idle.

#### Rural Estates

Less than a century after the era of the Narragansett Planters, another breed of gentlemen farmers and gentry began creating large estates in South Kingstown. Elisha Watson, an ordained minister, owned a 200 acre farm along Post Road and Matunuck Brook, where he built a dam and erected a grist mill in 1857, and later raised Shetland ponies. The Robinson family, long identified with the Wakefield area, built several large, elegant dwellings along Post Road southwest of the village, Sylvester Robinson erected a Second Empire house and a carriage barn, windmill, and other outbuildings on a large lot on Main Street. The other Robinson houses were built back from the road--Edgewood Farm (#76), created in 1877; and the Jeremiah P. Robinson House (#77),

a substantial wood-shingle and stone-sided-mansion with a matching carriage barn. Samuel Strang of New York acquired the old Robinson Farm on Silver Lake in 1869 and began to summer at this retreat, closely linked to the nearby summer colony at Narragansett Pier; by 1884, Strang had removed the old farmhouse and begun construction of a stylish Queen Anne dwelling.

Another fine property, developed along Curtis Corner Road during the late 19th century, is the R. R. Gardiner Estate (#28) centered on a large, Queen Anne house.

#### South Kingstown As A Summer Resort

South Kingstown had a close and intimate relationship with Narragansett Pier, which was part of South Kingstown until 1901. Shortly after 1780, John Robinson built a pier near the present site of the Towers to provide local farmers with a more convenient means of shipping goods. It is to this wharf that Narragansett owes its name. Robinson also built a house and store before 1810, when Rowland Hazard purchased Robinson's property. Samuel Rodman, as well, had business interests at the Pier. By the mid 1840s, Rhode Islanders were coming to Narragansett Pier to bathe and enjoy its sandy beaches. The first hotel was erected in 1856; by 1871, 10 more hotels stood there. In 1871, the Tower Hill House opened on Narragansett Heights near Post Road in South Kingstown. A large, 3½-story, Second Empire structure, it emulated the other hotels at the Pier; its wrap-around veranda took advantage of its commanding site overlooking the ocean, providing a sweeping view from Newport to Block Island. The hotel and its several cottages, some in picturesque Gothic style, occupied a 30 acre landscaped lot; it was a first-class hotel with accommodations for 250 guests.

For years, South Kingstown's seashore had served primarily as a source of seaweed and marsh grass used by farmers as green manure, and driftwood and debris from wrecks, which provided firewood (in 1895 alone, four coal barges broke up on the Matunuck shore.) By the mid 19th century, however, the recreational potential of the shore began to be recognized. An early perception of its future recreational use is an 1857 map that identified today's Seaweed Cove at Matunuck Beach as Beach House Cove. Irving Watson's 1873 guide book listed a hotel at "Rocky Point" (Matunuck Beach)--the Hill-side Cottage--being run by Joseph Champlain, Jr. By 1893, when visited by author Mariana Tallman, a chronicler of "pleasant places in Rhode Island," Matunuck was "a popular place with Providence people, more so perhaps than any other surf beach along the coast." A newspaper reporter writing about Matunuck in 1895 mentioned a good-sized hotel kept by Wanton Carpenter that could accommodate 125 guests. Built in 1880, it was enlarged in 1884 and again in the spring of 1895. Then, there were only a half dozen bathing houses (a row of fish houses along the beach is shown on the 1895 map). According to the newspaper account, summer life at Matunuck was "dull and stupid" compared to Narragansett Pier, but it offered the Matunuck residents rest and health.

George N. Browning, a farmer, took advantage of the summer tourist trade by opening his house near Matunuck for guests as the Ocean Star Cottage; his



Christ United Methodist Church  
(c. 1890): Columbia Street  
Wakefield. (#13-D)



St. Francis of Assisi Roman  
Catholic Church (1932): High  
Street, Wakefield. (#13-H)



Kings County Court House/Kingston Library (1775,  
1876): 1329 Kingstown Road, Kingston Historic  
District. (#3-T). Photo by Jim Gibbs.

barn, used to house his guests' horses and carriages, was converted several decades later into the Theatre-By-The-Sea. At Green Hill, known primarily for its shipwrecks and groundings (most notably the schooner John Paull in 1893), a row of seven cottages stood along the beach in 1895.

Other summer houses were built along and near Post Road and the Matunuck Hills. The most noted summer resident was author Edward Everett Hale, whose friend, William B. Weeden had converted the family farmhouse (#100) into a summer house. The isolated area, a combination of seashore and hilly terrain, was most appealing to Hale for his writing, and in 1872, Weeden began the construction of a summer house for Hale. Placed at the edge of the hills, the house overlooked a wide stretch of country. Hale called his new house (#96) New Sybaris and renamed Wash Pond (used for washing sheep) Sybaris Lake. The Narragansett country's chief appeal for Hale, its picturesque landscape and its history, was reflected in a series of ballads and poems, most of them set in the Matunuck area. Hale continued to summer here, on and off, until his death in 1909. There are still some Hale family members in the area today, and Robert Beverly Hale, a poet who died at an early age, is remembered in the name of the local library built in 1896. Other Boston residents, including Charles Matlack, who built "Hidden Hearth" (#94), and Daniel Fiske Jones, a noted surgeon, also summered here.

#### Late 19th Century Architecture

Post Civil War buildings are a diverse group, reflecting the eclecticism and experimentation of architects and builders. The structures erected in South Kingstown during these years are well within the mainstream of American provincial buildings and include a cross section of high-style and vernacular architecture. These range from the sophisticated work of Providence, Boston, or New York architect--significantly active here for the first time--through local builders working in contemporary styles, to the simple, and largely unchanging, vernacular traditions.

The Second Empire style, inspired by the architecture of Napoleon III's France, spanned the years from about 1860 to 1890. Its buildings, many block-like in form, are chiefly characterized by their mansard roofs. A number of houses were built in this style, but the most elaborate Second Empire expression was in public and commercial buildings: the 1871 Tower Hill House (now gone), the 1877 South Kingstown Town Hall (#13-1), and the c. 1880 Columbia House (#13-SS) in Wakefield. In 1876, the colonial-era King County Court House (#3-T) in Kingston was remodeled in Second Empire guise.

The "Shingle" style, an informal, residential mode based loosely on vernacular New England types, is represented by three buildings at Matunuck Beach and four in Wakefield. These include the handsome 1898 Louis Bell House (#13-M) on Kenyon Avenue; the moved, c. 1900 Episcopal Rectory (#13-HH) off Main Street; the c. 1888 John Sheldon House (#13-L) on Highland Avenue; and the c. 1890 Christ United Methodist Church (#13-D) on Columbia Street.

The Queen Anne style first developed in England in the 1860s as a sentimental revival of earlier English architecture. These picturesque houses,

with an irregular plan and massing, usually include a variety of wall surfaces, tall, pilastered chimneys, and an eclectic mix of windows, towers, turrets, and projecting pavilions. South Kingstown's five recorded Queen Anne houses include one of the Hazard houses in Peace Dale--the Acorns (#7-A), remodeled in 1894-5.

Two major structures from this era are in the Romanesque style reminiscent of the work of H. H. Richardson. These massive, volumetric buildings, constructed of stone, have large, arched entries and short towers and chimneys. The Richardsonian Romanesque was often used for public buildings: both the 1891 Hazard Memorial Library (#7-K) in Peace Dale and the 1894 Washington County Court House (#14-C) are within this tradition.

During the last decades of the 19th century, about a dozen other architecturally interesting and significant buildings were erected in town that are not noticeably associated with any particular style. These eclectic buildings--employing only what the architects thought to be the best of diverse styles--were built in the major villages and used for a variety of purposes. Included are several churches, a pumping station, a bank building, several commercial buildings, a school, and the three earliest buildings erected at the college.

#### NINETEENTH CENTURY RESUME

By the end of the 19th century, South Kingstown had achieved something of its current aspect. The venerable village of Kingston remained an intellectual center with the establishment of the state agricultural school there in 1889. By this time, farming's century-long decline had abated; according to the 1895 census, there were 673 farmers in town, and the number and size of farms had remained more or less the same for several decades. Most of the land was in pasture, mowing land, or woodland, with only a small percentage cultivated. Farmers grew large amounts of Indian corn, cabbage, lettuce, potatoes, pumpkins, squash, apples, and strawberries, and raised sheep, swine, milk cows, and poultry to produce wool, meat, milk, butter, cheese, and eggs.

By century's end, the formerly separate villages of Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Rocky Brook had coalesced into a contiguous urban area which contained more than half of the town's residents. Townwide, in 1895, 1,020 people worked in manufacturing and mechanical industries, 225 were employed in trades, and 36 worked in the fisheries. Large amounts of fish were caught for food, including clams, oysters, and quahogs, and a great increase in the lobster catch, to 16,530 pounds, was undoubtedly a response to the appetite of Narragansett Pier visitors. Smaller villages and hamlets listed in the 1895 census included West Kingston, which developed around the railroad station; Matunuck, with 182 residents; Perryville, Curtis Corner, Usquepaug, and Mooresfield, with over 100; and Tuckertown, Green Hill, Gould, and Glen Rock, with fewer than 100 inhabitants each.

The town's total population of 6,413 in 1895 remained largely Yankee and/or American born. Although the factories required a large labor force, South Kingstown never received the large foreign influx that the Blackstone and Pawtuxet valleys did. In 1875, for example, the town's foreign born,

constituted about 7% of the population; 77 were from England, 159 from Ireland, and 16 from Scotland and Wales. The Town's foreign born population grew to about 10% in 1895. South Kingstown's other minority populations came from deep in the town's past--from its original inhabitants and those brought in as slaves. In 1730, there had been 225 Indians living in town; 165 years later, the census recorded 80. In 1739, 333 Blacks were residing in South Kingstown; in 1895, 387 were counted in the census..

## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

### 1901-1945

Patterns of development begun in the 19th century continued into the first half of the 20th century and brought about significant changes townwide. The Peace Dale Mills passed from Hazard family ownership. The mills continued producing cloth, however, and the village continued its steady growth, with construction of both public and private buildings. Wakefield continued to grow and added new and improved services and institutions, most notably South County Hospital. Change was most striking outside the villages. The growing popularity of the beaches prompted development along and near the shore. A number of country houses and small estates were developed, some in the newly-fashionable Matunuck Hills. Several farms remained active into the 20th century, but many were transformed into summer camps or divided into large house lots. Many houses were built, mostly along or near Post Road. Much of the domestic architecture was in summer houses, both new buildings and renovated old farmhouses. The population was large but seasonal; the growing numbers of seasonal residents and college students maintained permanent residency elsewhere. In the first two decades of the 20th century, the population increase was less than 5 percent but there was a 16 percent increase in the 1920s and a 21 percent increase in the 1930s. By 1940, the town's population had reached 7,282.

#### Transportation

The development of the automobile and rapid growth of the motoring public played a large role in the 20th-century growth of South Kingstown. The modern highway era in Rhode Island began shortly after 1900, when the State Board of Public Roads was created and highway improvements began. Formerly winding and narrow dirt roads were straightened, widened, and macadamized, and new highway routes were laid out across the land. The Kingstown-Usquepaug Road was improved in 1922. A new, single arch concrete bridge (#136) was built over the Usquepaug River, one of several bridges of this type built in town and throughout the state in the early 20th century. In 1931, the South County Trail opened from Cranston to Cross Mills, in Charlestown; that same year, a new section of highway was also constructed to by-pass Usquepaug. One of several public works projects completed during the depression years of the 1930s and associated with highway improvements was the Observation Tower (#123) at MacSparran Hill, built in 1936.

While highways were improved and automobile travel increased greatly, providing access both to and within the town, local rail service declined. Around the turn of the century, the Narragansett Pier Railroad was carrying

up to 500 passengers a day, but business fluctuated, and eventually declined permanently. In 1952, passenger service came to an end; soon after, the right-of-way east of Route 108 was abandoned and the tracks were removed. Rail service continues on the main line.

#### Kingston and the College

Kingston continued its role as a social and cultural center in the early 20th century. The Tavern Hall Club, a prominent village institution organized by college teachers for social gatherings, was founded in 1911. That same year, the Kingston Inn was restored and enlarged for continued inn use, and in 1912, the first floor of the John Douglas House (#3-K) was made into a museum by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts became Rhode Island State College in 1909; in that year, East Hall, a dormitory, was the first of a number of 20th century buildings erected at the college. Ranger Hall, built in 1913, unified several agricultural departments into a single building. Washburn Hall was added in 1921. In 1928 a \$600,000 bond issue approved by Rhode Island voters resulted in the addition of three more buildings--Bliss Hall, Edwards Hall, and Rodman Hall--and in the 1930s a president's house was built at the edge of the campus. Three more buildings were erected in 1936-37 as Federal Public Works Authority projects; Quinn Hall, Greene Hall, and Eleanor Roosevelt Hall, dedicated by the first lady herself.

#### Peace Dale

Pease Dale continued to thrive in the early 20th century. The mills expanded their operations. The Hazard family sold its interest in the mills in 1918, but retained its role of civic leadership. The village grew and physically expanded, particularly toward the south, where its separation from Wakefield became increasingly less distinct. The Peace Dale Manufacturing Company increased production and broadened its product line to include woolens, piece-dye serges, serges for uniforms, and fancy worsteds and cassimeres. In 1902, a new weave shop and finishing department were added. New steam turbines were installed in 1909; two years later, Westinghouse electric turbines were set up to power the entire plant. The M. T. Stevens Company, of Andover, Massachusetts, purchased the complex from the Hazards in 1918 and continued the manufacture of woolen goods.

The Hazard family continued their contributions to the village in the early 20th century. In 1908-09, the Neighborhood Guild (#7-E), a large, stone structure, was erected and used to teach industrial arts to women and children. Later used for social and athletic events and classes, it was given to the town by the Hazard family. The last Hazard House, the Scallop Shell, was built in 1910 for Caroline Hazard, president of Wellesley College from 1899 to 1910 and the author of many books of poetry, history, essays, and her family's biography. In 1920, Caroline donated a large monument as a memorial to her father and her two brothers. Known as "The Weaver," the dressed granite block work of Daniel Chester French is an allegorical low relief depicting time and life. Although Caroline still had interests in Peace Dale, she wintered in California. Her house later became a nursing home; it was

torn down in 1976. The Hazard School (#7-H) was built in 1911 on the site of the old high school building, which was moved down the street and converted into an apartment house. In 1923, the Peace Dale School (#7-V), a neo-classical brick building, was erected on Kersey Road; it replaced a 1902 wood-frame schoolhouse that still stands near the east end of the road.

Fisks Flat was thriving in the early 20th century. It contained six grocery stores and about a dozen other businesses. In 1920, Frank Fagan purchased and dismantled the Mooresfield Mill and built the Peace Dale Theatre, or Fagan's Opera House (destroyed in the 1960s) from the salvaged material. At nearby Rocky Brook, the burned mill was rebuilt and put into use about 1910 as a weaving mill and a shoe string factory until it was acquired by the Columbia Narrow Fabric Company of Shannock.

#### Wakefield

The Wakefield Mill was sold in 1903 to the Wakefield Woolen Company, which installed new machinery--looms and carding equipment--for the manufacture of high-grade woolen fabrics. In 1921, the name of the company was changed to the Wakefield Mills. In 1922, the James Hulton Company of Philadelphia bought the complex and added a new carding room and weave shop. Two diners, typical of early 20th century fast-food eateries, were located in Wakefield in the 1920s. The former Whiting Diner (#13-NN), downtown, is a trolley, or electric streetcar type popular between about 1919 and 1932. A more elegant restaurant, the Larchwood Inn (#13-W), opened in 1925. In 1925 also, the South County Hospital (#13-O) started serving the public in its new, 3-story, brick building on Kenyon Avenue. Two additions to the village in the 1930s were a new St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church (#13-H), on High Street, and the Wakefield Post Office (#13-AAA) on Robinson Street, completed in 1936 and noteworthy for a mural done by Ernest Hamlin Baker, one of several murals painted in Rhode Island public buildings as part of the federal arts projects.

#### The South Kingstown Shore

The summer colonization of the South Kingstown shore continued to accelerate in the early 20th century as these areas became increasingly more accessible by automobile from the state's northern metropolitan areas. Houses were built at scattered sites along the coast, and several settlements became more heavily populated. At Matunuck Beach, there were several hotels and cottages to accommodate visitors; the Dewey Cottage (#4-D), built about 1900, is one of the few survivors. Most of Matunuck Beach became densely built up, but in a few places, such as the Matunuck Point summer colony, lots were larger and the summer houses more commodious. A Roman Catholic chapel, St. Romuald's (#4-B) was erected for summer residents.

Near Matunuck Beach, Alice and Leonard Tyler purchased Ocean Star Cottage. After Leonard's death in 1929, Alice converted the barn into a playhouse, which opened in 1933 as The Theatre-By-The Sea, a typical, rural, "little-theatre" - summer stock venture popular during these years.

At Green Hill, a life-saving station, opened in 1912, was manned until 1933. The Green Hill community grew considerably, with houses set on relatively large lots on platted streets in a suburban-like setting. A new community was developed at Carpenter's Beach at this time. Its first dwellings were temporary tents, but later small cottages were built; clustered together in a small space, they make it one of the most densely settled summer communities along the entire Rhode Island shore.

#### Rural South Kingstown

Farming continued as a minor economic activity in the rural areas during the early 20th century. Earlier outbuildings continued in use, and others were added as needed in the 20th century, as at the Whaley Farm (#89) along Post Road. In several instances, new farms were built; one such farm (#34), along Jingle Valley Road, comprises a fine, early 20th-century farm complex. The later farm buildings include large, gambrel-roofed barns, sometimes with metal ventilators, silos, and utilitarian 1-story, cement or cinder-block structures. Much former farmland, now readily accessible to the general population through increasing use of automobiles, was being developed. Permanent and seasonal houses were erected along the town's roads, large tracts of land were developed into loosely-defined summer colonies, and several camps were established.

Although residential growth in rural areas was generally isolated, several sections developed into residential communities beginning in the early years of the 20th century. In the wooded, knobby, pond-dotted terrain known as the Matunuck Hills, several old farms east of Ministerial Road were transformed into lovely rural estates, while in the area north and west of Post Road, summer houses were erected along the ponds, atop the hills, or tucked away in sylvan retreats. These places are accessible only by private, narrow, winding roads, some still unpaved, which were laid out in the 18th century. Among the earliest of these houses were Sibley Smith's Skibo (#5-1), built between 1900 and 1910, and the Brown and Sharpe Camp (#5-G), designed by John Hutchins Cady, and built in 1910 for W. G. Brown and H. D. Sharpe. The Elisha Watson Tract (#82) began to be carved up by members of the Watson family beginning in 1906, when the Freeman Crocker House (#82-C) was built along Post Road. The nearby 17th century Congdon-Watson farmhouse (#82-A) was remodeled by Norman Isham in 1921. Other newly-constructed houses in the Watson tract built before 1941 include a house designed by Albert Harkness, one by Peter Geddes, and another based on plans of Rockwell King DuMoulin.

South Kingstown's rural areas were also discovered for their recreational potential by several urban groups - the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Y.M.C.A. Camp Fuller (#23), along Point Judith Pond, owned and operated by the Greater Providence YMCA, was established here in 1914. Originally founded on Hog Island in 1887, it is one of the oldest organized youth camps in the United States. The Girl Scouts' Camp Hoffman (#52) was started in 1921 along Larkin Pond. Farther south on Ministerial Road, the Boy Scouts' Camp Aquapaug (#56) began in 1931 on land donated by Albert E. Lownes. Noteworthy here is a replica of a 17th century house designed by John H. Cady,

built near Worden Pond. Another camp is located along the shores of Indian Lake, and another early lodge, the 1912 Anthony Lodge, is on Yawgoo Pond. Eppley Camp (#32), a collection of rustic buildings along the Queens River, was created in about 1920 by Marion Eppley for his personal use; his estate once covered more than 1,300 acres in South Kingstown and Exeter.

#### Early-Twentieth Century Architecture

Although some of the popular late 19th-century architectural styles carried over into the 20th century, most of the buildings constructed during the first decades of the new century were revivals of earlier building forms based on classical elements and details. In addition, a few earlier farm-houses, were remodeled during this era. Most buildings in the town, as always, were essentially vernacular structures, with simple architectural details and modest scale.

The classicizing Georgian idiom was adapted for high-style domestic architecture, and its popularity quickly spread to vernacular buildings as well. Houses of this period differ more in scale and elaborateness than in plan, style, or form. Large Colonial Revival country houses typically were elaborately decked out with Palladian windows, porches and roofs with balustrades, and entrances with fanlights. Good examples of Classical, or Colonial Revival houses include the old Manor House (#3-HH) on Potter Lane in Kingston; the 1933 Tootell House (#64) on Mooresfield Road; and Kymbolde (#122) on Torry Road, built by then-governor of Rhode Island, Charles Dean Kimball. Under Albert Harkness' direction, the 17th century William Congdon House (#79) on Post Road was remade into a massive, neo-colonial residence in 1930; another early Congdon house nearby was updated by Norman Isham in 1921. Another ambitious remodeling effort was Shadow Farm (#109). Purchased by John L. Welsh of Philadelphia, the 1884 house was extensively enlarged and remodeled with Colonial Revival details in 1904.

A notable addition to South Kingstown's architecture during these years were large, country-estate dwellings in various revivals and modes. The 1904 Dr. R. R. Robinson Estate (#13-S) along Main Street in Wakefield and the 1931 Alfred Schmidt Estate (#37) along Kingstown Road in Kingston are typical. At an old Robinson estate in Wakefield, a Second Empire residence was replaced in the early 1930s by a large, Norman/Neo Colonial dwelling (#13-U) built by William Davis Miller, a noted South County historian and author.

The Bungalow style house, characterized by a low pitched gable roof that overhangs a porch, which first became popular in southern California in the last decade of the 19th century, found favor with several South Kingstown homeowners. Good examples of this type are a house (#13-CCC) on Woodruff Avenue in Wakefield and one (#36) at 1228 Kingstown Road, near Kingston. The 1911 Hazard School (#7-H) on Columbia Street in Peace Dale adapted the picturesque Tudor-Revival style, characterized by half-timbering at the gables.

Ecclesiastical, commercial and institutional buildings were generally classical in style and form. In Wakefield, the Church of the Ascension (#13-II) was renovated in the Georgian mode in 1909, and the nearby Kenyon's



R. R. Gardner Estate (Late 19th Century): Curtis  
Corner Road. (#28)



Shadow Farm (1904): Silver Lake. (#109)



Kymbolde (Early 20th Century): Torrey Road. (#121)

Department Store (#13-LL) had a similar face lift soon after. Of the nine new buildings erected on the college campus during this period, six were in the Georgian Revival style; the others incorporate Colonial Revival details. Other noteworthy Georgian buildings include the 1923 Peace Dale School (#7-V) on Kersey Road; the 1920s Washington Trust Company Building (#13-MM) on Main Street, and the 1925 South County Hospital (#13-O).

#### 1945-1984

While population growth was relatively slow in the first part of the 20th century, the rate increased dramatically after World War II. There was almost a 40 percent population increase during the decade of the 1940s, to more than 10,000 people. By 1980, that number had doubled, with the greatest increase occurring during the decade of the 1960s. People moved from the cities into the sprawling suburbs as commuting by automobile between home and work became common in the 1950s.

Improvements in transportation continued, including the Oliver Hazard Perry Highway (Route 1), a 4-lane, divided route that by-passed Wakefield. The entire highway system between Providence and the shore was upgraded, and the construction of Interstate Route 95 and Route 401 shortened the journey to southern Rhode Island and made travel more appealing.

Kingston, Wakefield, and Peace Dale all experienced considerable population growth, as did rural areas. Some farms persist to the present day, as does fishing, and the shore areas and beach communities of Matunuck Beach, Carpenter's Beach, and Green Hill have retained their seasonal vitality.

#### Kingston and the University of Rhode Island

Kingston continued its centuries-old role as a residential and cultural center. The South County Art Association acquired a house in the village, for its headquarters in 1945. In 1954, the old records office (#3-U) next to the old court house was converted, first into a museum and later into an archives. The jail (#3-W), which housed its last prisoner in 1956, was acquired by the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society in 1960, and is now used as a museum, a library, and archives. The George Fayerweather House (#3-Z), restored as a museum, now houses the Fayerweather Craft Guild. The old Taylor stagecoach barn (#3-O) was transformed into a residence and artist's studio in 1947, and the Kingston Inn (#3-Q) was used to house university students. Since World War II, several suburban-like subdivisions were created near the village, mostly south of Kingstown Road.

The college at Kingston experienced tremendous growth following World War II. Additional land was acquired, many buildings were erected, and new departments, divisions, and programs were added. In 1948, liberal arts courses were established. The School of Arts and Sciences conferred its first Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1949. In recognition of its upgraded status, Rhode Island State College became the University of Rhode Island in 1951. The first post-war buildings, excluding a Quonset hut colony erected to provide emergency housing, were educationally serviceable, if

not architecturally distinguished. Beginning in 1956, a series of bond issues approved by Rhode Island voters provided funding for the construction of new buildings and the renovation of existing buildings to keep abreast of growing enrollments and expanding programs. Most of these later buildings were designed by Rhode Island architects. By 1958, when a degree of Doctor of Philosophy was authorized, enrollment was 3,100; by 1962, it had grown to 4,500. Since then, development and growth have continued at a rapid pace. In 1981-82, 800 faculty members taught 8,409 undergraduate and 2,800 graduate students and 6,500 part time students. Today, the University of Rhode Island, on its large campus at Kingston, with several other campuses elsewhere, is a major state university.

#### Peace Dale

The Peace Dale mills reached their peak of production during World War II when 1,500 workers were employed; then the mills suffered a rapid decline which forced their closing in 1948. In 1952, the complex was purchased by Palisades Industries of New Jersey, which ran a finishing and dyeing business there. The former Hazard estates and houses were gradually sold off; some were torn down. In 1946, Lily Pads, (#7-P), John N. Hazard's former home, was acquired by the Order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which used it as a retreat house, nursery school and kindergarten. It now houses professional offices. In 1948, two architecturally significant Hazard Houses, Holly House and Oakwoods, were demolished and the large tract of land these houses occupied was subdivided into smaller house lots. Caroline Hazard's house, the Scallop Shell, became a nursing home before it was demolished in 1976. Village growth since 1950 has been largely residential; in addition to many new houses built in the village, the South Kingstown High School (#7-G) was built on Columbia Street in 1954.

Nearby Fisk Flat experienced a slight decline as the large shopping center at Dale Carlia Corner was developing. Nonetheless, it has continued as a small, varied, commercial node. The mill at Rocky Brook continues its manufacturing activities, and a restaurant now occupies the building that once was a pumping station; otherwise, Rocky Brook remains largely a residential village.

#### Wakefield

Since World War II, the Wakefield mills have continued working through four changes of ownership. In 1957, additions were made to the mill complex, most of which is still used for textile manufacturing; part is used by several small manufacturing companies. Two former mill buildings, along the Saugatucket River, were converted into non-industrial use.

Beginning in the 1950s, the commercial core of Wakefield began moving eastward, eventually centering on a large, sprawling, shopping area at Dale Carlia Corner. Formerly residential Main Street, between the old and new commercial areas, is rapidly becoming commercialized. Much of Wakefield has experienced heavy residential growth, which, accompanied by similar residential build-up in neighboring Peace Dale and Rocky Brook, has transformed the

three villages, originally separate and distinct communities, into a single, large, coalescing urban area..

#### Rural South Kingstown: Architecture

Agriculture remains a part of South Kingstown life; the town's percentage of farmland is the highest in the state. Many farms still raise beef and dairy cattle and grow traditional crops, while a few have devoted their fields to new crops. Potato farming became popular in the mid-20th century, and during the last few decades, sod growing has occurred on a few of the town's larger and flatter fields. Many farms, with their older farmhouses and out-buildings, continue in operation. Increasing population has put demands on former farmland and forest, necessitating new construction. Since World War II development in modern architecture activity has been divided between renovation/reconstruction of old buildings and new construction. An old mill (#1) at Glen Rock was adapted for use as a pottery manufactory and sales room. On the J. Robinson estate off Post Road, a carriage house was converted to a residence in 1949. The George Rose House (#105) was remodeled and continues in residential use. Shadow Farm, which underwent renovations earlier in the century, was sold recently and is slated for a new use as condominiums. Some small farmhouses have been greatly enlarged, such as the G. Tefft House (#30) on Curtis Corner Road and the Lower Weeden Farmhouse (#19) near Matunuck Beach.

A number of architecturally interesting houses have been built during the past few decades. Architect Rockwell King de Moulin, who designed the 1938 Willow Dell Beach Club at Matunuck Beach and the 1942 Sibley Smith House (#102) at Perryville, drew the plans for the 1950s Fred Lippitt House (#5-K) in the Matunuck Hills, the 1954 Elizabeth Perkins House (#97) near Potter Pond, and the 1973 Pond House (#93) on Potter Pond. The Pond House is a large, complex structure, with antecedents in Victorian architecture; most of the other de Moulin houses are built in more modern modes, usually 1-story, flat-roofed structures, with smooth wall surfaces and a large amount of window space, and generally lacking architectural details or decorations. A group of interesting houses was constructed in the early 1980s at Green Hill: a neo-Spanish type; a square, rectangular structure resembling International-style buildings of the early 20th century; and an eastern version of the weathered, vertical-board-sided California sea ranch, of which there are other examples in the town and along the shore. These new houses add an interesting architectural diversity to the town's building stock as South Kingstown's already varied architectural inventory continues to expand.

#### SUMMARY

South Kingstown today is a diverse, primarily residential community, with a number of commercial and industrial buildings, as well as religious, public, and institutional complexes, most notably the University of Rhode Island. Originally, it was an agricultural town, with small settlements at Tower Hill and at Little Rest (now Kingston). Venerable Kingston Village traces its past back over three centuries and contains a fine collection of early buildings.



Eppley Camp (c. 1920): off Dugway Road. (#32)



House (Early 1980s): Green Hill Beach Road, Green Hill. (#2-E)



Summer Colony (20th Century): Seaweed Cove, Potter Road, Matunuck. (#4)

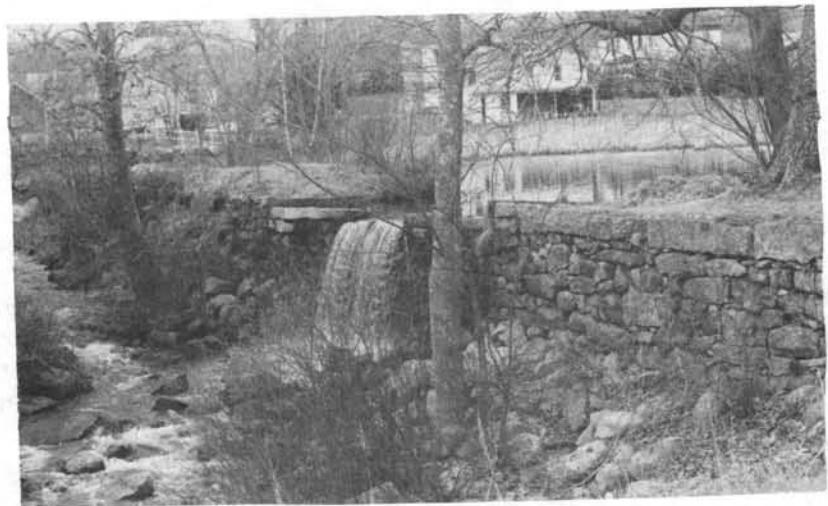
Manufacturing became an important component of South Kingstown in the 19th century. Textile mills established along the town's waterways were responsible for the creation of Peace Dale and Rocky Brook and for assisting in the transformation of Wakefield into a thriving village. The mills at these three villages continue in operation today, but in a less direct and important role in the lives of the village residents. At Peace Dale, imposing and handsome stone structures--mills, public buildings, a library, a church, and bridges--are a material legacy of the important and influential Hazard family that created and sustained this small community for well over a century. At nearby Rocky Brook, a small, 19th century mill village, a stone mill still operating, is material evidence of some of the contributions of the Rodman family. Wakefield, which began with a tavern, store, and several houses at Dockray Corner, was transformed into the town's largest and most important village during the 19th century, as indicated by a wealth of extant structures. Its commercial center retains its vitality, and includes a number of well-preserved business blocks.

Outside the major settlements, South Kingstown's surviving farmland and farms with their houses, barns, and other outbuildings, are an irreplaceable legacy of the town's agrarian past, which goes back to the days of the Narragansett Planters. The rural areas also include some interesting and historically and archeologically significant relic features--former saw mills, grist mills, and textile mills, cellar holes, and other artifacts of old homesteads. The small settlements at Glen Rock, Mooresfield, Tower Hill, and Usquepaug, are themselves relics of a long-gone era. The rough, swampy, inhospitable sections of South Kingstown, especially the Great Swamp Management Area, remain forested and virtually uninhabited.

Fishing, carried on in the town since the 17th century, has never been an important activity. Today, some fishing and shellfishing is carried on in the larger ponds, and surf fishing is a seashore recreational activity. The early association with boats, which started with boat building along the Pettaquamscutt River in the early 19th century, is now carried on by several marinas and boatyards along Point Judith Pond at the head of Point Judith Pond and at Snug Harbor.

The town's scenery and shore attractions, coupled with the proximity to popular and fashionable Narragansett Pier, drew many newcomers, tourists, and summer residents, who transformed Post Road and the Matunuck Hills into fine residential areas. Today, there are at least five recognizable beaches along the South Kingstown shore--East Matunuck Beach, now a state park; Matunuck Beach, the most heavily developed, with a market, convenience stores, a trailer park, a small hotel, and several bars; Roy Carpenter's Beach; town-owned Moonstone Beach; and Green Hill Beach, the most private of them all.

The legacy of South Kingstown's past, as reflected in this report, displays a rich variety of historic districts, structures, and sites. These cultural resources are an important part of the town's heritage and they deserve special consideration in planning South Kingstown's future development.



Dam and Waterfalls: Rocky Brook, Rocky Brook  
Historic District. (#9)



Dam and Waterfalls: Glen Rock Brook, Glen Rock.  
(#1)



Outbuildings at H. Eldred Place: 150 North Road.  
(#71)

## II. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is a record maintained by the United States Department of the Interior. It includes structures, sites, areas, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture. It is the official inventory of the nation's cultural and historical resources which are worthy of preservation. Most properties entered are nominated for inclusion by state historical agencies like Rhode Island's Historical Preservation Commission. All properties must be reviewed and approved by the Department of the Interior prior to their entry on the Register.

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

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites entered in the National Register in the Town of South Kingstown (a description of each property appears in the Inventory which follows):

- |      |                                    |                    |
|------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3    | Kingston Village Historic District |                    |
| 24   | Theatre-By-The-Sea, 1891 et seq.   | Card Ponds Road    |
| 14-A | Kingston Railroad Station, 1875    | off Kingstown Road |
| 86   | Commodore Perry Farm, 1815 et seq. | 184 Post Road      |
| 119  | Henry Merchant House, pre 1760     | South County Trail |

The following is a list of districts, structures, and sites approved at the local review board level for listing in the National Register:

- |      |   |                                   |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 7    | Peace Dale Village Historic District                |                                   |
| 11   | Usquepaug Road Historic District                    |                                   |
| 4-A  | Stanton Tucker House. c. 1720                       | Antique Road, Matunuck Beach      |
| 12-A | Kenyon's Grist Mill, 1886                           | Glen Rock Road, Usquepaug Village |
| 50   | Jireh Bull Blockhouse Historic Site                 | off Middle Bridge Road            |
| 59   | Perry-Carpenter Grist Mill, 1716<br>et seq.         | Moonstone Beach Road              |
| 67   | Palmer Gardner House                                | Mooresfield Road                  |
| 92   | John Potter House/The Great House,<br>c. 1730, 1945 | 664 Post Road                     |
| 123  | Hannah Robinson Rock                                | off Tower Hill Road               |

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

- |      |   |                               |
|------|---|-------------------------------|
| 10   | University of Rhode Island Quadrangle             |                               |
| 12-C | Dr. Nathan Knight Farmhouse, c. 1785              | Usquepaug Road, Usquepaug     |
| 13-E | Docray House, 1725, 1769                          | 2 Docray Street, Wakefield    |
| 13-U | William D. Miller House, 1934-35                  | 130 Main Street, Wakefield    |
| 14-C | Washington County Courthouse, 1894                | Kingstown Road, West Kingston |
| 15   | The Wells Place, 18th Century                     | Littlefield Lane              |
| 28   | R.R. Gardner Estate, Late 19th Century            | Curtis Corner Road            |
| 35   | Isaac Peace Rodman House, 1855                    | 961 Kingstown Road            |
| 42   | Browning Homestead, 1730 et seq.                  | Matunuck Schoolhouse Road     |
| 43   | Samuel Perry House, 1696-1716                     | 844 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road |
| 44   | Green Farm, c. 1850                               | Matunuck Schoolhouse Road     |
| 55   | Tucker-Albro House, c. 1739                       | 155 Ministerial Road          |
| 74   | Henry Palmer House, 1721                          | 557 Old Succotash Road        |
| 77   | Jeremiah P. Robinson Estate, 1887                 | 145 Post Road                 |
| 79   | William Congdon House/Brookfield, c. 1690, 1930   | 159 Post Road                 |
| 82   | The Watson Tract                                  | Post Road                     |
| 87   | Rocky Meadows Farm, 1754                          | 205 Post Road                 |
| 100  | Weeden Farm, 1753                                 | Post Road                     |
| 105  | George E. Rose, Jr., House, 1861-63 et seq.       | Rose Hill Road                |
| 107  | Watson House                                      | Saugatucket Road              |
| 108  | Watson House                                      | Saugatucket Road              |
| 109  | Shadow Farm                                       | Silver Lake                   |
| 111  | Solomon Carpenter House/Chanticleer Farm, c. 1705 | 144 South Road                |
| 115  | Mileage Marker, 1814                              | South Road                    |
| 116  | Town Pound, 18th Century                          | South Road                    |
| 122  | Kymbolde, c. 1910                                 | Torrey Road                   |
| 123  | Observation Tower, 1936-37                        | Tower Hill Road               |
| 126  | Shadblow Farm, 1810                               | Tower Hill Road               |

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

### III. PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

This inventory is an annotated key to the preliminary survey map of South Kingstown. The numbers refer to the map at the back of the report (for example: 1 - Glen Rock).

A more detailed map at a scale of one inch to 1000 feet, which locates properties more fully and precisely is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and in the South Kingstown Town Hall; copies may also be found at the State Department of Transportation, the Division of Statewide Planning, and the Department of Community Affairs. The large-scale map uses the same property-identification numbering system which appears here.

Material in this inventory is presented alphabetically, first by districts and then by roads. Dates and names which appear in parentheses at the end of notations refer to their identification on nineteenth-century maps. In each case, the earliest map on which the structure or site appears has been used. (Dating of structures, or their historical-architectural period, is occasionally determined on the basis of plaques, written material, maps, and knowledgeable residents, but more often is based on style and construction.) Unless otherwise noted, all structures are of wood-frame construction, are flank gable side to the road, and are wood-clapboard sided.

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

Colonial: From the time of settlement to 1775

Federal: 1775-1830

Greek Revival: 1825-1860

Early Victorian: 1840-1870

Late Victorian: 1865-1900

Early 20th century: 1900-1945

Mid-20th century: 1945-1975

Late 20th century: 1975 to the present

Key: \*Recommended for the National Register of Historic Places.  
\*\*Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or approved for entry in the National Register.

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND AREAS

1. Glen Rock: The Glen Rock area, is the remote, northwestern corner of South Kingstown, consists of a renovated 19th-century mill along Glen Rock Brook and a few surviving buildings associated with the community. The factory, sited along a sharp drop in the brook, retains fine stone foundation walls, but new windows, a shed-roof dormer, and other changes have compromised the mill's architectural integrity. Upstream is a dam, a deteriorated wooden building, and a deteriorated wooden flume leading from the dam and pond to the mill. Across the brook is a large, 2½-and 3-story residence, now vacant; nearby, close to the road, is a 1½-story, mid 19th century house.

These surviving buildings were part of a small community that began when Moses Barber gave land to his sons, William and Thomas. Grist and saw mills were located here for many years thereafter. A saw mill was erected first, followed by a grist mill before 1815. Known as Barber's Mills as early as 1831, the settlement included two grist mills, a shingle mill, and a saw mill near the bridge, as well as a blacksmith shop and school house in 1857. In 1867, Daniel Rodman, owner of the Mooresfield mill, purchased Barber's Mills. He built a woolen mill for manufacturing coarse woolen goods, and a new grist mill and a saw mill a short distance downstream. Production at the woolen mill probably ceased before 1895; by then the place was known as Glen Rock. A grist mill, which continued working into the 20th century, was well known for its Rhode Island jonnycake meal. At another site a short distance above the woolen mill, carding was carried on for some years during the 19th century in association with a grist mill. The only surviving mill building today is the woolen mill, which was converted into, and still is, a pottery works. (1831-Col. Barbers Mills.)

2. Green Hill: The Green Hill area, in the southwest corner of town, along Rhode Island Sound, is noteworthy for its old farm-houses, several mill sites, and the summer colony, which includes several unusual late-20th-century houses. Several mill sites were developed in the farming area along the short, slow-flowing Green Hill Brook in the first half of the 19th century. The beach remained unused and undeveloped until about the last decade of the 19th century; in 1895, a row of seven, closely-spaced cottages stood directly on the ocean front (they are now gone). In the early 20th century, more summer houses were built, and Green Hill became one of many summer colonies lining Rhode Island Sound. A number of shipwrecks and groundings, most notably the wreck of the schooner John Paull on February 10, 1893, resulted in the establishment of a life saving station at Green Hill in the early 20th century. The first Green Hill rescue occurred on August 18, 1912, 18 days after the station opened. The station remained active until 1933.

Today, the mills, the original cottages, and the lifesaving station are gone, but some of the farmhouses are still standing. A large number of summer cottages occupy a relatively small, densely-settled area on Green Hill Beach Road and several side streets near the Sound. Green Hill's most significant structures and sites are:

- 2-A. Babcock House (c. 1788; off Browning Street): A 1½-story, wood-shingled farmhouse, with a brick center chimney; a central entry in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; a shed dormer across the front; and an ell at the rear. The house is sited at the north end of a rocky meadow, with a view of nearby Trustom Pond and the ocean. The former farmhouse is now a summer residence. Two farm buildings, a barn and a corn crib, have been converted for residential use. The house was in the Babcock and Ward families for many years. (1857-Babcock or Ward.)
- 2-B. George H. Browning House (Early 19th Century: Green Hill Beach Road): A vernacular, 2½-story, Federal farmhouse, with a later, simple portico at the front entrance. The house was the residence of George H. Browning (c. 1803-1885) a farmer and deacon of the Baptist church; his son, George W., was a member of the town council. (1857- G. H. Browning.)
- 2-C. Site of Browning's Mill (Off Green Hill Beach Road): At the outlet (south end) of Factory Pond are the overgrown stone work remains of Browning's Mill. Samuel Stanton Browning dammed the brook and built a factory here to weave cloth. The mill burned in 1837. The 1862 and 1870 maps show a grist mill here; it was evidently gone by 1895. (1831- Browning Factory.)
- 2-D. Site of Congdon's Mill, or Green Hill Mill (Off Matunuck Schoolhouse Road): Along Green Hill Brook downstream from Browning's Mill, is the site of Congdon's Mill, or the Green Hill Mill. In the 1840s, R. J. Congdon and John Miller purchased this site and built a 2-story wooden building for weaving woolen cloth. The mill was sold to George Carmichael (who owned a mill in Shannock). William P. Barney, who was superintendant of the Green Hill Mill, and who purchased it in 1888, made cloth here for about 20 years. The mills became idle and burned several years later, probably about 1910. (1857- Congdon's Mill.)
- 2-E. Contemporary Houses (Early 1980s; Green Hill Beach Road): Along Green Hill Beach Road, opposite Green Hill Pond, are several recently-constructed, 3-story houses built by Steven Kroll in the early 1980s. They are a neo-Spanish style structure, with a hip roof, white walls, and arcaded porches; a vertical-board-sided, asymmetrical structure; and a white, cuboidal house with a flat roof, smooth and uniform wall surfaces, and windows with minimum exterior reveals, in the manner of the International style of the 1930s. Nearby are several contemporary vertical-board-sided houses.

- 2-F. Shingle House (Mid 20th Century; Green Hill Beach Road): An unusual summer house with wood shingle and board sides; a long-sloping gable at the south side that overhangs a porch; an enclosed, semi-elliptical-framed porch facing the road; and a large, pedimented, colonial type window at the left side. The building is set on a 1-story fieldstone foundation.
- \*\*3. Kingston Village Historic District: Kingston Village, entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, consists of some 39 individually significant buildings. Most are located along Route 138, Kingstown and Mooresfield roads; the rest are along North Road and South Road and Potter Lane. The 39 buildings inventoried in this report cover a time span of 183 years; 32 are in residential use today; three buildings once served as taverns or inns, one was a private school, two served as law offices, and one was built as a stagecoach barn. The former county court house is now a library, and a former jail building is now a historical society museum and archives. A church and a store continue their original functions.

South Kingston's first settlement was at Tower Hill (#125). From there, roads were laid out inland in the 17th century, and other connecting roads were constructed, including North and South Road, laid out in 1670. About 1700, in the then agricultural hinterland, small house lots and holdings were created along what became main road (Kingstown Road).

In the first half of the 18th century, several houses were built, and a blacksmith and a hatter were established here. In 1752, after a petition by residents of Little Rest (the original name of Kingston), which said that they would build several taverns for the entertainment of those attending court, the court house and jail were moved here from Tower Hill. In addition to the tavern, other 18th-century additions to the village included a saddler's shop (about 1754), a school (about 1759), and a tanner, a currier, a silversmith, and a merchant (all about 1775). Eight extant houses in the village also date from the latter half of the 18th century.

Little Rest, landlocked and non-industrial was from its beginnings an intellectual center similar to a handful of other communities in Rhode Island including Union Village in North Smithfield and Hopkinton City in Hopkinton. In 1818, a bank was established in Little Rest; soon after, the Congregational church and a school, which incorporated in the village as the Pettaquamscutt Academy, moved here from Tower Hill. Pease and Niles' 1819 gazetteer account described "Little rest hill" as a small, but pleasant village, on "a prospective and interesting site", and containing 25 dwelling houses, a court house, and a bank. Both the village and the academy took the name, Kingston, in 1826.

Artisans and professionals found Kingston a pleasant place to live. Luke Aldrich carried on cabinetmaking, the Fayerweather family operated a blacksmith shop for 87 years, and in the 1830s, a newspaper, the Rhode Island Advocate--the first produced in Washington County--was published in the village. Several generations of the Potter family, beginning with Elisha Reynolds Potter (1764-1835) were important, their influence spreading beyond the local community as Rhode Island and United States Representatives, in education, medicine, manufacturing, and the military and legal professions.

The New York, Providence, and Boston Railroad, completed in 1837, passed a few miles west of Kingston, creating West Kingston; in 1839, a stagecoach linked West Kingston with Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier, stopping in Kingston at the J. N. Taylor Tavern enroute. The prosperous residents of Kingston built several fine homes befitting their status in life. Noteworthy late Federal era dwellings are the 1827 Thomas S. Taylor House at 1305 Kingstown Road, and the 1829 Asa Potter House at 1291 Kingstown Road and the 1829 Luke Aldrich House at 36 North Road. The c. 1840 Henry Eldred, Jr., House at 26 North Road is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture.

The first half of the 19th century was probably the "golden age" of Kingston. However, during the second half of the century, industry, government functions, and major commercial establishments were located elsewhere. In the 1850s, the Kingston Saving Bank and the Kingston Seminary were established, but the latter was short-lived, closing down as a school in 1863. The Kingston Academy burned in 1882. The Narragansett Pier Railroad, completed in 1876, bypassed Kingston, and in 1877, the last stage stopped at the Taylor Tavern; the following year, a new town hall was built in Wakefield. A new court house was built in West Kingston in 1895; the old court house, remodeled in 1876, became a library. Through all these changes, Kingston retained its quiet charm and grace, attracting, among others, Madam Lucca, a Viennese opera star, who spent several summers here.

The creation of the state's land grant college at Kingston in 1889 was significant in maintaining the vitality of the village. The Rhode Island College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, as it became known in 1892, grew considerably in the 20th century, particularly after World War II, when it became the University of Rhode Island (in 1951) and spread beyond its original site around the quadrangle. Today, several university-associated buildings are within or near the Kingston Historic District, including a fraternity house on North Road and faculty apartments west of Upper College Road along Kingstown Road. Despite a large amount of vehicular traffic generated by the university, and through traffic along Main Street (Route 138), the major east-west highway

in southern Rhode Island, the village retains a quiet ambiance and remains essentially a residential community, with an art association, museums, a library, and a craft guild.

Laid out in the early 18th century and the county seat for nearly 150 years, Kingston Village includes a wide variety of buildings: a court house, a records office, a jail, taverns and inns, stores, banks, a post office, a church, doctor's and lawyer's offices, blacksmith shops, tanners, silversmiths, cabinetmakers, stage coach barns, hatters, libraries, museums, and an art association. Those that remain comprise, both architecturally and historically, one of Rhode Island's finest and best preserved 18th and 19th-century villages. Its significant structures are included in the following inventory.

- 3-A. Sherwell/The Crossways (1893; 1243 Kingstown Road): Sherwell, a late addition to Kingston Village, is a large, 2½-story, Queen Anne style residence, with a fine, wood-shingled carriage house. It was built at the east end of the village by Herbert J. Wells; its name incorporates the Sherman and Wells families names. (1895- H. J. Wells.)
- 3-B. William H. Case House (c. 1750 et seq.; 1259 Kingstown Road): A small cottage, with a central entry in a 3-bay facade, and a brick center chimney. Most sources date the house around 1750; it was altered in the mid 19th century to its present appearance. (1862- J. Babcock & G. Fairweather.)
- 3-C. C. F. Brown House (1889; 1258 (?) Kingstown Road): A 2-story, wood-shingled, L-plan house with a pair of brick interior chimneys and a wrap-around porch at the east end. A blacksmith shop occupied part of this corner lot in the 19th century (1895- C. F. Brown.)
- 3-D. B. F. Brown House (c. 1875; 1262 Kingstown Road): A 1½-story Second Empire dwelling, with a "lazy T" plan and carpenterwork detail. (1895- B. F. Brown.)
- 3-E. Wilkins Updike House (1819; 1276 Kingstown Road): A large, 2½-story, Federal residence, with a large, brick, center chimney, corner quoins; a tall, narrow doorway with transom lights and a bracketed cornice, centered in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story ell at the rear. The house was built by Wilkins Updike, who inherited Cocomscussoc (Smith's Castle) near Wickford, but had to sell it. He moved to Little Rest before 1819, and later built this house and a law office nearby. Wilkins Updike, who also represented the town in the General Assembly, is the author of the "History of the Narragansett Church." (1862- W. Updike.)
- 3-F. John Moore House (1710; 1286 Kingstown Road): A large, colonial era, gambrel-roofed structure, with a stone center chimney; a later entry, centered in a 5-bay facade; and a gambrel-roofed

dormer. Originally a half house (the east, or left side, is older) built by John Moore, and now the oldest house in Kingston, it was later owned by Abraham Perkins, a blacksmith, and Luke Aldrich, who had a cabinet and undertaker's shop on the corner. (1862- L. Aldrich.)

3-G. Asa Potter House (1829; 1291 Kingstown Road): A large, handsome, hip-roofed, late Federal era, "block-like" residence, with 2, tall, brick, end interior chimneys (and central hallway plan); a simple, portico entry, with side and transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; a veranda at the northeast corner; and a 1½-story gable-roofed ell at the rear. The roof parapet, in an alternating block panel and baluster design, appears on two other village houses. This house occupies a large lot at the corner of North Road. Built by Asa Potter, in the late 19th century it was the residence of William H. Potter, a Harvard law school graduate, and son of Elisha R. Potter. (1870- W. H. Potter.)

3-H. Elisha Reynolds House/The Lucca House/The Tavern Hall Club (1738; 1296 Kingstown Road): A very large, L-plan, gambrel-roofed structure sited close to Kingstown and South roads. The second oldest extant structure in Kingston, it was built about 1738 by Elisha Reynolds, then went to Elisha's grandson, Elisha R. Potter, and remained in the Potter family for more than a century and a half. It was used for a variety of purposes: a tavern, a store, a boot and shoe factory, a free library, a boys' school and boarding house, a house of worship and a lecture hall for several summers during the 1870s, it was the home of Madam Lucca, a Vienna-born opera singer. In 1832, the Rhode Island Advocate, the first newspaper in South County, was here. In 1919, the Tavern Hall Club purchased the building and converted it to clubhouse use. There are apartments above the club rooms, which are still used today. (1862- Dr. T. M. Potter.)

3-I. Abel Cottrell House (1818; 1301 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story structure, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; a small shed roof veranda across the left side; and an ell at the rear. Abel Cottrell was a tailor, the town sergeant, and an officer of the court; his house occupies the site of a house built about 1775. Mary and Marie Rose had a hat shop in the front for many years. (1870- Misses Rose.)

3-J. Joseph Perkins House/Hagadorn House/Hawthorne House & Thomas S. Taylor House (c. 1775, 1827; 1305 Kingstown Road): About 1775; Joseph Perkins, a silversmith and merchant, built the original house here, near the road. A traditional, gable-roofed structure, with a large, center chimney and a central pedimented entry in a 5-bay facade, it was sold in 1812 to John Hagadorn and was known briefly as Hawthorne House after the English translation of the German work hagadorn. Hagadorn's neice, Elisa, inherited the house in 1817. She married Thomas Stoddard Taylor a postmaster and merchant. In 1827, he moved the old house and

placed it at a right angle behind the new house, a block-like structure very similar to Asa Potter's House at 1291 Kingston Road, with paired, end interior chimneys; a central entry with a semi-elliptical fan and transom lights in a 5-bay facade; and an alternating parapet of block-panel-and-baluster design. After Taylor died in 1844, the house had several owners. In 1861, it went to Francis Hagadorn, who added the porticoed entry, and remained in Hagadorn ownership into the 20th century. (1870- J. G. Perry.)

- 3-K. John Douglas House (1753; 1308 Kingstown Road): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, end-chimney house with a tall, narrow entry with a 5-light transom at the right side of a 3-bay facade, and a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story wing at the left rear with a "salt box" roof and a transom-lighted entry. The placement of the front entry opposite the chimney is unusual for this type house. It was built by John Douglas, a blacksmith, who had his shop on the property. Blacksmithing continued here for some time after Douglas sold the house in 1772. The lower floor was used as a museum of the Narragansett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from 1912 to 1938. (1862- L. Champlin.)
- 3-L. Caleb Westcott Tavern/Joe Reynolds Tavern/Taylor Tavern (c. 1774; 1309-1311 Kingstown Road): A long, wood-shingled house, sited close to the road. The original section has a stone center chimney and a central, porticoed entry in a 5-bay facade. The right side was added later. Built by Caleb Westcott, a house carpenter, the place became a tavern in the 18th century, when it was the headquarters of the Little Rest Club of Good Fellows. It was owned and run by Joseph Reynolds ("Jo Runnals") from 1809 to 1823, and then by his son, John. In 1836 it was acquired by Philip Taylor, and in 1851 by Philip's son, John N. It served as a stage coach stop on the run between West Kingston and Peacedale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier until the stage stopped running on February 28, 1877. It was used as a tavern until 1890, then became an apartment house. In 1911, five college teachers rented part of the building and formed the Tavern Hall Club, which was incorporated in 1914. In 1919 they moved to 1296 Kingstown Road (#3-H). (1870- J.N. Taylor.)
- 3-M. Private School/Store (1817; 1313 Kingstown Road): A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story structure with a central entry in a 5-bay facade, a small, shed dormer, and several alterations, including an Early Victorian bracketed hood and paired windows in the front. There is a 2-story, flat-roofed addition at the rear. The building, sited close to the road on a small lot, was reportedly built as a 1-room private schoolhouse, but may have been built as a store. It was later used as a store, a post office, and quarters for the South County Art Museum. (1870- Store & P.O.; Mrs. Kenyon.)

- 3-N. Matthew Waite House (1819; 1314 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story structure with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, and a large, simple portico, in a 5-bay facade; and a rear ell. This house occupies the site of William Caswell's 1755 house, once the residence of Matthew Waite's father, John, one of several silversmiths in the village. In 1910, the Eddy family came here from Providence and fitted out a "Lincoln Room" with old furniture and the bed in which Lincoln slept in their city house. (1862- M. Waite Heirs.)
- 3-O. Reynolds Stagecoach Barn (1825; 1315 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled structure, located about 300 feet back from the road, with a small, brick chimney and a small ell at the rear. Originally built as a stagecoach barn, and located close to the road, it had a high, wide opening with sliding doors in its gable end, and seven small, square, horse stall windows along its sides. In 1947, it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Cain, both art teachers, who transformed it into a 6-room dwelling, with a studio in the loft.
- 3-P. John T. Nichols House/Landholder's Bank/South County Art Association (1802; 1317-19 Kingstown Road): The first building here was a saddler's shop erected by John Weeden in 1754. In 1792, the property was sold to John T. Nichols, who built a house (the present east end) in 1802 to provide lodgings and hospitality for travelers, members of the court, and boys attending the academy. A road ran between the two buildings until they were joined to make room for the Landholder's Bank in 1818. The bank was active into the 20th century. In the late 19th century, the building was acquired by Bermon and Nathaniel Helme, who left a legacy to the South County Art Association, the proceeds of which were used to purchase the property in 1945. The part built by John Weeden is no longer standing. (1857- J. T. Nichols.)
- 3-Q. Kingston Inn (1757-1911; 1320 Kingstown Road): a large 2½-story, gambrel-roofed house with a large, brick, center chimney; a hip-roofed piazza across the front; and a large addition at the rear. A tract of land, with buildings, was sold in 1755 to John Potter, who kept tavern. Later tavern keepers include Charles Barker, and, from 1819 to 1838, Elisha R. Potter. It is described in Shepherd Tom's Jonny Cake Papers. By 1875, when J. S. Brown & Son ran the tavern, it was known as the Kingston Inn. A corporation purchased, restored, and enlarged the building in 1911. It continued in use, off and on, until the 1940s. Most recently, it was used for housing for university students. (1862- Hotel.)
- 3-R. Timothy Peckham Tavern/George Robinson House (c. 1820; 1323 Kingstown Road): A traditional, large, 2½-story Rhode Island house, with a large, brick, center chimney, and central, portico entry (a later addition) in a 5-bay facade. The house was erected about 1820 by Timothy Peckham for use as a tavern. It was used as a residence, and, for a time, during the last half of the 19th century, as a store, by the Robinson family. (1857- Geo. Robinson.)

- 3-S. Thomas P. Wells House/Kingston Congregational Church Parish House (1832; 1328 Kingstown Road): A large, 2½-story house, with a hip-on-hip roof, set end to the road, and a Federal entry, with a blind semi-elliptical fan, and transom lights, in a 5-bay facade. The original building on this site was the first Kingston court house, built in 1752. It was torn down in 1832 by Deacon Thomas P. Wells, who built this house. An addition was made to the rear in 1857 to accommodate a family boarding school, or Latin school (this part was taken down in 1924). It was conducted for five years by Thomas Wells' son, John H., who was pastor of the adjacent Congregational church from 1862 to 1877. In 1933, this house became a parish house and church school building. In 1962, it was joined to the church by a large auditorium. (1857- J. H. Wells.)
- 3-T. Kings County Court House/Kingston Free Library (1775, 1876; 1329 Kingstown Road): A large, 2½-story structure, with a projecting central tower with a polygonal belfry and roof and a large, pedimented entry. The Kings County Court House, originally at Tower Hill, was moved here in 1752; it stood directly across the road. In 1775, a new court house was erected here; it was one of the five original state houses where the rotating General Assembly met from 1776-1791. The state assembly met here biennially from 1842 to 1854. The building was radically altered in 1876 by the addition of a mansard roof and the central pavilion and tower, to which the belfry from the earlier court house was moved. In 1895, when a new Washington County House was built in West Kingston, the first floor was remodeled for library purposes and the court room on the second floor converted to an auditorium. Part of the second floor was further restored in 1951 by John H. Cady. This fine building, the Kingston Free Library, and the adjacent, former records office occupy a small lot behind an 1855 iron fence set on granite blocks at the corner of Upper College Road. (1857- Court House.)
- 3-U. Old County Records Office/Little Rest Museum/Little Rest Archives (1857/58; 1331 Kingstown Road): A small, 1-story, granite block building with a central entry flanked by 2 windows in the gable end which faces the road. Built next to the court house to store court records, it was reportedly the first totally fireproof building in the United States. After the court moved to West Kingston, this building served a variety of uses, including a carpenter shop for local youngsters. In 1954, it was converted into a museum by the Kingston Free Library Association, and, in 1971, as the Little Rest Archives, it was used primarily for archives of land evidences and genealogy. (1862- Records Office.)
- 3-V. Kingston Congregation Church (1820; 1334 Kingstown Road): A typical New England meeting house of the early 19th century, this well-preserved building, with a 2-story central section, has a slightly projecting front clock tower, with a narrow, tall,

bracketed transom-light entry, a 1-stage polygonal steeple, and a tall spire. The steeple was blown down in 1857, and immediately replaced; the clock was donated in 1877. The Congregational society was formed about 1701, and the first meeting house erected at Tower Hill. Its first minister was Samuel Niles; later, Joseph Torrey served as minister. In 1820, the church moved to Little Rest, where the meeting house was erected, and has served the community since. In 1962, a church hall connecting the church building with the parish house was constructed.  
(1857- Cong. Church.)

3-W. Old County Jail (1792, 1858; 1348 Kingstown Road): A 2-story, granite-block building, with 3, brick, interior chimneys; a central, enclosed portico entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story, cell block at the rear. The first Washington County jail was at Tower Hill. In 1752, a jail was built in Little Rest, on the north side of the road. In 1792-83, this sturdy stone building was erected; the sheriff's quarters were on the first floor and prisoners were kept above. A wooden addition for prisoners was built on the south side of 1803, and in 1858 the present stone ell was finished. After 1895, when the court moved to West Kingston, the jail was used to hold prisoners only during court sessions. In 1956, the jail was closed and the building rented to the university. In 1960, the building became the headquarters of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, which now uses it as a museum of 18th and 19th century Rhode Island life and as the society archives. (1857- Jail.)

3-X. Site of Cyrus French House (Kingstown Road at Upper College Road): At the northwest corner of the intersection of Kingstown Road with Upper College Road is a grassy lot with a large, polished granite block, marked with U.R.I. This lot, at the main road leading to the college campus and across from the jail, is the site of a house erected about 1740. It was the home of Nathaniel Helme, one of five well known silversmiths of Little Rest, and, beginning in 1792, was owned by the French family, noted beaver hat makers. This lot is also the site of the first Little Rest Gaol, erected in 1752. The house was torn down about 1930.  
(1857- W. French.)

3-Y. John Potter House (1775; 1382 Kingstown Road): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house, with a brick center chimney and a central entry in a 3-bay facade. This house may have been built by John Potter for his son, John. In about 1807, it was purchased by Joseph Stanton, a tanner and currier. (1870- E. R. Potter.)

3-Z. George Fayerweather House (1820; 8 Mooresfield Road): A 1½-story structure, with a small, brick, center chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. George Fayerweather, II, a freed slave, who took his name from the minister of St. Paul's Church, ran a blacksmith shop here, just east of the house. In 1965, the

house was restored as a museum by the Kingston Improvement Association and occupied by the Fayerweather Craft Guild. The blacksmith shop no longer exists. (1862- T. W. Fairweather "South Shop" is east of house.)

- 3-AA. Solomon Fayerweather House (1852; 18 Mooresfield Road): A 1½-story, wood-shingled house, set gable end to the road on a nicely landscaped lot. The house was built by Solomon Fayerweather, son of George, II. Both father and son ran a blacksmith shop here for more than 80 years. (1857- S. Fairweather.)
- 3-BB. Timothy Peckham House (c. 1796; 12 North Road): A 1½-story house with a central entry in a 5-bay facade and a large shed dormer across the front. (1862- H. Barber.)
- 3-CC. Thomas R. Wells House/Comstock House (1750, 1820; 25 North Road): A handsome and well preserved 2½-story residence, with paired, brick, interior chimneys (and a central hallway plan); a tall, narrow, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a large ell at the rear. The house, sited behind a wood picket fence on a large lot, was originally built in 1750. In 1820, it was remodeled by Thomas R. Wells. Christopher Comstock lived here while the adjacent Kingston Academy was active. He was an instructor there and used his residence as a faculty study, a dormitory, a dining hall, a laundry, and as a book store. (1870- W. Hazard.)
- 3-DD. Henry Eldred House (c. 1833; Early 20th Century; 26 North Road): A 2½-story Greek Revival residence set gable end to, and near, the road, with a 1-story Doric porch with 6 columns; a Palladian window; and 2, brick, exterior chimneys at the right side. The house is sited on a large lot behind a stone wall (running south of the house). In 1847, it was purchased by Dr. Thomas A. Hazard, who became town physician in 1838, and held various town offices. It was in the Wells family from about 1854 until 1919, when purchased by Dr. Howard Edwards, president of the college, who added the second story. (1862- Dr. T. A. Hazard.)
- 3-EE. Kingston Seminary (1853; 33 North Road): A 2½-story, bracketed building set gable end to, and back from the road. Built in 1853 as an outgrowth of the Kingston Academy, which stood nearby, the seminary was at first coeducational, but after two years became the Kingston Female Seminary. The school closed and the building was sold in 1863. It has been used as a residence since. (1862- Female Seminary.)
- 3-FF. Luke Aldrich House/Job Watson House (1829; 36 North Road): One of three "block-like" houses in Kingston (see also 1291 and 1305 Kingstown Road), this, like the others, features end interior chimneys and a parapet with alternating panels and balusters. The tall, narrow entry with transom lights is different from the other houses, but is a type that appears on several other 1820s vintage

buildings, including the Congregational church. This house was built by a cabinetmaker, and later occupied by John G. Clarke, while his children attended the Kingston Academy across the road; by Reverend Thomas Vernon, who boarded pupils; by Stephen A. Wright; and by Job W. Watson, who ran the store on Kingstown Road. (1862- J. W. Watson.)

- 3-GG. S. Perry House (Mid 19th century; 39 North Road): An Early Victorian Bracketed house, with a porch with carpenterwork brackets across the front, and an ell at the left rear. (1862. S. Perry.)

(See North Road for properties outside the historic district)

- 3-HH. Old Manor House/Jeffrey Davis House (Early 20th Century; Potter Lane): A large, cross-gambrel roof, neo-colonial residence, with 2 stone chimneys, designed by J. Howard Adams. The section facing the road includes a semi-circular portico, with a baluster, below a palladian window.

- 3-II. Elisha Reynolds Potter House/The Homestead (1809; Potter Lane): A 2½-story Federal residence with a brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and an addition at the left rear (south side). The house is set back from the road at the end of a private drive. Built in 1809 by Elisha R. Potter, Sr., and known as the Homestead, it was home for three generations of the family, perhaps the most prominent in Kingston. Elisha R. Sr., (1764-1835) was a representative in the state legislature and a member of Congress, off and on, between 1796 and 1815. His son, Elisha R. Potter, Jr., a Harvard University graduate, was a teacher, Commissioner of Education in Rhode Island, a Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice, historian, and author of Early History of Narragansett. Elisha's other sons had successful careers in medicine, manufacturing, the military, and law. (1862- Res. of E. R. Potter.)

(For 1 South Road see 1291 Kingstown Road)

- 3-JJ. Christopher Gardner House (7 South Road): A 2-story, gable-on-hip-roofed house, with paired, brick, end interior chimneys; a tall, narrow, central entry, with a 4-light transom, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story, hip-roofed wing at the left side. The first house at this site, a gambrel-roofed structure, was built by Sarah Fellows about 1820. It was replaced by the present structure, built by Christopher Gardner, her son-in-law. (1862- Mrs. Gardner.)

- 3-KK. Elisha Gardner-Israel Washburn House (c. 1803; 8 South Road): A wood-shingled, 1½-story house, with a pedimented central entry leading to a closed-in porch across the front; a large shed dormer across the front, and an ell at the rear. Other occupants included the Reverend Oliver Brown, Sr., pastor of the village church, and Dr. John Barlow, a vice president of the college at Kingston. (1862- L. Aldrich?)

- 3-LL. Robert Helme House (c. 1788; 31 South Road): A 1½-story house with a large, stone chimney and an off-center entry with side lights, in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade. It was the residence of the Potter family in the latter part of the 19th century. (1862- E. Potter.)
4. Matunuck Beach: Although "Matunuck" is a loosely-defined, large area in the southeast corner of South Kingstown, the Matunuck Beach area, as defined here, includes only the densely-built up summer community between the south end of Matunuck Beach Road and East Matunuck State Beach. The Beach district includes an old farmhouse and a few late 19th-century buildings, but most structures, including a Roman Catholic church, and a boarding house, date from the 20th century.

Located south of the rough topography of the terminal moraine, whose southern end approximately parallels Route 1 (the Post Road), the flat, relatively rock free glacial outwash plain was settled and farmed for centuries, with the seashore providing seaweed and marsh grass and debris from wrecks. Nineteenth century maps show only a handful of farmhouses scattered about, most set back from the road, near Segar Cove, probably because the ponds were an important part of local life; the pond resources, particularly fish and shellfish, contributed to the livelihood of farm families.

The name "Beach House Cove" on an 1857 map suggests an early perception and use of the shore area for recreation. Improvements in transportation made the seashore increasingly more accessible to city dwellers, at first by train and carriage, later by auto. Mariana Tallman, writing about Matunuck Beach in 1893, describes it as a popular spot with Providence people, more so perhaps than any other surf beach along the coast. Then, it had only one hotel, the Cashman House, and a half dozen bathing houses. The Everts and Richards map of 1895 shows a row of five fish houses along the water; these little huts were occupied by fishermen who supplied peddlers and hotels, and the Matunuck Beach House. A Providence Journal reporter considered "this quiet sort of place, prettily located", easy of access when he visited it in 1895, taking the carriage from Wakefield. The original hotel was kept by Wanton Carpenter of Perryville. Built about 1880 and enlarged in 1884 and in 1895, it could accommodate 125 guests. Local attractions included wreckage along the shore, and nearby Narragansett Pier. The reporter said the life of Matunuck Beach's visitors was "a dull and stupid life when you compare it with the Pier folks", but it suits them and gives them rest and health."

During the early years of the 20th century, the increasing use of the auto, and improved highways, brought more visitors to Matunuck Beach, some staying at one of the large boarding houses, many others building small summer cottages. Following World War II, many more cottages and houses were built at

Matunuck, the most recent being built west of Matunuck Beach Road. Today, the district consists of three different sections--the densely-crowded area near the beach, the row of streets to the north, and the "Cove Colony" at the east end. Although most of the visitors are summer residents, the beach, with bathing and surf fishing and some commercial establishments along the shore, still attracts day trippers; but the boarding houses are gone, victims of time and several hurricanes. The most significant parts of the district are included in the following inventory.

- 4-A. Stanton-Tucker House (c. 1720; Antique Road): A large, wood-shingled, typical colonial-era farmhouse, with a large, stone, slightly-off-center chimney and a central entry, with a later, shed roof portico, in a 5-bay facade. There is a small addition at the west side. The house occupies a site at the end of a short road, on the boundary between the Matunuck summer colony to the south and fields to the north. It is one of about a half dozen early farmhouses in the area west of Segar Cove and is the only one surviving in a well-preserved state. According to tradition, the house was built by General Stanton, a south County planter, and a large landholder in Charlestown. The house was later occupied by members of the Tucker, Browning, Champlin, and Carpenter families, all locally important for several centuries. In 1971, it was acquired by Tommy Brent, owner of the nearby Theatre-By-The-Sea. (1857- N. Tucker.)
- 4-B. St. Romuald Chapel (Early 20th Century; 21 or 23 Atlantic Avenue): A 1-story, wood-shingled church building, with its end gable set close to the road; a gabled portico and double door entry with a lancet window above; and a small, plain belfry at the ridge in front. There is a 1-story ell at a right angle at the rear. The Roman Catholic chapel serves the Matunuck summer colony.
- 4-C. Tucker House (c. 1890; Matunuck Beach Road): A large, 2½-story, wood-shingled, multi-gabled residence, with a spindlework piazza at the right front and a porch at the rear. The house, set on a large, grassy lot at the corner of Washington Street, is similar to several large boarding houses that were erected at Matunuck around the turn of the century.
- 4-D. Dewey Cottage (c. 1900; Matunuck Beach Road): A large, 3½-story, wood-shingled, cross-gabled residence, with a 2-story, multi-gabled extension at the rear. Dewey Cottage, built around the turn of the century, originally with a 1-story, wrap-around piazza, was one of about one half dozen boarding houses at Matunuck in the early 20th century. Most, if not all of the others, are gone.
- 4-E. W. F. Segar House (c. 1890; Matunuck Beach Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled, summer residence, featuring a wrap-around, hip-roofed piazza with field stone posts and balusters, and a

3-story tower at the left side. There is a wood-shingled out-building at the rear of the large, grassy lot, which extends to nearby Seaweed Cove. Built as a summer house by W. F. Segar, it was in the Andrews family for many years. (1895- W. F. Segar.)

- 4-F. Matunuck Point Summer Colony (Early 20th Century; Peninsula Road): At the east end of Matunuck Beach, set apart from the more congested part of the community, is a small area of summer houses, most of them fronting on Seaweed Cove.
5. Matunuck Hills: The Matunuck Hills area, lying east of Ministerial Road and north and west of Post Road, and including Tucker, Long, White, Wash, and Hot House ponds, is part of a glacial landscape created at the end of the last ice age where the continental glacier stopped its advance and deposited a large mass of earth and rocks in an indiscriminate manner, creating a rough topography of knobby hills and hollows, some of the latter becoming ponds. Although generally inhospitable to settlement, the end moraine, as it is known geologically, was settled as early as the 18th century.

According to an unpublished 1941 manuscript by Carder Whaley, at least 46 structures were built in the Matunuck Hills during its major period of settlement, lasting from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century. Farmhouses were the most common, but a few schoolhouses were also built, and several burying grounds established. At least six of the families were Negro; they most likely came here after gaining their freedom around the time of the Revolutionary War. An 1857 map shows only about 10 houses in the area, which is identified as "The Hills or Commons." Several have survived to the present in various stages of preservation.

The Matunuck Hills, as defined in this report, consists of two separate and distinct parts; those places off and accessible from Ministerial Road, and those which are reached from Post Road. The houses and estates off Ministerial Road are associated with older properties, including a Federal era farmhouse converted for summer use. Several other old farmsteads here are dominated by large, elegant, architect-designed, early 20th-century houses. Two properties occupy relatively large tracts of land, with open space, including one horse farm.

The houses off Post Road all have their roots in the 20th century, the earliest beginning about 1900 as fishing huts. Sibley Smith's Skibo, was built in 1906. The Brown and Sharpe Camp, designed by John Hutchins Cady, was erected in 1910. Other summer places followed. These houses, off Post Road, occupy small clearings carved out of the wilderness. Set back from the road, some occupy hilllocks, some front on ponds, and some enjoy wooded sites. The following list includes some interesting and representative Matunuck Hills houses.

Off Ministerial Road

- 5-A. Tucker House/Wilderness Farm: A 1½-story, wood-shingled, Federal farmhouse, with a large, stone, center chimney; a 1-story ell at the north side with a large, stone chimney; and an attached garage. The house, overlooking Tucker Pond, was probably built by a Tucker and remained in the Tucker family for many generations. (1857- N. Tucker.)
- 5-B. House (Mid 19th-Century): A 1½-story farmhouse, with a small, brick, chimney and a large shed dormer and a 1-story addition at the south side. Nearby is a fine, wood-shingled barn with a cupola. (1857- P. Gardner?)
- 5-C. House: A large house at the north end of Long Pond, composed of two distinct sections. The older part is a Federal cottage which appears to have had its original central, south-facing entry closed in. Attached to this is a larger, 2½-story section, probably dating from the early 20th century. Nearby is an early 20th century garage. (1870- Mrs. Gardner?)
- 5-D. House (Early 20th-Century): A large and fine country estate, along Long Pond, well sited among fields, horse pastures, stone walls, and split rail fences. The wood-shingled manor house has stone sides incorporating end chimneys; a central, pedimented entry in a 4-and-5-bay facade; a 2-story porch at the south side, with an arcaded first story; and a 1-story ell with a tall, granite-block chimney. Nearby is a 4-bay, granite-block garage built into the side of a knoll, and atop the hill is a lodge, or guest house. The present house either incorporates or replaces an earlier residence. (1870- G. Tucker & Son?)
- 5-E. Tucker House (Mid 19th Century): A 1½-story, wood-shingled farm-house, with a small, brick, center chimney; a south-facing entry, with a 3-light transom, in an asymmetrical, 3-bay facade; and ells at the east and north sides. There is a barn nearby. The house is sited in fields along Long Pond. A short distance to the south, in a wooded site atop a knoll, is a modern house, the principal residence of this estate today. (1870- G. Tucker & Son.)

Off Post Road

- 5-F. Henry P. Cross' House (1919): A 2-and 2½-story, gable-and-hip-roofed, wood-shingled summer house, built as a summer residence (it was winterized in 1965). The house is a rare example of the collaboration of architectural partners Sibley Smith and Albert Harkness. Harkness designed the exterior while Smith is responsible for the interior details. One of the Hill's secluded houses, its sylvan setting is dominated by laurel and rhododendron bushes.

- 5-G. Brown and Sharpe Camp (1910): A 1½-story, wood-shingled summer cottage, with a small shed roof dormer and a fieldstone chimney, Sited near White Pond, the building was designed by John Hutchins Cady for W. G. Brown and H. D. Sharpe in 1910.
- 5-H. Stone House (1914): A Cotswold cottage type residence designed by Sibley Smith. Built in 1914, it was later altered substantially by Smith's partner, Albert Harkness.
- 5-I. Skibo (1929): A 1-story, hip-roofed summer house, sited atop a knoll overlooking the wooded hills, above House Pond. The original house on this site, built in 1906, was designed and owned by architect Sibley Smith; it burned and was rebuilt in 1929.
- 5-J. House (1906-1910): A 2-story, hip-roofed, wood-shingled structure, with many windows along the south side. The house, sited above Hot House Pond, was built between 1906 and 1910 as part of the Sibley Smith estate (Skibo); it was moved to its present site in the 1950s.
- 5-K. Frederick Lippitt House (1950s): A 1-story, gable-roofed, wood-shingled house, sited near the south end of Long Pond, designed by Rockwell King DuMoulin.
6. Mooresfield: Mooresfield is a small area along and near the Saugatucket River and Mooresfield Road which includes several houses, a cemetery, a church site, a school site, and a mill site. About 1735, George Gardiner sold a large tract of land here to William Moore, who ran an extensive farming business; he shipped his produce through South Ferry to southern and West Indian markets. Mooresfield, as the farm became known, was sold to Robert Culverwell, who built a grist mill. Later, Thomas Culverwell built a fulling mill. In 1836, a textile mill was built, which was soon purchased by Daniel Rodman, great-great-great-grandson of George Gardiner. Rodman learned the textile business operating cotton and woolen mills in South Carolina in the 1830s before coming here in 1841. He built a house and settled in Mooresfield for life, carrying on the manufacture of kerseys at the Mooresfield mill. In 1867, he purchased the mills and privilege at Glen Rock (see # 1 ) and built several mills there. In its heyday, around the time of the Civil War, Mooresfield had a store, a post office, a small, Negro church, a 1-room school, and several houses, in addition to the mill. The mill is shown on an 1895 map, but it probably ceased operation soon after, and fell into decay, as did the church and the school. Significant structures and sites in Mooresfield today include the following:

(All structures and sites are on or off Mooresfield Road)

- 6-A. Daniel Rodman House (1841): A farm, centered on a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, cross-gabled house sited close to the road. The house, with modern composition siding and other alterations, has a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story wing with a tall, brick chimney and a piazza across the front. East of the house, along both sides of the road, are stone-lined fields, with barways on each side of the road. An old cemetery is near the house. This farm, which marks the western part of the Mooresfield district, was the homestead of Daniel and Eliza Rodman, who built the house, originally  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -stories, in 1841, when they came here to live. An addition was made in 1853, and the house was raised in 1869 to accommodate the eight Rodman children born here. The Rodmans lived here into the 20th century. (1857- D. Rodman.)
- 6-B. Gardner-Rodman-Walker Cemetery (Historical Cemetery #12): A local burying ground containing several dozen unadorned but inscribed granite and marble stones, set on a raised plot, or platform, bounded by an iron fence on two sides. The cemetery is set several hundred feet back from the road, approached by a 25-foot wide pathway bounded by stone walls. There is an iron gate along and very close to Mooresfield Road. This neat, attractive, and well-maintained lot was used by the Gardner/Gardner, Rodman, and Walker families who lived here for many generations. The earliest stone is dated 1795.
- 6-C. Henry H. Rodman House (Mid 19th Century): A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story residence with a 1-story porch across the front with an unusual, pedimented, projecting central section featuring a semi-elliptical fan light and Ionic columns at the corner of the porch. There is a hip-roofed addition across the rear, with a full basement, where the land slopes down to the nearby mill pond. (1895- H. H. Rodman.)
- 6-D. S. Gardner House (Mid 19th Century): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, Early Victorian, Bracketed house, set gable end to, and back from, the road, screened from view by a row of evergreens. The house, with brackets at the eaves and some carpenterwork brackets in the piazza across the front, was built on land owned by the Gardner family since the 17th century. (1857- S. Gardner.)
- 6-E. Site of Mooresfield Mill: Along the Saugatucket River south of Mooresfield is the site of the Mooresfield mill. Little remains to indicate the site today, although the dam and mill pond are extant. About 1740, Robert Culverwell purchased the property, dammed the brook, and created a pond for water power for a grist mill. A fulling mill was later established by Thomas Culverwell. Other owners included Robert Hazard and William Taylor. In 1836, a 2-story mill, 28 by 80 feet, was erected. In 1841, Daniel Rodman purchased the mill and began the manufacture of kerseys. In 1869, the mill employed 18 to 20 hands and had two sets of machinery and a supplemental 8-horsepower engine. The mill is indicated on an 1895 map, and presumably produced goods into the early 20th century, when it became derelict and was dismantled. (1831- Taylers Mill.)

\*7. Peace Dale Historic District: Peace Dale is a settlement centered on the Saugatucket River and Kingstown Road and Columbia Street. Once a distinct mill village separate from neighboring Wakefield, later growth has coalesced Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Rocky Brook into an almost indistinguishable urban area today. Peace Dale includes the large Peace Dale mill complex, mill sites, homes of mill owners, workers' houses, bridges, a variety of public buildings, a railroad station, several churches, a cemetery, and several schools; these properties reflect the evolution of the village from its beginning to the present. Most of these properties lie within a smaller core area that is historically associated with the mills and the Hazard family and has been recommended for the National Register as an historic district. Several properties outside the village nucleus are part of Peace Dale's later development; they are listed separately.

Manufacturing began along the Saugatucket in the late 18th century at a grist mill, where linseed oil was also manufactured, and a fulling mill. These mills were sited several hundred feet north of the present mills. Around the turn of the 18th century, Rowland Hazard came to South Kingstown, purchased the fulling mill, and began a manufacturing career that eventually created the Hazard dynasty which dominated village life for more than a century. The late 18th century Cottage, or Homestead, Rowland Hazard's residence near the Saugatucket, is perhaps the oldest extant structure in Peace Dale today. Two Federal era houses on North Road were probably associated with the early mills.

Soon after acquiring the mill, Rowland Hazard began manufacturing carded wool; after 1810, he installed looms in the mill, and soon, he and his sons had a fully integrated mill for the manufacture of woolen cloth, where all operations were carried on under one roof.

Peace Dale grew slowly during the first half of the 19th century. In 1823, it contained only the grist mill, the woolen mill, 5 houses, a store, and about 30 inhabitants. In the 1830s, Joseph P. Hazard built a small mill along Rocky Brook, and in 1847, the Hazards built a new, stone mill on the Saugatucket at the present location of the Peace Dale mills. The 1847 mill, greatly enlarged in 1856, was a major impetus to the growth of Peace Dale, spawning a number of other activities, most of which were the result of Hazard involvement through donation of land and/or money. In 1858, a new Friends Meeting House was built on Columbia Street, and the massive Peace Dale office building, housing a post office, the village store, and mill workers' quarters, was erected. In the early 1870s, the Peace Dale Congregational Church, designed by Rowland Hazard, who also made a major financial contribution, was erected on Columbia Street. Rowland also drew up the plans for other structures:

a large worsted mill and a later weaving shed; the stone bridges in Peace Dale built during the 1880s; the Oakdell Cemetery, laid out in the 1860s; and the 1877 Town Hall. In 1876, the Narragansett Pier Railroad was laid out through Peace Dale, with a station on Railroad Street. From about this time, the area near the railroad, along Kingstown Road and the northern end of High Street, began its commercial development and assumed the name Fisks Flat. In the last decades of the century, in addition to the stone bridges, the Hazards contributed a high school in 1880, and Hazard Memorial Hall in 1891.

The earliest Hazard family homes were the c. 1800 Homestead (#7-M ) near the Saugatucket, purchased in 1805 by Rowland, and the 17th century Dale Carlia House, which stood near Dale Carlia Corner, acquired by Rowland in the early 19th century. The Hazard family's growing wealth, political and social position, and family, occasioned new, increasingly larger houses; between about 1853 and 1910, five were erected in the Hazard estate north of Kingstown Road. In 1853, Rowland Hazard commissioned Philadelphia architect Richard Morris Smith to design a new house to be called Oakwoods, but Smith's plans were found unacceptable, and Thomas A. Tefft, the noted Providence architect, redesigned the house. Oakwoods was enlarged and renovated in 1887 by Frank W. Angell. Lily Pads was built sometime before 1870 by John N. Hazard, and was later remodeled. Rowland G. Hazard lived in a stone, Gothic style cottage, built about 1855. In 1891, Charles McKim, of McKim, Mead, and White, made plans for alterations to the house and an addition to be the same size as the old house. When completed, the mansion, named Holly House, was like a Tudor country house in massing, window placement, and ornamentation. The Acorns (an offshoot of Oakwoods), originally sited elsewhere, was transformed into a Queen Anne style residence for Helen Hazard in 1894-95. The last of the large Hazard houses built in Peace Dale was the Scallop Shell, erected in 1910 for Caroline Hazard. A smaller structure, named "Martha's Vineyard" for Leonard Bacon's wife, was built as a playhouse about 1926 behind the Acorns. In 1948, Oakwoods and Holly House were torn down and the estate they occupied was subdivided for a housing development. The Scallop Shell, which became a nursing home, was torn down in 1976. Lily Pads was acquired by a Roman Catholic order of nuns; later it was converted into professional offices, and its architectural integrity was compromised.

In addition to the fine Hazard homes occupying large estates, a number of houses were also built for mill workers and their families over the years. These plain structures, set close together along village streets, stand in marked contrast to the mill owners' homes.

Twentieth-century Hazard contributions to Peace Dale include the 1908-09 Neighborhood Guild, a new high school in 1911, a kindergarten school in 1917, and the 1923 Peace Dale elementary school. Another school, a late but fine example of International style architecture, was erected on Columbia Street in 1954. Although the Hazards sold the mills in 1918, their influence continued for several decades more, principally through the efforts of Caroline Hazard. Woolen manufacturing continued in the Peace Dale mills until 1948, when the mills closed and the machinery was removed. The mills were used for dyeing and finishing after that. With increased use of the auto, and suburbanization, the close relationship between the mills and villagers gradually diminished as residents found employment elsewhere, but the many structures erected during the past two centuries or so remain as an important legacy of the mill village of Peace Dale.

#### Properties Within the Peace Dale Historic District

##### (off) BROAD ROCK LANE

- 7-A. The Acorns (pre 1880; 1894-95): A large, 2½-and 3½-story, wood-shingled residence, with 2 stone chimneys; gable and shed dormers; a piazza; and a Palladian window. This house was originally a small house which stood near the Oakwoods and the later Scallop Shell. Rowland G. Hazard occupied it after his wedding (in 1880). It was moved to the present site in 1894, to give it a more open situation. In 1894-95, it was considerably enlarged and remodeled for Helen Hazard (1861-1925), sister of Rowland G, and was named the Acorns because it was an offshoot of the family house, Oakwoods, which stood nearby. Helen married Nathaniel Bacon. Their son, Leonard (1887-1954), a literary critic and poet, won the Pulitzer prize in poetry in 1940. A small house at the rear of the property was built for the Bacons, who were writers and artists. (1895- Acorns.)

##### CHURCH STREET

- 7-B. Stone Bridge (1883): A stone, single-arch span carries Church Street over Indian Run near Kingstown Road. It was the first of seven bridges in Peace Dale designed and built by Rowland Hazard. Although physically separated from the historic district, the bridge, one of a group designed by Rowland Hazard, is included as part of the historic district.
- 7-C. Stone Bridge (1883): A large, stone, single-arch span of 40 feet carries Church Street over the Saugatucket River near Columbia Street. Designed by Rowland Hazard and built by Kneeland Partelow when Church Street was opened in 1883, it was the widest stone arch bridge in Rhode Island at that time, and considered the most beautiful of all Rowland Hazard's bridges.

## COLUMBIA STREET

- 7-D. Stone Bridge (1880s): A stone bridge, with double arch openings, each about 8 to 10 feet wide, along Columbia Street at Indian Run, just south of Kingstown Road, and near the Neighborhood Guild. It is one of Rowland Hazard's Peace Dale bridges.
- 7-E. Neighborhood Guild (1908-09; 131 Columbia Street): One of several stone buildings in the immediate area, the Neighborhood Guild is a large structure comprised of two separate sections; a larger, 3-story, western part, and a smaller, eastern section with a cupola. They are connected by a low, 2-story, central section with an entrance similar to that on the western part of the building. The Neighborhood Guild, a gift to the people of South Kingstown from John Newbold Hazard's widow and children, originated in a room in the Hazard Memorial Building, and moved to the Post Office building in 1903. The Neighborhood Guild, built here in 1908-09 and replacing a large tenement and two cottages, was used initially to teach industrial arts to women and children. Later, it was used for adult education, dances, social events, high school basketball, and classrooms. In 1940, the building, along with an endowment fund, was given to the town and is now the center of the program conducted by the Town's Recreation Commission.
- 7-F. Peace Dale Congregational Church (1870-72): A large, stone, church building, with a slate roof; pedimented entries, in a square corner tower; several eells at the rear; granite belt courses and hood molds atop the side windows. The church society was organized as the Second Congregational Church of South Kingstown in 1857 at Rowland Hazard's house, Oakwoods. Meetings were held at the Peace Dale Office Building. The cornerstone of the church, designed by Rowland Hazard, with the interior by John LaFarge, was laid in 1870; the building was dedicated in 1872. (1895- Peacedale Congregational Church.)
- 7-G. South Kingstown High School (1954): An interesting and unusual International style public school, with a flat roof, smooth and uniform exterior surfaces, and an emphasis on geometry--horizontality in the ribbon windows and rectilinearity in its length and central entrance. Modernist buildings are rare in South Kingstown, particularly for public architecture.
- 7-H. Hazard School (1911): A large, multi-gabled public school built in the Tudor Revival, or Jacobethan style, with a rough-hewn granite first story and a multi-gabled, half-timbered, upper story, with multiple rectangular windows. South Kingstown's high school had its beginnings at Narragansett Pier (then a part of South Kingstown). In 1878, the school was moved to the Columbia Building in Wakefield. After that building burned in 1880, Rowland Hazard gave this site for a new school, which was dedicated in 1880. In 1910, the old school building was

moved (see # 7-2) and this school, designed by architects Clarke, Howe, and Homer, was built; it was dedicated on September 10, 1911, and used as a high school until a new building was built in 1954. The Hazard School then housed grades 5 and 6.

On the grounds here, at the corner of School Street, is a War Memorial designed by Albert E. Tickell and dedicated in 1932. The bronze plaque, with a low relief of George Washington, adapted from Houdon's bust, honors veterans of all American wars from 1776 to the present. (1895- High School.)

- 7-1. Peace Dale Mills (1847 et seq.): The Peace Dale Mills are a large industrial complex along the Saugatucket River and Kingstown Road at the north end of Columbia Street. All of the buildings are stone--two, three, and four story structures built for manufacturing, and an office building.

Manufacturing began in Peace Dale in the late 18th century when Benjamin Robinson built and operated a structure which was used as a grist mill and for the manufacture of linseed oil. The mill, built at the lower end of a pond on the Saugatucket River, about 300 feet north of the present mills, was later operated as a fulling mill by John W. Knowles and Joseph Congdon. In 1799, Rowland Hazard moved to South Kingstown, became interested in the mill, purchased it, and in 1804 began the manufacture of carded wool. About 1813, four looms, said to have been the first water-powered looms operated in North America, were installed in the mill to weave woolen cloth, and all the manufacturing processes, from carding to finishing, were consolidated in a single mill. This was one of the earliest examples in Rhode Island of the achievement of a fully developed factory system. After Rowland's death in 1835, his sons, Isaac P. and Rowland G., succeeded him. They installed a power spinning jack and began the manufacture of kersey cloth and Lindsay-woolsey.

In 1844, the mill was destroyed by fire, and a new mill, a 1-story stone building with a bell tower, was built at the present site, and began the manufacture of fine woolens, including Peace Dale shawls. In 1848, the Peace Dale Manufacturing Company was incorporated. In 1856, the mill was greatly enlarged by the addition of several fine stone structures. Isaac P. and Rowland G. Hazard passed on management of the mills to their two sons about 1865. Steam replaced water power soon after, and in 1872, a large, 3-story stone mill was erected to manufacture cheviots and serges; they won prizes at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the 1901 Paris World's Fair, and the 1903 St. Louis Exposition. By 1900, the firm employed 600 people, about 40% of the population of the village. Added improvements included a new weave shop and finishing department in 1902, a new steam turbine in 1909, and electric power in 1911. The mills remained

in the Hazard family ownership until the death of Rowland G. Hazard in 1918, when they were purchased by the M. T. Stevens Company of North Andover, Massachusetts, which continued operations as under the Hazards. During World War II, the mills reached their peak, employing nearly 1,100 workers, but after the war, loss of business, growing competition from the South, and local labor problems caused the mills to close in 1948.

In 1952, Palisades Industries of New Jersey purchased the mills and began a finishing and dyeing operation. Warren Pump Company leased half of the mill complex in 1957, and in 1961 purchased it. None of the original machinery survives. The Peace Dale Mills, the largest industrial complex in South Kingstown, is significant architecturally and historically. (1857- Hazards Factory.)

- 7-J. Stone Bridge, Number 206 (1880s): Another of Rowland Hazard's stone bridges built in Peace Dale in the 1880s, this one, a single, 3-centered arch with a span of 24 feet, carries Kingstown Road over the Saugatucket River. It became state property in the early 1920s; in 1930-31 it was repointed and a sidewalk was added.
- 7-K. Hazard Memorial Hall/Peace Dale Public Library (1891): A massive, Richardsonian Romanesque, hip-roofed, stone public building. Following the examples of other Henry H. Richardson buildings erected between about 1875 and 1910, this one imparts a sense of weight and massiveness. It has a large, arched entry; a short, conical tower at the right of the entry; a gabled section, with wood-shingle upper part, left of the entrance; straight-topped windows; and small gabled and eyebrow dormers. There is a large, wood-shingled section at the rear. Designed by architect Frank W. Angell of Angell and Swift, and built by local builders, Bullock and Partelow and Louis F. Bell, the building was dedicated on October 9, 1891, to the memory of Rowland G. Hazard by his sons John and Rowland. The rear section contains a large auditorium and a stage, which were actively used in the early 20th century when the building was the center of village life. The library in the front part is an outgrowth of a library started in 1853 at the Bank of South County building in Wakefield, and later in the Peace Dale office building until 1891. Charles Eliot, son of the Harvard president, consulted on landscaping the large lot which today contains a watering trough, a memorial and a monument.

The Watering Trough is an unusual, 3-tiered trough hewn of a single piece of stone by a local stonemason. The upper tier was for horses, the middle for oxen, and the lowest for small animals. Originally placed in front of the Peace Dale Post Office in 1890, it was moved here in 1950.

The Firemen's Memorial, a large, granite-block monument, honors departed members of the Narragansett Engine Company #1 of Peace Dale, established by the Hazards in 1867.

The Weaver is a large dressed, granite block monument with a sculpture done by Daniel Chester French. Given in 1920 by Caroline Hazard in memory of her father, Rowland, and her two brothers, Rowland G. and Frederick Rowland, it symbolizes time and life, with the distaff handing the thread to the weaver. Time is holding an hour glass.

- 7-L. Peace Dale Office Building (1856; 604 Kingstown Road): A large, 3-story, hip-roofed, stone building, located close to Kingstown Road and Columbia Street. Built as an office building for the mill company in 1856 on the site of the original Peace Dale Church, this building has been used for a variety of purposes, including a post office, the village store, quarters for mill workers, a meeting hall, choral society, and the library association. The Neighborhood Guild started here in 1903. Part of the building houses the Museum of Primitive Culture established by Rowland G. Hazard. In 1983, the town of South Kingstown purchased the building for expanded activities of the Neighborhood Guild. (1862- Store & P.O.)
- 7-M. The Cottage/Hazard Homestead (1790 et seq.): The Cottage, or Hazard Homestead, off Kingstown Road behind the Memorial Hall and along the Saugatucket River, is a much altered and enlarged Federal era building. It occupies a 12-acre estate whose landscaped grounds include large trees, flowers, and shrubs like rhododendron, with honeysuckle, and roses picturesquely draped over stone walls. The house is essentially a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed residence, with a veranda at the southwest corner and several small gabled dormers. Originally a 3-room cottage, it has now grown to 22 rooms. Rowland Hazard, who came to Peace Dale about 1800, was the first in the line of his family to live here. The house remained in the Hazard family until 1969. Since then, it has been owned by Anthony Guarriello, Jr., owner of the former Peace Dale Mills. (1862- Res. of R. G. Hazard.)

#### NORTH ROAD

- 7-N. House (Federal; 10 North Road): A 1½-story Cape with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a dormer and addition at the rear.
- 7-O. G. P. Dixon House (Federal): A 1½-story Cape with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and an addition at the rear. (1862- G. P. Dixon.)
- 7-P. Lily Pads (pre 1870 et seq.; North Road): A large, 2½-story structure, with multiple roof lines, several brick chimneys, and an irregular plan, sited near Saugatucket Pond. Although the building has lost its original architectural integrity through remodeling and residing, it is important as a long-time residence of John Newbold Hazard, youngest son of Rowland Gibson Hazard, who helped run the Peace Dale Mills; he was president from 1866 to

1892. The building was in the Hazard family until 1946, then went to a Catholic order of nuns who used it as a retreat house, a nursery school, and a kindergarten. By 1976 it had been sold and was used as professional offices. (1870- J. N. Hazard.)

#### RAILROAD STREET

- 7-Q. Stone Bridge (1880s): A single-arch-span stone bridge that carries Railroad Street over Rocky Brook. It is another of Rowland Hazard's works.
- 7-R. Narragansett Pier Railroad Station (1876): A fine and typical Modern Gothic railroad station, with a wide roof overhang that provides protection from the elements for passengers; large, "stick" style brackets supporting the roof; and carpenterwork detail above the windows. Rowland Hazard and A. & W. Sprague obtained a charter for the railroad, which was to run from West Kingston to Narragansett Pier, in 1868, but work on the line did not begin until 1875, when a new station was opened along the Stonington line at West Kingston. Other stations were built at Peace Dale, Wakefield, and at Narragansett Pier. On July 18, 1876, the initial run was made on the line. The heyday of the railroad was during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1911, the line was leased to the New Haven Railroad, then went into receivership before going back to the original owners. Service continued with the use of a railroad bus, and traffic in freight and passengers increased somewhat in the late 1930s. Gradually, business declined again. In 1951, the last passenger train ran; in 1955, the right of way east of Route 108 was abandoned. Since then, several unsuccessful attempts have been made to revive the line, whose tracks, between Wakefield and Ministerial Road, have been removed. (1895- Peacedale Station.)

#### SPRING STREET

- 7-S. Stepping Stone Kindergarten (1917; 12 Spring Street): a 1-story, hip-roofed, stuccoed schoolhouse, with a large, brick chimney; a central, gabled, enclosed entry, and a roof with a wide overhang. The kindergarten was established in the Hazard Homestead for boys and girls by Mrs. Rowland G. Hazard in 1891 following a trip to Germany. Anna Schlipstein, who had taught in Germany, was brought here by Mrs. Hazard. Caroline Hazard had this school built here. It was dedicated to Margaret Rood Hazard, Caroline's mother, on September 2, 1917, as Stepping Stone Kindergarten, and has been used since as a kindergarten.

#### Properties Located Outside the Peace Dale Historic District

#### CHURCH STREET

- 7-T. Congregational Parsonage (c. 1870): A 1½-story, wood-shingled, multi-gabled residence, with 2, small, brick chimneys; carpenter-

work detail in the central entry and the front exterior stairs leading to the second floor; and a wing at the rear.  
(1870- Cong. Parsonage.)

#### COLUMBIA STREET

- 7-U. Friends Meeting House (c. 1857): A vernacular, 1-story building on a small lot. It was built on a site given by Rowland Hazard in 1857 or 1858; by the early 20th century, it was used by Seventh Day Adventists, but is now vacant and boarded up. The original meeting house of this society was built before 1706 at Friends' Corner, a site now occupied only by a cemetery. The old building was abandoned when this one, a "new and commodious house" (as it was described at that time), was built here. Later, it was used by Seventh Day Adventists, until the 1920s, when it was owned by a family. (1857- Friends Meetinghouse.)

#### KERSEY ROAD

- 7-V. Peace Dale School (1923): A fine, simple, neo-classical, brick public school, which houses an assembly hall, with a pedimented central section and a semi-elliptical entryway. There are two wings at the ends, which project forward of the central part of the building. The site was given by Edith Hazard Fobes and the assembly hall and wings given by members of the Hazard family as memorials to the Reverend J. Warren Fobes and to the wives of John N. and Rowland Hazard.

#### KINGSTOWN ROAD

- 7-W. Fisks Flat Historic Area: Fisks Flat, Peace Dale's business center, is located along Kingstown Road between the two former crossings of the Narragansett Pier Railroad and at the north end of High Street, centered around the traffic circle. Included in the area are a mill site; a number of commercial establishments, including stores, restaurants, gas stations, an antique shop, a bakery; and several residential buildings.

The first activity here was Joseph P. Hazard's 1830s mill, a small building which manufactured axes. Later, Stephen E. Wright and Stephen C. Fisk leased the mill, then Fisk ran it alone and began the manufacture of kersey cloth. Fisk expanded the business in the 1840s and 1850s and became active in local civic, business, and political affairs. He purchased a large tract of land west of the mill and built a house, but the land remained largely unoccupied until after Fisk's death in 1870. In 1872, David Northrup, a prosperous local farmer, built and started a general store (with a hall above) on land acquired from the Fisk estate. The Narragansett Pier Railroad, built through the area in 1876, with a station nearby, provided an incentive to the development. About 1885, John A. Allen opened a small store here, and in 1895, built a fine store. In 1895,

the Fisk Square area contained about a dozen wooden buildings, including the store, an I.O.O.F. hall, and a blacksmith shop. The Fagan Block, a large, 2-story, brick, flat-iron-plan building, was erected in 1899.

Growth continued in the 20th century. In the early years of the century there were 6 grocery stores, 2 barber shops, a furniture and hardware store, 2 milling shops, 2 wood yards, a publishing and printing office, 2 meat markets, a bakery, a lunch and poolroom, and a blacksmith and carriage shop. In 1921, Frank Fagan dismantled the Mooresfield Mill and built a new theatre--the Peace Dale Theatre, or Fagan's Opera House. Used for motion pictures, community dances, fairs, and other activities, it closed in the 1950s and was dismantled in the following decade. Although many community functions have changed during the century, Fisks Flat remains a viable business area serving the Peace Dale area, with several interesting and historically significant structures and sites.

- 1). Site of Joseph P. Hazard's Mill: In the early 1830s, Joseph P. Hazard built a small mill and manufactured axes at this site. About 1835, Hazard hired Stephen C. Fisk and Stephen E. Wright to run the mill. About 1845, Fisk rented the mill alone, obtained a set of woolen cards and looms, and began the manufacture of kersey. The mill expanded in the 1840s and 1850s. Shown on an 1888 lithograph, and shown about but not identified on the 1895 map, it was torn down in 1900. (1857- J. P. Hazards, Factory.)
- 2). Patsy's Hall (c. 1939): A large, brick building, with some Colonial Revival details. It is the largest building in the area.
- 3). Stephen C. Fisk House (c. 1855; 218 High Street): One of the few residential structures in a largely commercial area, this 2-story house, with paired brick interior chimneys and a central entry in what was originally a 5-bay facade, was built by Stephen Fisk, local mill manager and entrepreneur, who purchased a large tract of land here. (1862- S. Fisk.)
- 4). Fagan Block (1899; Kingstown Road): A 2-story, brick, flat-iron-plan building, with a decorated metal cornice and detailed brick work below that.
- 7-X. Mill Houses (Mid 19th/Early 20th Century; Green Street and Larkin Lane): Off Kingstown Road are several short side streets containing a variety of buildings dating from the mid 19th to the early 20th century. They were used as housing by workers in the Peace Dale mills.

## OAKDELL ROAD

- 7-Y. Oakdell Cemetery/Historical Cemetery Number 56: A burial ground, south of Church Street, established for members of the Hazard family. (1870- Oak Dell Cemetery.)

## SCHOOL STREET

- 7-Z. South Kingstown High School/School Street Apartments (1880; 38-40 School Street): A large, 2½-story structure, with wood-shingle and aluminum siding and a central porticoed entry section flanked by gabled pavilions. The building was originally built as a high school in 1880 with money provided by Rowland Hazard. In 1909, when construction on the Hazard School started, it was moved here; later, it was converted to apartments. (1895- High School [at original site].)
8. Perryville: Perryville, along the old Post Road, is a small settlement consisting of a church and several nearby houses. Beyond this hamlet is a broad area of scattered houses and farms within the larger Perryville area.

Perryville's origins date back to the 17th century, when brothers Benjamin and Samuel Perry purchased about 1000 acres of land in this vicinity. The place was a stagecoach stop on the old Post Road, laid out in 1703. In 1750, a Friends Meeting House was built on the road, west of the present Baptist church, and gradually houses were built during the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1845, the Baptists built a church, and from this time on, the place consisted of the church and about a half dozen houses. At one time there was also a store and a blacksmith shop. Another store and a post office were located about one-quarter mile to the west, at the intersection with Moonstone Beach Road. A cemetery was established, perhaps in the 1880s, east of the Baptist Church. In the 20th century, a new highway was laid out south of Perryville, and the place has remained as it has been for well over a century, a quiet, small, community. In rapidly-growing South Kingstown, it is perhaps the least changed of all its communities. Included in the district are the following.

- 8-A. Perryville Baptist Church (1845, 1906): A cross-gabled meeting house, with a square corner tower and stained glass windows. The white church, sited on a slight rise near the road, is a familiar landmark to offshore fishermen. The Baptist society was organized in 1843 and built a meetinghouse, which was dedicated in 1845, on land given by Samuel Perry and his wife. Its largest membership, 160, was in 1860. In 1906, the church was torn down to make room for the present church, designed and built by E. R. Card. (1857- Baptist Church.)
- 8-B. The Red House (1732): A 2½-story, wood-shingled, half house, with a brick chimney near the left end, an ell at the rear, and later windows and a porch across the front. This building once was used as a post office. (1857- C. Champlin?)

8-C. Potter House (Federal): A 1½-story, wood-shingled house, with a brick, off-center chimney; an entry at the left side of the front, in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story ell at the rear. This house was the residence of Jeffrey Potter, a local poet, authority on genealogy, and writer of obituaries printed in the Narragansett Times in the latter part of the 19th century. (1857- R. Potter.)

9. Rocky Brook: The Rocky Brook area is located along Rocky Brook, a short tributary of the Saugatucket River, Kingstown Road, and several side streets--Hopkins Lane, Rodman Street, and Sweet Fern Lane. This small, 19th-century mill village, contiguous with the Peace Dale Historic District to the east, contains a stone, woolen factory, the sites of two other woolen factories, mill owners' and workers' houses, a Federal house, a church, and a pumping station. All of these structures and sites date from the 19th century.

The land in this area, a tract of more than 1000 acres, was acquired by Thomas Rodman, and given as a gift to his son, Thomas Rodman, Jr., who came to South Kingstown in about 1710. Eventually, the large landholding was divided up through inheritance. Samuel R. Rodman (1800-1882), after a brief absence from South Kingstown, returned here in 1821 and purchased 125 to 130 acres of Rodman ancestral land which was then owned by Joseph P. Hazard; he transformed Rocky Brook into a prosperous mill village. Samuel Rodman managed the Hazard mills at Peace Dale and ran a commercial shipping and docking business at Narragansett Pier in the 1830s. At the end of that decade, Samuel sold his Pier interests, purchased a tract of land west of Kingstown Road, including two ponds, improved the raceway, and with his son, Rowland, began manufacturing. About 1839, Samuel built the Rodman homestead. Within a short distance of each other along Rocky Brook were three textile mills, at least two of which were in operation in the 1830s. The decade of the 1850s was the most important in the history of Rocky Brook. Stones gathered from the rocky meadows nearby were used to build, or rebuild, the small mills into substantial stone structures. In 1852, the Rocky Brook Church, or Advent Church, was built. Samuel Rodman "built pretty cottages for his operatives, made roads, set out trees and beautified the place until it became, both in appearance and in reality, one of the thriftiest as well as one of the most picturesque villages in New England" (Cole, History of Washington County, 1889).

The mills fell on hard times after the Civil War. In 1874, the lower mill (near Hopkins Lane) was destroyed by fire, and never rebuilt. The upper mill, continuing work despite a mortgage foreclosure in 1870, was gutted by fire in 1877, but the stone work remained intact. The mill west of Kingstown Road, which was used as a grist mill after yarn manufacture had been discontinued, was out of operation by 1895. The area west of the road, including the two ponds, was acquired as part of a water system to supply Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier.

A large, fieldstone, pumping station was built in 1889 at the east end of Rocky Brook Reservoir.

Around World War I, the Rodman Mill was put to use by a small textile company, and has continued in use, for different purposes, to the present, but 20th century brick and cinderblock additions at each side of the front of the mill have detracted from the mill's original appearance. The Rodman Homestead was converted to a nursing home in 1950, and the pumping station was made into a restaurant in the 1970s. The church is still active, and many of the early mill houses still exist, although some of them have been altered by modern and unsympathetic renovations. However, despite its visual changes, Rocky Brook's structures and sites are historically and architecturally important as an integral part of South Kingstown's cultural heritage.

#### HOPKINS LANE

- 9-A. Rodman House (c. 1800, c. 1850): A large, 2-story, Greek Revival house, with a central, portico entry in a 5-bay facade, a hip-on-hip roof, and a large rear section with a gambrel roof. The house occupies a site at the end of a mill dam and along a mill pond on Hopkins Lane, near the site of the lower mill. The gambrel-roof section is the original house; the front was added in the 1850s when the village was undergoing a transformation. It is an apartment house today. (1870- S. Rodman.)

#### KINGSTOWN ROAD

- 9-B. Rodman Homestead (c. 1838; 1863 Kingstown Road): A large, extensively remodeled residence, with a pair of brick, interior chimneys; a monitor dormer in front; an enclosed, 1-story porch across the front; and a large addition at the rear. The building occupies a large lot that includes stonework remains of outbuildings. The house was built by Samuel Rodman, who purchased a large tract of land here, and who developed the mills and village. In the late 19th century, it was owned by Charles H. Pope, then by the Biddles of Philadelphia, who were related to Pope through marriage. During this era it was used as a summer residence. In 1950, it was sold and remodeled for use as the Meadowbrook Nursing Home. It has been vacant since 1980. (1862- J. P. Rodman?)
- 9-C. Pumping Station/The Pump House (1889): A 1-story, fieldstone building with hip and gable roofs; a large, cylindrical, stone chimney; a porte cochere in front; large, arched window openings; and a 1-story, flat-roofed, cinder block addition at the rear. The building, sited at the southeast end of Rocky Brook Reservoir, was designed by Willard Kent and built by Partelow and Bullock and Louis F. Bell in 1889 as a pumping station for a water system to supply Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Narragansett Pier. In the 1970s, the town acquired the reservoirs and the pumping station. The pumping station was then sold and converted into a restaurant. (1895- Water Works Pumping Station.)

- 9-D. Rodman Mill (1847, c. 1853 et seq.) A 2½-story, granite block mill, set gable end to and near the road, with a square, 3-story, hip-roofed tower in front; clerestory monitor windows at the sides; and 1-story, cinder block and brick additions at the sides, near the front of the original mill. The addition at the right side, projecting forward of the mill, is particularly damaging to the mill's fine original appearance. Samuel Rodman purchased this mill site and a small mill about 1837 and began the manufacture of coarse woolen cloth. About 1853, the mill was replaced by the present stone mill, one of several new mills he erected at this time along Rocky Brook. In 1877, the mill was gutted by fire, but the stone work remained intact. Vacant until World War I, the mill was put into operation as a textile factory; later, it was owned and operated by the Columbia Narrow Fabric Company of Shannock as a shoe string factory. It is now occupied by a bonding and laminating company. (1862- Factory; S. R.).
- 9-E. Mill Workers' Housing (Mid 19th Century): There are several dozen mill workers' houses, most built in the 1850s along Kingstown and Rodman roads, in Rocky Brook, near the mill. They are basically small, simple, 1½-story dwellings. Some are duplexes with a central, double-door entry, such as the one at the corner of Kingstown and Rodman roads, and some are one-family dwellings, including many good examples of Rodman Road.
- 9-F. House (Federal; 793 Kingstown Road): A 2½-story house with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 3-bay facade; a side-lighted entry on the Kingstown Road side; multi-paned windows (recently installed); and a 2-story ell at the rear. The house, one of the earliest in Rocky Brook, occupies a small corner lot at Hopkins Lane. (1870- N. B. Durfee.)
- 9-G. Advent Christian Church (1852): A 1-story, frame meeting house, with an unusual, small, stepped belfry in front atop a steep-pitched gable roof, set end to the road; a small, porticoed entry at the right side of the front; and a 1-story wing at the right side. This small and unpretentious church building was dedicated on September 5, 1852, during the heyday of the village. (1862- 2nd Adv. Church.)
10. The University of Rhode Island: The University of Rhode Island, off Kingstown Road, in Kingston Village, consists of a large number of college buildings ranging in date from 1889 to the present, recreation and agricultural fields, and an 18th century farmhouse. The older (pre-1930) buildings, sited around the quadrangle which forms the core of the campus, are recommended for the National Register. The university's origins lie in the Morrill Act of 1862 which granted land, or script, to states where land was insufficient, as in Rhode Island, for an agricultural college. At the time, Brown University in Providence was the state's leading college, and the script was awarded to Brown in spite of the fact that the school did not have an

agricultural department and those attending the university under a federal grant did not do so with the intention of becoming farmers or making farming a profession. After passage of the Hatch Act in 1887, granting each state \$15,000 a year for the establishment of an agricultural experiment station, opposition to granting the money Brown grew, led by the Grange association and the Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry. A 5-man committee was formed by the General Assembly in 1888 to examine and select a site for the school and station. Sites were considered in South Kingstown, Portsmouth, Cranston, Coventry, and Scituate, and some towns offered to contribute money toward land purchases. Leaders in promoting South Kingstown were Bernton E. Helme, of Kingston; Thomas G. Hazard, master of the state Grange; and Jeremiah G. Peckham, schoolman, banker, and farmer. At that time, the 140-acre Oliver Watson farm in Kingston was available for \$5,000. The South Kingstown town council pledged \$2,000, a like amount was raised by private subscription in Kingston, and a deed for the farm was secured by the State on September 27, 1888. The experiment station and Rhode Island agricultural school opened here in 1889, with research and instruction in agriculture. In 1892, the co-educational Rhode Island College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts was established; the first commencement was in 1894. In 1909, the name was changed to Rhode Island State College, and in 1951, it became the University of Rhode Island. The school has grown gradually over the years, with spurts on construction in the 1920s and 1930s and after 1958. The school has broadened its curriculum from agriculture to include a wide range of disciplines. The following includes the most important early buildings and some representative recent additions to the campus, arranged chronologically.

- 10-A. Oliver Watson House (1792): A 2½-story, Federal era farmhouse, with a large, brick-topped, stone center chimney; a central, Greek Revival style entry, in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. The house, set on a small lot on the campus, includes a stone wall and wood picket fence enclosure, and landscaping done by the university in shrubs and flowers common during the 19th century. Built in 1792, this house replaced an earlier farmhouse built by Nathaniel Niles, which was destroyed by fire. It was later owned by a number of people, including Oliver Watson, who finished and plastered the house, replaced the top of the stone chimney with brick, and built the ell. John H. Tefft, Oliver's son-in-law, came here to live in 1869. It was leased to George Potter when the farm was purchased by the state in 1888. Since then, the house has been used for a variety of purposes, including the residence of the farm manger, a women's dormitory, a fraternity house, a men's dormitory, a tea room, a nursery school, and a kindergarten. A 1962 decision by the University Board of Trustees to tear the building down resulted in a campaign, led by Dr. Carl R. Woodward, president emeritus, to

save it. It was restored and refurbished in keeping with the period 1790-1840 and is now used as a museum. The Watson House merits further study for possible National Register nomination. (1857- O. N. Watson.)

#### \*UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND QUADRANGLE

- 10-B. Taft Hall (1889): One of the original college buildings, this 2½-story, hip-roofed structure, with 4, stone, end chimneys, designed by architects Stone, Carpenter, and Willson, was built of granite quarried near the campus.
- 10-C. Davis Hall (1891, 1895, 1959): Originally called College Hall, this building, designed by the architectural firm Stone, Carpenter and Willson, was built in 1891; destroyed by fire in 1895 it was immediately rebuilt. It is a large, granite structure, with a hip roof, with semi-circular bays; a crenellated, 6-story stair tower; and a balustraded roof deck. As with many other early building, renovations were made in 1959, this one involving the firm of Robinson, Green and Beretta.
- 10-D. Lippitt Hall (1897, 1935, 1965): A 4-story, granite-block building with a central pavilion, large, gabled dormers, and half timbering. The first of several university buildings to be named for governors, it was designed by Stone, Carpenter and Willson for use as a drill hall and gymnasium; later, it housed the engineering department and library, and served other uses. Renovations were made by Howe, Church and Prout, in 1935, and by Turoff Associates in 1965.
- 10-E. East Hall (1909, 1959): A 3-story, Georgian Revival dormitory, designed by Leslie P. Langworthy, with two pedimented entries. Renovations were done in 1959 by John F. Hogan.
- 10-F. Ranger Hall/Science Hall (1913, 1953): A 3-story, granite, Georgian Revival building, with 2, 3-bay projecting end pavilions, designed by Clarke, Howe and Homer. It houses the departments of chemistry, physics, bacteriology, and botany.
- 10-G. Barns (Late 19th-Early 20th Century): A complex of barns, with a silo, at the west end of the campus.
- 10-H. Agricultural Hall/Washburn Hall (1921): A 3-story, granite, Georgian Revival building. Designed by E. B. Homer, and known originally as Agricultural Hall, it later housed the extension service of the School of Agriculture, the Department of Business, and the School of Science and Business.
- 10-I. The Gymnasium-Armory/Rodman Hall (1928): A 2-story, random-cut granite building whose medievalizing facade, with front corner towers and turreted entrance pavilion, resembles the insignia of

the Corps of Engineers. Built as a library -auditorium, armory, and gymnasium, Rodman Hall, Bliss Hall, and Edwards Halls, were financed by a \$600,000 bond issue. They were constructed of native granite quarried on the college grounds, and designed by Bigelow, Kent, Willard and Company.

- 10-J. Bliss Hall (1928, 1962): This 3-story, granite, Georgian building, named for Zenas W. Bliss, a former Lieutenant Governor, was built for the School of Engineering. Robinson, Green and Beretta designed the renovations made in 1962.
- 10-K. Edwards Hall (1928, 1935, 1967): A 2-story, granite, Classical Revival building designed by Bigelow, Kent, Willard and Company as a library, and named for college president Howard Edwards. It was remodeled in 1935, and again in 1967 (the last time by Kurtz and Associates).

#### OTHER UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND BUILDINGS

- 10-L. President's House (1931): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, Colonial Revival house, with a semi-circular entrance portico, with a dormer in the roof above, and flanking wings.
- 10-M. Quinn Hall (1936, 1960): A 3-story, granite, Georgian Revival building, designed by Monahon and Meikle as a science building. It was remodeled in 1960 by Robinson, Green and Beretta. Quinn Hall is one of three buildings erected by the Federal Public Works Authority during the depression years of the 1930s.
- 10-N. Eleanor Roosevelt Hall (1936): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ - and  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story, brick, Colonial Revival style dormitory. A Public Works Administration project, it was designed by Albert Harkness, and named for and dedicated by first Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.
- 10-O. Green Hall (1937, 1959): A 2-story, granite, Georgian Revival building designed by Jackson, Robertson and Adams for library and administrative purposes. It was the third P. W. A. project, and perhaps the last of the college buildings to be built of granite and in the classical style. Robinson, Green and Beretta made the plans for the 1959 renovations.
- 10-P. Administration Building (1959): A 3-story, modernist building set on a high basement, designed by Hull, Robinson and Green.
- 10-Q. Independence Hall (1960): A 3-story building with blue, glazed-brick walls, designed for classroom use and offices by Charles A. McGuire and Associates.
- 10-R. Library (1965): A 3-story, gray brick-sided building, with narrow, vertical windows, and a lower section at the left side. This library is the latest of several built on the campus, and designed by Robinson, Green and Beretta.

- 10-S. Fine Arts Center (1965): A 2-story, stucco shingle, and concrete-block building designed by Millman Associates.
- 10-T. Ballentine Hall (1967): A 3-story structure, with gray brick walls and a slate mansard roof, designed by Robinson, Green and Beretta for the College of Business Administration.
- 10-U. Chafee Social Science Building (1972): An 8-story structure, with buff brick and composition panel sides, designed by Kent Cruise.
- 10-V. Biological Science Center (1972): A 2-story, poured concrete, windowless building with a glass and aluminum entry. Most of the building is underground, with the exception of a circular projection element. It was designed by Robinson, Green and Beretta.
- \*\* 11. Usquepaug Road Historic District: Usquepaug Road Historic District is a small, primarily mid-to-late-19th century linear hamlet along Usquepaug Road in the flat, open farmland in the northwestern part of town. Included in the district are a farm, two cemeteries, a church, and several houses.

The area was originally inhabited by Native Americans, as evidenced by artifacts recovered from the fields. European settlement began in the late 17th century when Samuel Hopkins bought most of the land in the area. The present Hopkins farmhouse, the oldest extant structure in the district, was built about 1790 by John Hopkins. For most of its existence a general farm with a variety of crops and animals, in the 20th century it was a dairy farm and then a potato farm before becoming a dairy farm again. Development and growth of the nearby village of Usquepaug (see #12) resulted in the establishment of a church, a school and several residences in this suburb of that village in the 19th century. Two identical, c. 1865 houses were built here, probably by owners of the mill at Usquepaug; another house was built about 1883 by Usquepaug's tavern keeper, James C. Webster, who started a carriage business here which persisted into the 1920s. In 1908, the church burned and was rebuilt several years later as a copy of the original. Since then, the district has remained virtually unchanged. Structures and sites in the Usquepaug Road Historic District include the following:

- 11-A. Hopkins Farm (c. 1790 et seq.): On the Hopkins Farm is the farm-house and two farm buildings, two sites of buildings, and a family cemetery. The Hopkins Farm Complex centers on a 2½-story, center chimney house with a 2½-story rear ell. In front of the house along the road are five large linden trees. Behind the house are outbuildings surrounded by fields--a 19th century frame barn, whose rear section houses cattle and horses; a cinderblock milk house with a large, frame, cattle house at the rear; a smaller, wood frame wood shed, a machinery shop, and a storage building. (1857- J. T. Hopkins.)

- 11-B. Aplin-Webster House (c. 1865): A 1½-story, L-plan house composed of two sections, a 3-bay main part oriented gable end to the road with a doorway in the right bay, and a 3-bay ell set back from the plane of the main facade. Each section is ornamented with a course of sawn cornice brackets, has a medium-sized brick chimney, and is flanked by a 1-story open porch with a low hip roof and square, decorated posts. Behind the house is a 1½-story, wood shingled carriage-and-wood shed. The house was built by Stephen A. Aplin about 1865. Aplin, with William L. Lockwood, had purchased the Independence Mill in nearby Usquepaug in 1864, but the mill burned and was never rebuilt. Aplin's house was purchased by the Webster family shortly after 1870; they lived here into the 20th century. (1870- S. A. Aplin.)
- 11-C. Lockwood-Kenyon House (c. 1865): This bracketed, L-shaped house is a mirror image of the Webster House beside it. Behind the house is a 1½-story, wood-shingled horse or carriage shed which retains a pair of double swing doors into the storage area. The house was built by Independence Mill co-owner William L. Lockwood; Mrs. Lockwood lived here briefly in the 1870s. Subsequent owner, Dr. Herbert A. L. Stillman, a physician and surgeon, sold his house and medical practice to Dr. Edward E. Kenyon in 1882. (1870- Mrs. Lockwood.)
- 11-D. James S. Lamond House (c. 1896): A 2-story, cross-gabled house with a hip-roofed rear ell, irregular massing gable-end overhangs, and open porches with turned posts which are vaguely Queen Anne in style. Although the house is sided in vinyl, its porches and some window detail remain intact. Behind the house is a modern (c. 1945), 3-bay garage. James Lamond, a Scotsman, was a tailor and kept a small farm here. He also served on the South Kingstown Town Council and was a member of the town's school committee in the 1920s and 1930s.
- 11-E. James Webster House (1883): A boxy, L-shaped, mansard-roofed house with an open, low-roofed entry porch at the southwest corner of the house, paired brackets along the cornice of the roof, and a bay window at the house's southeast corner. Two frame outbuildings, a shed, and a former blacksmith shop (now a garage), are on the property. James C. Webster, son of the keeper of a tavern in the Richmond section of Usquepaug, carried on a lively carriage business here. He made and sold "Carriages of Every Description" and also dealt in harnesses, whips, and blankets according to the 1910 South Kingstown Directory. He carried on the trade into the 1920s. (1895- J. C. Webster.)
- 11-F. Queen's River Baptist Church (1911): This modest one-story frame church on a raised basement is sited right at the road's edge. The entrance, with double-leaf door and flat moulded entablature, is located in the gable end. A lunette window lights the gable end above the door; elsewhere, on the main level, the windows

- contain 12 over 12 double-hung sash. A short, square, hip-roofed enclosed belfry rises on the roof ridge at the front of the building. The church was built to replace and intentionally replicate an earlier church on the site (built 1849-1855 and burned 1908). A Baptist society had gathered in this area by 1819. For many years it met in local schoolhouses, but in 1844 Isaac T. Hopkins and his wife Susan (of nearby Hopkins Farm) gave about 8 square rods of land for a meetinghouse. (1855- Bap. Church.)
- 11-G. Usquepaug Cemetery/Rhode Island Historical Cemetery #2: This rectangular, 2-acre cemetery, bounded by mortared stone walls and entered at the southern end between two heavy, canted posts with square granite caps, was probably begun at the same time the first church was built (1849-1855) but was not formally incorporated according to local records, until 1867. It is divided into 70 plots and contains numerous mid- and late 19th-century granite and marble markers as well as later burials. (1870- Cem.)
12. Usquepaug Village: Usquepaug Village is a small community of about one-half dozen houses and a grist mill along the Queens, or Usquepaug River in South Kingstown and Richmond. Some buildings are along Usquepaug Road, and some, including the mill, are on Glen Rock Road in South Kingstown, but most of the buildings in the village lie along both sides of Glen Rock Road in Richmond.

The first recorded activity here was a grist mill, erected about 1700 by Gershom Cottrell at what was then known as Cottrell's Mill. In 1706, Cottrell sold land east of the river to John Crowder, a weaver, who built a weave shop and a fulling mill. Rowland Robinson purchased the grist mill in 1708 and the weave shop and fulling mill in 1711, and the place became known as Robinson's Mills. After Robinson's death in 1716, the property, including cornmill and fulling mill and land on both sides of the river, was purchased by Peleg Mumford, and was known as Mumford's Mills for more than a century thereafter. In addition to the mills and houses, a Friends Meetinghouse was built at Mumford's Mills in 1754; it remained in use until 1844.

About 1807, Silas Mumford built a grist mill, and subsequently, a carding mill. In 1810, a school house was erected at the east end of the village (it was torn down after the 1938 hurricane), but the greatest event in the history of the village was the completion of the Independence Mill on July 4, 1836. Built by James B. M. Potter, it stood on the east bank of the river, in South Kingstown. The mill, which manufactured Kentucky jean cloth, employed workers who lived in several small cottages built about that time. During the heyday of the village, in the mid 19th century, Usquepaug, as it became known, had a physician, a general store and post office (the post office operated from 1849 to 1939), a tavern, and a cider mill in addition to the other mills. The small village, scarcely more than a hamlet, also generated a "suburb", a small settlement east of the village at what is now known as "The Usquepaug Road Historic District" (see #11).

The gradual decline of the village began in 1866, when the Independence Mill burned and was never rebuilt. In 1886, John Tarbox built a grist mill. It was purchased in 1909 by Charles D. Kenyon, and, as Kenyon's Corn Meal Company, Inc., it was the first mill to package Kenyon's Jonny Cake Meal, a well-known Rhode Island product. A new section of highway was constructed in 1931, bypassing Usquepaug, which in 1937 had about 20 houses, two or three dairy farms, the post office, church, and mill. Today, the village remains substantially the same, although there is no longer a post office. The mill continues to manufacture jonny cake meal and is a well-known Rhode Island institution, with an annual fall festival held in the village. Today, Usquepaug's vernacular dwellings, mill, church and cemetery, and scenic river and mill pond, present a quiet, picturesque scene reminiscent of 19th century Rhode Island's rural settlements. (1831- Mumford Mills.) Several noteworthy buildings within the district are listed below:

- \* 12-A. Kenyon's Grist Mill (1886; Glen Rock Road): A 2-story, frame structure, with a low-pitched gable roof, sited along the west shore of Glen Rock mill pond. There is a later addition at the rear that covers a mill trench. Kenyon Grist Mills, using three sets of stones to manufacture jonny cake meal as well as a variety of other stone-ground flours and meals, is an excellent operating example of the late 19th century grist mills which served the needs of Rhode Island's rural areas. (1895- Grist Mill.)
- 12-B. Usquepaug Bridge, Number 64 (1922): A single arch, reinforced concrete span over the Usquepaug River. Built by contractor Joseph D'Alota of Woonsocket in 1922, the bridge is typical of many other arched, concrete spans erected throughout Rhode Island in the 1920s and 1930s.
- \* 12-C. Dr. Nathan Knight Farmhouse (c. 1785): A 2½-story, wood-shingled house with a large, stone, center chimney, and a central, Greek Revival style entry in a 5-bay facade. The farmhouse was built about 1785 by Timothy Peckham, a blacksmith, who also erected a blacksmith shop here. In 1787, Timothy left his half interest to his brother, Barber, who in 1801 sold the house and a 90-acre parcel to Daniel Knight (1726-1810), a farmer, and his son, Nathan (1777-1847), who became a physician and practiced in the village for 30 years. The house remained in the Knight family, passing to Nathan's son, David B. (1801-1866), then to Robert Lewis (1844-1920), who sold the farm out of the family. After several owners, the farm was acquired by Drake, Bouchard, and Drake, who operated it as a turf farm. The house, with a small lot of land around it, was sold again, and today it has no association with farming and the fields to the rear. (1857- D. B. Knight.)
- 13. Wakefield Village: The unincorporated village of Wakefield, and the contiguous villages of Peace Dale and Rocky Brook, comprise a relatively large settlement. Loosely defined, Wakefield extends along Tower Hill Road-Main Street-and Post Road from Friends Corner

at Route 1 to Dockray Corner, where the road becomes Post Road. The major intersecting streets are Kingstown Road, Columbia Street-Woodruff Avenue, Kenyon Avenue, and High Street. Between and among this network of streets are smaller streets. Within this area, 55 individual structures and sites, covering a time span of more than 210 years, from about 1725 to 1936, were inventoried and are included in this report. Of these, there are more than two dozen houses, 5 churches, 4 commercial blocks, 3 banks, 2 diners, a factory complex, an inn, a grange hall, a hotel, a town hall, a store, a post office, a hall, a hospital complex, a cemetery, and a tavern site.

The development and growth of Wakefield are a consequence of its location along the Saugatucket River and on the old Post Road. Just before 1700, Nathaniel Niles owned much of the land. In 1717, his son, Ebenezer, acquired 200 acres, including houses and mills. The mills, which eventually included one or more grist mills, saw mills, and a carding mill, were located 250 feet above (north of) the present dam along the river in Wakefield. The post road was laid out in the first years of the 18th century. In 1745, the Willard Hazard Tavern and stagecoach stop was established at Dockray Corner on Sugar Loaf Hill, today at the western end of the Wakefield district. About 1769, John Dockray bought 85 acres at place that now bears his name and built a store there. By 1780, Thomas B. "Nailer Tom" Hazard had a blacksmith shop and residence in Wakefield. Several Federal houses, one at 455 Main Street, and one at 31 Old Post Road, date from this period of settlement.

In 1819, the village was still in its infancy, and evidently it was not significant as a settlement, for Pease and Niles' gazetteer of that year fails to mention it, noting only Kingston Village and Tower Hill. In 1822, Sylvester Robinson built a store. At about that time, Wakefield had 9 houses, including farm houses, a store, a grist mill, a saw mill, a blacksmith shop, a small carding mill, and 60 inhabitants in the area between Armstrong's Corner (at present River Street) and Sugar Loaf Hill, along the Post Road. The tempo of development was slow. Additions to the village in the second quarter of the 19th century included another business, established by Col. Willard Hazard in 1826; the First Baptist Church of South Kingstown, in 1829; the Church of the Ascension, in 1840 (both church buildings were later replaced); and a large number of Greek Revival houses, the finest being James Robinson's house (later the Larchwood Inn), in 1831. Sylvester Robinson also built a large, Greek Revival house in 1831, and a similarly styled store, in 1846.

Sometime around 1850, a new dam was built along the Saugatucket, and new, stone, mill buildings were constructed. Two banks were established about this time, both located near the mills. In 1850, a Roman Catholic society purchased a lot on High Street, not far from the mills, and built a church. Soon stores were built east

of the river, including one by William G. Kenyon in 1856. Several hotels were eventually located in the village. Fine homes were built in the latter half of the 19th century, including several Gothic cottages, a Bracket style house, and an Italianate residence.

The post-Civil War years were a period of growth and prosperity in Wakefield. Many more businesses were started, and the Riverside Cemetery was laid out in 1870. The decade of the 1870s saw the establishment of a carriage manufactory (1874), the Sheldon Building (1875), and the laying out of the Narragansett Pier Railroad, with a station built in Wakefield when the line opened in 1876. The growth and importance of the village was also indicated by the construction of the South Kingstown Town Hall on High Street in 1877. In 1880, the Church of the Nazarene was built, and, in the decade of the 1880s, at least five other businesses located in Wakefield. About 1880, the Columbia House, a large, Second Empire building, was erected at the corner of Woodruff Avenue. A bank building was constructed west of the Saugatuck River in 1869, but when the Bell Block was built farther east in 1899, the Sheldon Block was moved next to it; these buildings provided the "anchor" for Wakefield's new commercial district, and still do today. The late 19th century also saw the erection of several fine Queen Anne style houses.

By 1900, the village extended along Main Street from Sugar Loaf Hill in the west to Dale Carlia Corner in the east, and along Columbia Street, Woodruff Avenue, High Street, and many other side streets off the main roads. A large number of houses were built in the village; growth of housing in adjacent Peace Dale and Rocky Brook gradually transformed the villages into an amorphous, suburban-like settlement. Most of the new houses were modest, built for working people, but some finer homes, designed by noted architects, also were added to the village. Especially noteworthy is the William D. Miller House. Continued growth of population was accompanied by the growth and expansion of commercial, public, and social institutions: a Masonic Hall, built early in the century; a new Roman Catholic church (St. Francis); more commercial buildings, including two diners; a new post office, completed in 1936; and the 1925 South County Hospital on Kenyon Street.

Until World War II, Wakefield's activities were centered on its central business district, but, beginning in the late 1950s, a new commercial area was started at Dale Carlia Corner, at the intersection of Kingstown Road with Tower Hill Road-Main Street. Since then, the area has grown considerably, sprawling over a large area to constitute South County's largest shopping area today.

Fortunately, the old business district has retained its character and vitality, and today it remains a good example of a late 19th-early 20th century business district. Main Street between

the two commercial areas is rapidly becoming commercialized, but many of the former homes which have been converted to commercial use retain their original architectural character.

Wakefield today is historically interesting and significant, and retains a variety of buildings associated with the more than 200-year history of the village. The following inventory includes the most significant structures and sites.

#### COLUMBIA STREET

- 13-A. Masonic Hall (1903; 42 Columbia Street): A large, 2-story, stuccoed, Colonial Revival building, with a large, tetrastyle entrance portico and a flat roof. This building occupies the site of a former grange hall, which was used by the Masons until this structure was built in 1903; the grange hall now occupies the northwest corner of the lot.
- 13-B. Narragansett Grange Number 1, Patrons of Husbandry (Temperance Lane, rear of 42 Columbia Street): A 1-story building with a full basement on the ground floor which houses a large dining room, kitchen, and utility room. Reportedly the oldest meeting hall in South Kingstown, it was known as the First Reform Hall, the I.O.O.F. Hall, Masonic Hall, and Temperance Hall, before being moved, first from a site near Main Street, then from the front of this lot to the rear. The grange society was unofficially organized in March, 1887. By the end of that year, 15 other grange societies had begun to organize. In 1925, the Narragansett Grange purchased this hall from the Woman's Temperance Society; it had been used by the Masons from 1880 until moved here in 1903.
- 13-C. Frank Carpenter House (1865; 47 Columbia Street): A 1½-story Gothic cottage, with a steep-pitched gable roof; a steeply-pitched, enclosed, portico entrance, with bargeboards, central in a 3-bay facade; two, small, decorated, gable dormers in front; and a flat-roofed addition at the rear.
- 13-D. Christ United Methodist Church (c. 1890): A modest, shingle-style building, with a large, round-topped, multi-paned window in the gable end facing the street; a square tower at the right front with a porticoed entry, a diamond-shaped window, and an open belfry; and an ell at the right side. (1895- M. E. Church.)

#### DOCKRAY STREET

- \* 13-E. Dockray House (1725, 1769: 2 Dockray Street): The main part of the house, built in 1769, is a typical, 2½-story, large center chimney structure with a central, enclosed entry. At the left rear, closer to the road, is the original house, a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed part, with a central entry in a 5-bay facade and 2, small, shed dormers; it was built in 1725 and was once used as a store. There is a large addition at the rear (west side) of the larger part. The Dockray House is probably the oldest extant building within the Wakefield historic district. (1857- N. H. Hazard?)

HIGH STREET

13-F. Wakefield Mill (1867 et seq.): The Wakefield Mill, a 3-story, rough granite block-sided structure, set gable end to and near the road, is part of a mill complex along both sides of High Street. The original wooden cupola that sat atop the ridge near the front is gone, and a recent, 3-story, flat-roofed, brick tower was erected at the right side of the front. A boiler and engine house at the right rear, probably was also built about 1867, and an addition at the rear dates from the 1870s. Major additions were made about 1922, including a dye house, attached to the front of the old mill, along High Street, and, in 1957, additions were made at the rear. None of the additions complement the original mill in size, style, and materials of construction. Next to the mill is an altered, c. 1845 superintendent's house. East of High Street are two stone buildings originally part of the mill complex, but now converted, one to office use, the other (along Main Street) to an automobile sales building.

The Wakefield Mill is a late addition to manufacturing in the village. The earliest record of manufacturing is in a 1717 deed. By 1738, there was a saw mill and a grist mill. Around 1807, Joseph Congdon set up a carding machine, and textile manufacturing was initiated here. In 1821, the mill was acquired by locally prominent James Robinson. The history of the mills is unclear, but it appears that the mills were located about 250 feet upstream from their present location, and sometime before 1850, the present dam and two stone mill buildings, one along each side of the river, were erected. In about 1862, Gideon Reynolds purchased the property, which became the Wakefield Manufacturing Company. In 1867 (according to a 1903 newspaper account), a wooden part of the mill burned and the company built the present mill. Robert Rodman purchased the property about 1875 and it became part of his extensive South County textile empire. Before and during Rodman's tenure, the mills manufactured Kentucky jeans and doeskins. In 1903, the Rodman family sold the property, which then went through several owners and additions. The James Hulton Company of Philadelphia added a new cardingroom and weave shop in 1922; the last additions were made in 1957. Today, although used by a number of small industrial concerns, much of the mill still produces textiles. (1870- G. Reynolds, Woolen Mill.)

- 13-G. Daniel Sherman House (c. 1885; 34 High Street): A Large, multi-gabled, Bracketed residence, with 3 brick chimneys; fish-scale shingles in the gables; paired brackets at the broad roof cornices; and a hip-roofed porch across the front with carpenterwork brackets. (1862- D. Sherman an earlier house which stood on site .)
- 13-H. St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church (1932): A stone building, with irregular granite block walls, set gable end to the road. There are 3 pedimented entries in the gable end; a 3-story, square,

corner tower at the left side with a 2-stage belfry; and a row of small gable dormers and a row of stained glass windows, set close under the eaves, at the sides. In 1854, a group of Catholics obtained a lot on High Street and built a small church. In 1860, the church society purchased and renovated the Baptist Church on High Street, and built a new pastoral rectory. Named St. Francis, it was located at the southwest corner of Winter Street. The present church was built on the opposite corner in 1932, and the old church was torn down.

- 13-I. South Kingstown Town Hall (1877 et seq.): A Romanesque, mansard-roofed, 2½-story public building, with a quarried stone exterior of irregularly-shaped and sized stone blocks; a square, 3-story tower in front, with a bracketed hood entry and a round-headed entry door and windows, and a clock; and a stone and cinder block addition at the rear. The small front lot is simply landscaped with grass and shrubs. There is a 1-story stone building behind the town hall, now used for offices. Rowland Hazard designed the building, which was presented to the town by his father, Rowland G., in 1877. Additions and renovations to the original structure include a vault, added in 1927; a 1-story addition at the rear; lavatories; a rear door; a back stairway; the clock, in 1923; second floor rooms for the Tax Assessor and Social Welfare, in 1933; and extensive second floor changes, with new offices, in 1964. (1895- Town House.)
- 13-J. Riverside Cemetery (1870; off High Street): A large burial ground laid out along the Saugatucket River. The cemetery association began in 1868 under the leadership of Stephen C. Fisk. Riverside Cemetery was laid out, and incorporated February 15, 1870. On March 3rd, Stephen Fisk died; his only daughter died two days later. Both funerals, held at the same time, were the first burials in the new cemetery. (1870- Cemetery.)
- 13-K. Union Chapel/Church of the Nazarene (c. 1880): A small, simple, 1-story meeting house, with a central entry with a bracketed hood and flanking stained-glass lancet windows. Originally it was the Union Chapel, then the High Street Union Mission. (1895- Chapel.)

#### HIGHLAND STREET

- 13-L. John L. Sheldon House (c. 1888; 33 Highland Street): A shingled, Queen Anne residence, with 2, large, fieldstone chimneys; a 2-story tower at the right front with a square base and a round 2nd story; a large elliptical window, a smaller, circular window and entry near the center of the front; and a short tower at the left side, front. The house was built by a son of George W. Sheldon who established a hardware and furniture business in Wakefield. John and his brother had succeeded their father after he died in 1879. (1895- John L. Sheldon.)

## KENYON AVENUE

- 13-M. Louis Bell House (1898; 8 Kenyon Avenue): A 2½-story, shingle style house, with several brick chimneys and an entry in a corner porch.
- 13-N. House (c. 1865; 29 Kenyon Avenue): A 1½-story, L-plan house, with 3, brick chimneys, two, 1-story verandas, and arcaded entries, and trefoil carpenterwork designs at the gables. This was one of the first houses built after Kenyon Avenue opened. (1870- S. Wright.)
- 13-O. South County Hospital (1925 et seq.; 95 Kenyon Avenue): South County Hospital is a complex of buildings, most of them brick, off Kenyon Avenue. There were no hospital facilities in the Wakefield district until 1919, when a small, 1-family house on Kenyon Avenue was fitted up for a hospital. Largely through the efforts of Caroline Hazard (who contributed \$50,000), a new hospital was built at the center of the 6-acre tract that was once the town farm. The 23-bed, 3-story, red tapestry brick building built in 1924-25 by Louis F. Bell, was designed by architects Angell and Swift. Other buildings were later added to the complex, now the largest in southern Rhode Island.

## MAIN STREET

- 13-P. Carder H. Tucker House (c. 1885; off Main Street): A 1½-story, shingle-and-clapboard sided, Queen Anne residence with an elaborate multi-gable roof with cresting. (1895- Carder H. Tucker.)
- 13-Q. F. D. Simmons House/Windsong (1914): A 1½-story, wood-shingled house set atop a knoll at Sugar Loaf Hill.
- 13-R. J. C. Gardner House (Early 19th Century; 70 Main Street): A 2½-story house, with a sidelight central entry in a 5-bay facade and multi-paned windows. There are several outbuildings on the property. Reportedly, the house was originally 1½ stories. A second floor was added about 1830. (1862- J. C. Gardner.)
- 13-S. Dr. R. R. Robinson Estate (1904; 99 Main Street): A large, landscaped tract along the south side of the road is centered on a 2-story, hip-roofed house, and includes a stable and several other outbuildings, and another, smaller, residence. This estate is the first, or northern-most, of a series of estates which are spread out along the southeast side of Post Road for several miles. The main house was designed by architects Hilton and Jackson; the auxiliary house (1940) by the successor firm, Jackson, Robertson and Adams. The stable originally stood on Main Street near High Street; it was moved here in the 1920s.
- 13-T. Dr. Willard H. Hazard House (1840s; 92 Main Street): A 2-story, hip-roofed, Greek Revival house, with paired, brick, interior chimneys; an entry, with side and transom lights, in a 6-bay facade, and within a piazza across the front; and an ell at the left side.

The house occupies a large, simply-landscaped lot behind a wood picket fence. (1862- Dr. W. H. Hazard.)

- \* 13-U. Sylvester Robinson Estate (Mid 19th Century)/William Davis Miller House (1934-35);(130 Main Street): This property consists of a large, Colonial Revival/French Chateau style, 2½-story, brick structure, set well back from the road on a slight rise, on a mostly grassy lot. At the rear are several outbuildings. In the late 19th century, the Robinson estate, centered on a 2½-story Second Empire house, included a windmill tower and a large, mansard-roofed carriage house. It was the residence of George C. Robinson; in the early 20th century it was owned by Dr. Rowland R. Robinson (1862-1934), who served as town physician for many years. The present house was designed by architect Albert Harkness for William Davis Miller, a World War I Navy commander, member of a prominent South County landholding family, and banker. Miller's bibliophile and antiquarian interests resulted in articles, pamphlets, and books on the area, including a short history of the Narragansett Planters. The old manor house was torn down in 1934 to make room for this building; the carriage house is gone today, but the base of the windmill tower, and a Roman Etruscan style building still stand, although in deteriorating condition. Since 1953, the estate has been owned by the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, which uses it for an office and club house. (1888- Residence of Geo. C. Robinson.)
- 13-V. Watson House (c. 1860; 141 Main Street): A 2-story, almost square, Italianate house, with wide, bracketed eaves; a central entry, with side and transom lights, in a 1-story piazza with carpenterwork detail, across the front; paired windows; and a smaller, 2-story ell at the rear. The house occupies a relatively large, neat, and well landscaped lot. (1862- E. Watson.)
- 13-W. Larchwood Inn (c. 1831 et seq.; 176 Main Street): A large, 3-story structure, with large, paired, brick, interior chimneys; a paneled balustrade with latticework openings on the roof; a glazed porch across the front; and several large additions. The building is set back from the road on a large, well-landscaped lot. James Robinson, who with his brother, William, owned the nearby Wakefield woolen mill, built the original, 2-story structure, known as "The Larches," about 1831. It later passed to William. About 1850, Stephen and Susan Wright bought the property upon their return from California, where Stephen made his fortune as land investor, builder, provisions merchant, and banker, establishing the first banking house in San Francisco. The Wrights transformed the house into a showplace, built retaining walls of hewn granite and ornamental iron, and graded and landscaped the grounds with trees and shrubs. Stephen, who had experience in manufacturing in the Peace Dale area before leaving for the West, purchased the Wakefield mill and ran it for several years before returning to San Francisco, where he died in 1870. The property remained in the Wright family until 1910, when it was purchased by a Gamell (related to the

Wrights through marriage). In 1925, George Phillips bought the property and opened it as the Larchwood Inn the following year. It passed through several owners, including Hugh Cameron, who acquired it in 1947 and made several additions, including a cocktail lounge and a large dining room. Today, it still operates as the Larchwood Inn under a corporation of local business people. (1857- Mrs. Wright.)

- 13-X. C. H. Hazard House (Mid 19th Century; 197 Main Street): A 2½-story transitional Federal Greek Revival style house, with paired, brick, interior chimneys near the ends; a central entry with a later, simple portico, in a 5-bay facade; a semi-elliptical window in the gable; and a 1-story, flat-roofed addition at the right side. (1862- C. Hazard.)
- 13-Y. Diner (1920s; 221 Main Street): An early type diner, with a curved roof, a row of windows along the front, an entrance at the center of the front, and another entry at the right side. There is a larger, flat-roofed addition at the rear. One of at least two diners in the village, this one later became (and still is) the office of a fuel oil company.
- 13-Z. Sylvester Robinson House (1831; 324 Main Street): A 2-story, Federal/Greek Revival building with a monitor roof, a later portico, centered in a 5-bay facade, and wide corner pilasters. The house was built by Sylvester Robinson, who worked at the store of his uncle in Westerly from about 1812 until 1821, when he returned here and opened a store, the second in Wakefield. In 1831, he built this house and in 1846, the store next door. In addition to conducting a successful business at his store, Sylvester was president of the nearby Wakefield Bank from 1841 to 1867 and served in the state senate. After his death in 1867, Benjamin F., his son, acquired the house (1862- S. Robinson & Son, Store.)
- 13-AA. Sylvester Robinson Store (1846; 326 Main Street): A 2-story, Greek Revival, L-plan structure at the corner of High Street, with a first-floor store front with a recessed central entry, and wide boards at the corners and at the cornice. It was built in 1846 by Sylvester Robinson, who lived next door (324 Main Street). The business here was carried on by several generations of Robinsions. (1862- S. Robinson & Son, Store.)
- 13-BB. Bank Building (c. 1850; 331 Main Street): A 2-story, hip-roofed, granite-block structure, with paired, interior, brick chimneys; a dormer at each side; a commercial store front; and a 2-story ell at the rear. It was the first home of the Wakefield Bank, later the South County Bank, the Wakefield National Bank, and the Wakefield Trust Company. Used for banking into the 20th century, it presently houses law offices. (1862- Bank of the South Co.)

- 13-CC. House (c. 1834; 327 Main Street): A simple, handsome, Greek Revival residence, set back from, and gable end to, the road, behind the two former bank buildings along the road. This building, moved to this site after 1895, has a Greek Revival entryway at the left side of the front; an elliptical window in the gable; wide corner boards; and a temple front gable end. Reportedly, this building was built as a bank by Sylvester Robinson; it later housed the Wakefield Institute for Savings.
- 13-DD. Bank Building (1889, 1924; 339 Main Street): A 2-story, flat-roofed structure, with a store on the first floor. The building, sited along the west bank of the Saugatucket River at the bridge, was built by Partelow and Bullock and James W. Brown. Originally it housed stores and banking space on the first floor, offices on the second floor, and a hall above. It was known as Armory Hall for a short time (between 1895 and 1899) when it was used by a brigade of the Rhode Island Militia for its headquarters and drill hall. From 1904 to 1927, the Wakefield Institute for Savings was here. Other inhabitants included a dentist, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Knights of Columbus, and the U.S. Coast Guard; dancing classes were also held here. A fire in March, 1924, destroyed the third floor and the building was reduced to two stories. The first floor has been a hardware store since 1944. (1895- Wakefield Trust Co.)
- 13-EE. Rodman Manufacturing Company Warehouse/Don Panciera Chevrolet (1866 et seq.; 400 Main Street): A 2-story, granite block structure, with a low-pitched gable roof, sited along the east side of the Saugatucket River, near the bridge. The building was part of the Wakefield mills manufacturing complex. An earlier mill here, dating from about 1850, burned in 1865 and was replaced by this building, which originally had a central tower in front and was used as a warehouse and as the weave company annex. In the mid 20th century, it became the home of an automobile agency. (1870- G. Reynolds Mill.)
- 13-FF. William Robinson House (c. 1845; 419 Main Street): a 2½-story, Greek Revival building, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central, recessed entry in a 5-bay facade; and a semi-elliptical fanlight in the gable end. Originally a residence, it later served as the offices of several doctors. (1862- W. B. Robinson.)
- 13-GG. Daniel Burdick House (Early 19th Century; 455 Main Street): A 1½-story, Federal Cape, with paired, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry, with side and transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. The house is sited above the road behind a cemented stone wall. (1862- D. Burdick.)

- 13-HH. Episcopal Rectory (c. 1900; behind 155 Main Street): A 2½-story, cross-gambrel-roofed, shingle-style structure, with a large, gabled dormer; palladian windows; and a semi-circular porch. The house, originally the rectory for the nearby Episcopal church was moved to this site in 1950.
- 13-II. Church of the Ascension (1883): A 1-story, granite block structure, with a small belfry atop a steeply-pitched gable roof, set end to the road; a stained glass lancet window in the gable; and 2, large, frame, enclosed entries at the right side. The church building, atop a slight terrace behind a cemented stone wall, occupies a simply landscaped lot. This Episcopal parish was organized in 1839; the first building was dedicated about 1840 on a side street south of Main Street, near the river. In 1879, that building was sold and this site was purchased. The new edifice, constructed of cut stone obtained from a recently burned Rodman mill at Rocky Brook, was completed in 1883. In 1909, the church was completely refurbished. In 1950, the adjacent parish house was moved back and a new one built. (1888- Episcopal Church.)
- 13-JJ. Commercial Block (Early 20th Century; 472 Main Street): A 2-story building with a yellow-brick store front along the road, and red brick at both sides.
- 13-KK. Commercial Block (1930s; 480-486 Main Street): A 1-story, flat-roofed, brick, commercial block, with some Art Deco decorations at the top. This building is a later addition to Wakefield's business district.
- 13-LL. Kenyon's Department Store (1891; 505 Main Street): A large, 2½-story, hip-and-multi-gabled, wood-shingle, Queen Anne, commercial building with a 1-story storefront, in 3 sections, across the front. Kenyon's Department Store was established in 1857 by William G. Kenyon, who came to Wakefield in about 1855 after selling a large farm on Point Judith, and became one of the leading merchants here. After his death in 1877 the store went to his son, Orrin P., and in 1881 William A. became a partner (until his death in 1887). The store was owned by Grafton I. Kenyon after Orrin's death in 1932. The present building, designed by Charles Chase in 1888, and built in 1891, was considerably enlarged in the early 20th century. It continues in commercial use today. (1895- Orrin P. Kenyon.)
- 13-MM. Washington Trust Company (Late 1920s): A 2-story, brick, Neo-Classical building, set on a small, grassy lot, back from the road, with a large, 2-story, tetrastyle, pedimented portico. Built in the late 1920s by the Wakefield Trust Company, it was later remodeled for office use by several companies.

- 13-NN. Whittings Diner (Early 20th Century): A trolley, or electric streetcar type diner, a style popular between about 1919 and 1932. This one, in the heart of the downtown commercial district, was later converted into a small shop.
- 13-00. Commercial Blocks: Bell Block (1899) & Sheldon Block (c. 1875; 504-522 Main Street): This large commercial block, comprising two individual buildings, is at the heart of Wakefield's downtown business district. The Sheldon Building, a 2-story structure with a mansard roof, was built by George W. Sheldon and his son, John L., at a site west of the Saugatucket Bridge, about 1875. In 1899, Louis F. Bell built the Bell Block, a 3-story masonry building with an almost flat roof and a pair of bay windows at the second floor level. The first floor had four store fronts, which included a newsstand and the Wakefield Post Office; on the second floor were a dentist's office and business offices; and the top floor contained a spacious hall which was once used for a roller skating rink, dances, and school graduations. In 1899, the Sheldon Building was moved to this site, raised, and a first story added. Originally a furniture store, it has continued in business as the Sheldon House Furnishings and Storage Company under several generations of Sheldons.
- 13-PP. Wakefield Baptist Church (1852 et seq.): A frame meetinghouse, with brackets at the eaves; a projecting, square tower with a louvered, hexagonal belfry and spire; tall, round-head windows in front; an entrance wing at the left side; and a large addition. The first church on this site was built about 1831; in 1852, the present church, designed by Thomas Tefft, was erected beside the old one, which was moved across the road. Major alterations in 1891 included changing the pulpit to the south side and the main entrance to the north side. In 1950, the large rear addition was made to accommodate an assembly and recreation room. (1857- Bapt. Church.)
- 13-QQ. Nathaniel C. Armstrong House (1830s; 756 Main Street): A 2-story, Greek Revival residence, with a later porch across the front; paired, brick, interior chimneys; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story ell at the rear. The house occupies a small lot at the corner of River Street, behind a cemented stone wall. Across the street was Armstrong's wheelwright shop, where the first carriages in town were built. The place was later enlarged and became the C. H. Armstrong & Sons Carriage Works; it was run by the Armstrong family for many years. (1862- N. Armstrong.)
- 13-RR. John Armstrong House (c. 1860; 772 Main Street): An L-plan Gothic cottage with serpentine bargeboards at the gable ends; a large, gabled dormer at the left front; a central, arcaded, recessed entry; paired, round-headed windows at the upper level; and an ell and wing at the rear. This house was probably built

by John Armstrong; brother of Nathaniel C.; it was one of three Armstrong houses here, which marked the eastern end of the village in the 1860s. (1862- J. Armstrong.)

- 13-SS. Columbia House/Hotel (c. 1880; 837 Main Street): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, Second Empire, commercial-residential building at the corner of Woodruff Avenue, with gabled dormers in the mansard roof; a first floor commercial area, with large, single-pane windows flanked by a double-door entry, on the Main Street side; and apartments above. The building served many uses, including a Masonic hall, doctors' offices, assembly rooms, a dance hall, and hotel guest rooms. Its longest use, since 1903, has been for cycles. (1870- Armstrong Shop.)
- 13-TT. Daniel Williams House (c. 1840; 1041 Main Street): An unusual, Greek Revival building with a ground floor wider than the second floor. There is a central entry, a sunburst design, and a semi-elliptical fan in the street-facing gable end. This building originally stood on Main Street west of River Street, and was later moved here. (1870- N. C. Armstrong?)
- 13-UU. Russell Sweet House (1887; 1087 Main Street): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story wood-shingle-and-clapboard Queen Anne dwelling with a pedimented portico entry at the right front, a porch with carpenterwork brackets, and a bell-cast roofed tower at the rear. Although now a shop, the building retains its original exterior integrity. (1895- Peleg Brown.)

#### OAKDELL ROAD

- 13-VV. Michael Shoughro House (c. 1875; 9 Oakdell Road): A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, cross-gabled, Gothic cottage, with carpenterwork in the two small porches, and carpenter and "stick style" decorations at the gables. (1895- Michael Shoughro.)

#### OLD POST ROAD (SUGARLOAF HILL, OR DOCKRAY CORNER)

- 13-WW. Matthew Chappell House (c. 1830 et seq.; 9 Old Post Road): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, Greek Revival structure, with two gabled dormers in front; small wings at each side; and a central entry, with transom and side lights, in a later, neo-classical entry in a 5-bay facade. There is a picket fence with granite posts in front, and a row of shrubbery that screens the house. A massive granite block wall extends west of the front fence. In 1840, Matthew Chappell, who was Justice of the Peace and Collecting Officer, had his office here. (1870- J. P. Robinson.)
- 13-XX. C. Champlin House (Federal; 31 Old Post Road) A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story house with a large, brick, center chimney, and a central transom-light entry in a 5-bay facade. (1862- C. Champlin?)

13-YY. Site of the Willard Hazard House, or the Tavern: Originally a private house built about 1745 by Willard Hazard of North Kingstown, it was rented out to a tavern keeper to serve travelers along Kings Highway (Post Road), which was laid out in 1742. The long, wood-shingled building, a gathering place and social center for the wealthy Narragansett Planters, was a regular mail stop and post office. For years, it was a hostelry, with a taproom and a great ballroom on the second floor; it was also a stagecoach stop. After its use as a tavern, two sisters ran a popular tea room in the 1930s and early 1940s. They were the last owners of the structure, which was demolished in 1959. (1862- Hotel.)

#### POND STREET

13-ZZ. House (1850; 15 Pond Street): A 1½-story, Greek Revival house, set gable end to the road, with a hip-roofed porch supported by large square posts, and a 1-story wing at the south side. There is a low fence in front of a large, landscaped lot. By 1895, it was the home of Jesse Van Buren Watson, who ran a farm at Tower Hill until 1873. He built a store at West Kingston, and, after moving here, continued in business, buying farm produce, wire, hides, tallow, poultry, calves, lambs, and other farm products; he also served as director of several Wakefield banks. (1862- D. M. C. Stedman or T. P. Wells.)

#### ROBINSON STREET

13-AAA. Wakefield Post Office (1936): A 2-story brick building, with a central block with a hip roof and large, multi-paned windows, and 1-story, flat-roofed, flanking wings. After the establishment of the first post office in Wakefield, there were many postmasters and several different locations on Main Street. In 1934, a new post office was authorized under the Emergency Construction Act of 1933; this building, designed by Albert Harkness, was completed in 1936 and dedicated January 2, 1937. The interior contains one of the best known of several murals done in Rhode Island as part of the federally sponsored public art projects--Ernest Hamlin Baker's "Economic Activities in the Days of the Narragansett Planter."

#### WOODRUFF AVENUE

13-BBB. A. M. Cunningham House (c. 1885; 5 Wright Street): A 1½-story, multi-gabled house, with broad eaves, a wrap-around piazza, and an ell at the rear. Woodruff Avenue was constructed between 1870 and 1888; soon after, a number of houses, including this one, were built. (1895- A. M. Cunningham.)

13-CCC. Bungalow (Early 20th Century): A wood-shingled bungalow, with a gable roof overhang that encloses a porch with tapered, wood-shingled posts; shed dormers across the front; and a 2-part, "telescope" section at the rear, which has a full basement.

WRIGHT STREET

- 13-DDD. Elisha W. Cross House (c. 1885; 5 Wright Street): A large, 2-1/2-story, Queen Anne house, with cross-gambrel and gable roofs; 2, large, brick chimneys; a round, 2-story tower at the street side; and a roof overhanging a porch at the right front corner. There are two, later, unsympathetic, flat-roofed, 2-story additions, at the left side and at the rear and a multi-bay garage at the left rear of the property. The house, which originally stood on the lot of the Larchwood Inn and was later moved here, was built by Elisha W. Cross, who married Stephen Wright's daughter, Frances. (1895- Mrs. Fannie Cross.)
14. West Kingston: West Kingston is a small community comprised of the county court house, a small church, several commercial establishments, a railroad station, and several dozen houses. The village owes its existence to the railroad. The New York, Providence, and Boston Railroad Company built a line from Providence to Stonington, Connecticut, which opened for traffic in 1837. A railroad station, a store, and several houses comprised the Kingston Station settlement, which was located where Waites Corner Road crosses the tracks. Before 1875, Kingstown Road did not exist; in that year, the present Kingston station was built, marking the beginning of the community of West Kingston. An impetus to growth was the establishment of the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at nearby Kingston in 1889; the Washington County Fairgrounds, popular in the late 19th century, were located near the station. In 1894, the county courthouse moved into a new building here.

- \*\* 14-A. Kingston Railroad Station<sup>fn</sup> (1875): A symmetrical, flushboard-and clapboard-sided building, 7 bays long and 3 bays deep, with bay windows and a flat-roofed central dormer flanked by segmental-arch dormers. A shed roof canopy extends the length of the west side of the station, covering a 15-foot wide platform along the tracks. At each end of the building are canopies supported by ornamental, angular, "Stick" style brackets. The structure has an overall Chalet-like appearance, a form and style common to many contemporary rail depots.

The original station of the New York, Providence, and Boston Railroad (known locally as the Stonington Railroad) was near Waites Corner Road, a short distance to the north. This station attracted a number of facilities, including a new West Kingston post office and several railroad-oriented businesses. In 1876, the Kingston Station became the western terminus of the Narragansett Pier Railroad. The station, in continuous use since it was built, is a rare and well-preserved example of the late

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fn. See the National Register nomination for Kingston Station at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission office for a more complete description and account of Kingston Station.

19th century rural railroad station. The only surviving building erected by the New York, Providence, and Boston Railroad Company still in active use, the Kingston Station was entered in the National Register in 1977.  
(1895- Kingston Station.)

- 14-B. Railroad Signal Tower (Early 20th Century): A square 2-story hip-roofed structure, located along the Amtrak Railroad tracks near Kingstown Road, with clapboard siding and exterior stairs leading to the second floor. This fine structure is one of several along the line in Rhode Island.
- \* 14-C. Washington County Courthouse (1894: Kingstown Road): A 2½-story, granite block, cross-gabled, Richardsonian Romanesque public building, with a square, pinnacle-topped tower at the left front; a small, conical tower at the left rear; an arched entry at the left side of the front; and round arched windows. The courthouse, set on a grassy lot, is the fourth built in Washington County. In 1732, the first courthouse was built at Tower Hill. It was replaced by another courthouse built at Kingston in 1752, which in turn was replaced by another built in Kingston in 1775. The present courthouse was designed by Leslie P. Langworthy of Providence.

#### STRUCTURES AND SITES

##### BARBER'S POND ROAD

- \* 15. The Wells House (18th Century; Littlefield Lane): A 1½-story, wood-shingled, colonial Cape with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with a 4-light transom, in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. The house occupies a fine site, with stone walls and cleared land. The property also includes 2 small outbuildings, and a cellar hole near the drive just east of the house. Built by a member of the Wells family, the house remained in the family until 1908; it has been in the Sheffield family (now Littlefield through marriage) since then. (1870- B. Wells; Mrs. S. Wells.)
16. Amos Wells House (Early 19th Century): A 1½-story house, set gable end to the road, with a small, brick chimney; a weather entry in front; and additions at the left side and rear. The house was built as a miller's house by the Wells family. Originally smaller, it was expanded when a second floor was added around 1860-65. There is a fine barn with "novelty" siding near the house. The large property slopes down to a pond and mill site west of the house, and includes stone walls, cleared land, and a Wells family cemetery. The property was in the Wells family until 1913. At one time, beginning in the late 1920s, it was used as a hunting and weekend place, before becoming a permanent residence again. (1857- Amos Wells.)

17. Site of Wells' Mill: A mill site along a small brook that runs south into nearby Barber Pond, consisting of a mill pond (Machine Pond) behind a stone and earth dam. Near the center of the downstream side of the dam are the stonework remains of a mill.

This mill was one of several in South Kingstown of relatively small size, located on the town's smaller waterways. Amos Wells built it as a carding mill about 1828 and commenced operations as a custom carder. He continued his business until 1883, but by then business was "very dull". It was used as a carding mill and a grist mill for awhile, but eventually became only a grist mill. According to a 1962 tour brochure, the carding machine is now in the Ford Museum. About 1927, the building collapsed during a March snowstorm. (1857- Wells Mills Carding Machine.)

#### BISCUIT CITY

18. Site of Biscuit City: Along a small pond on a tributary of White Horn Brook, near a stone and earth dam, are remains of human activity at what was once Biscuit City. There is a stone race-way extending from the center of the dam; nearby are the foundations of four dwellings and an ice house. The first mill here was probably built by John Larkin soon after he purchased the property from Elisha Reynolds in 1788. The mill community was sold in 1795, and again in 1797, and remained unchanged. In 1808, the place, including the mill, pond, and stream privileges, was sold to "The President, Directors and Company of South Kingstown Cotton Manufactory." In 1811, the mill produced some cloth, candle wicks, and possibly shoes, but its major product was knitting yarn and thread. The cotton factory operated for 11 years, then was sold to Rouse C. Clarke, Jr., who, with his brother, Joshua, renovated the mill building and manufactured carriages and wagons. In 1830, Solomon S. Harley and George C. Clarke bought the property at auction, and Harley ran it as a grist mill for many years. In 1866, the land and grist mill went to Judge Elisha Reynolds Potter, Jr. The Bermon LeMoine Water Company acquired the property in 1923. Pumps and a storage tank were installed and the pond supplied public water for Kingston. In 1955, the water company was purchased by the Kingston Fire District, which in 1972 donated the property to the Kingston Improvement Association for a public park. (1857- Grist Mill; S. Harley House; Great Spring.)

#### BLACKBERRY HILL DRIVE

19. Lower Weeden Farm Farmhouse (Federal): A 1½-story, wood-shingled Cape with a brick center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and two, small, shed dormers in front. There is a large, rambling, L-shaped section at the rear that incorporates an old barn that once stood in the field, and

includes a new silo at the connecting corner. The property was once part of the Weeden Farm that extended from Post Road to the ocean. (1862- W. Weeden.)

#### BRIDGETOWN ROAD

20. Bridgetown Road (1934): The section of Bridgetown Road between Tower Hill Road and Middle Bridge Road is historically significant. The placement of an island between the center pavement lanes, physically separating traffic moving in both directions, a type of construction called "Pairway Pavement Construction", was the first construction of this kind on the Rhode Island Highway System. The fourth section of this type highway was used on Post Road (U.S. 1) in South Kingstown south of Wakefield.
21. House (Federal): A 1½-story structure with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; a large, gable dormer in front; and an ell at the left side. Behind the house is a small, working farm, bounded by stone walls, and a cemetery at the corner of the lot. (1857- Harvey & Potter.)

#### BROWNING BEACH

22. Summer Colony (c. 1900): Along the ocean at Browning's Beach are a small cluster of seven summer houses, five of which extend in a row behind the dunes. Several are wood shingled, including a Queen Anne-style structure with a polygonal corner tower, a cross-gambrel roofed house, and a bungalow with a wrap-around porch and a sweeping shed dormer.

#### CAMP FULLER ROAD

23. Camp Fuller (1914 et seq.): Camp Fuller is a youth camp--a retreat and an outing center--of the Greater Providence YMCA, sited in a relatively secluded area of about 35 acres along the west shore of Point Judith Pond. There are about 25 individual buildings, including an administration building, a dining hall-kitchen, a boat house, a crafts lodge, an infirmary, three wash houses, and a recreation hall; the remainder are campers' cabins. The oldest extant building is the c. 1931 dining hall; the most recent building was put up around 1972.

The original camp, founded in 1887 by the YMCA as a summer camp for Providence boys, is the second oldest organized youth camp in the world (the first is Camp Dudley in the Adirondacks). The original site was on loaned land on Hog Island. This site, part of the Jerry Brown Farm, was then leased, and in 1912 or 1914, the land was donated to the Providence YMCA by then president, Frederic Fuller; in 1914 the name was changed from Camp Lawton to Camp Fuller By The Sea. In 1977, Camp Fuller became co-educational, and it now serves all of Rhode Island and New England.

CARD PONDS ROAD

- \*\*24. Theatre-By-The-Sea<sup>fn</sup> (1891 et seq.): Theatre-By-The-Sea is a small complex of weathered, wood-shingle buildings west of Matunuck Beach which includes the theatre, an enlarged 19th century barn; the workshop, a small, 1-story shed used to store supplies; the costume shed, a 1½-story, 19th century house; the inn, a large, 2½-story, late 19th-century house with an ell, now used as quarters for the performers and as a restaurant and bar for theatre patrons; and a 1971, 1-story, ranch house style building used as the theatre business office.

Originally part of a large Browning family farm, in 1891, George N. Browning enlarged his house and opened it for summer guests as the Ocean Star Cottage, and enlarged his barn to provide space for his guests' horses and carriages. After George Browning died, in 1914, Mrs. Browning ran the inn until 1919. In 1921, the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tyler of New Haven, who made extensive improvements to the house. Mrs. Alice Tyler, who had a strong interest in the theatre, began using the barn for entertainments by youngsters. After Mr. Tyler died, in 1929, Alice, recruited unemployed theatre carpenters from New York City who were offered free room and board while they helped convert the big barn into a theatre. Most of the equipment came from a small, defunct, movie house in Port Chester, New York. Completed in early 1933, the new playhouse, named Theatre-By-The Sea, was opened in June under Alice Tyler's management. The cottages at the Inn-By-The Sea were also opened for the cast, their guests, and theatre patrons. The 1938 hurricane heavily damaged the theatre, which was rebuilt with double the original seating capacity. Because of the war, the theatre was closed in 1942 and 1943. It operated as a movie house in 1944 and 1945, but it reopened again as a theatre and inn after that. The successful years of 1951 to 1957 were followed by financially poor years following 1958, resulting in the theatre's closing after the 1962 season. Tommy Brent came to the theatre in 1967, when it was in great disrepair, and put it back into proper working order; it reopened on June 18th, and has continued in active use since. Theatre-By-The-Sea is an early New England summer theatre, associated with many famous theatre and movie personalities, and a social and entertainment focus for Rhode Islanders and summer vacationers for well over one half century. (1870- G. F. Browning.)

fn. See the National Register nomination for Theatre-By-The-Sea at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission for a more detailed description and account of this property.

25. Browning Farm: An active farm occupying a large tract of land between Card Ponds Road and Matunuck Schoolhouse Road, centered on a 2½-story, Federal farmhouse. One of many large farms that were located on the coastal plain south of the Post Road, this one, farmed for several hundred years, is today only one of a handful of survivors. (1870- S. Browning.)

#### CURTIS CORNER ROAD

26. Jabez Tucker House (Federal): A 1½-story Cape, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a large wing at the left rear. There are several outbuildings on the property. (1857- Jabez Tucker.)
27. A. Holley House (Federal): A 2½-story dwelling with a large, brick, center chimney and entrance in an enclosed portico at the right side of the front. There are several outbuildings on this lot at the intersection with South Road at Curtis Corner. (1857- A. Holley.)
- \* 28. R. R. Gardner Estate (Late 19th Century): A large, 2½-story, Queen Anne, cross-gable-roof house, with shingle and clapboard sides; a large, stone, exterior chimney at the left side; a shed-roofed piazza, with a modillion course and carpenterwork brackets, across the front; and a 2-story addition at the right rear. There is a fine, large, Victorian barn with a cupola on the large, well-landscaped lot. (1857- R. R. Gardner on site? .)
29. H. M. Holley House (c. 1855): A 2½-story Second Empire house, with 2, small, brick chimneys; a central entry, with side lights, under a flat-roofed veranda across the front; and a gambrel-roofed ell at the rear. There are several outbuildings on the large lot, with a horse farm behind. (1857- H. M. Holley.)
30. G. Tefft House/Farm (Federal; 147 Curtis Corner Road): A 1½-story, wood-shingled Cape, with a large, stone, center chimney, a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and a large, rambling, shingled addition at the rear. The house is well back from the road in the center of a horse farm. There are two, wood-shingled outbuildings, including a large barn now used for horses, and there is a family cemetery on the property. Originally this was a small house with a wing; the present owner, Martin Schwartz, designed and built the large addition in 1979-81. (1857- G. Tefft.)

#### DUGWAY BRIDGE ROAD

31. Dugway Bridge: A wooden-decked bridge, with lattice-work railings, supported by steel beams extending from a central, granite-block pier to granite-block abutments on each side. The bridge, in the sparsely-settled northwest corner of town, occupies a fine, natural site; it is a rare survivor of this type of structure, once a common sight in Rhode Island's hinterland.

32. Eppley Camp (c. 1920): Eppley Camp is centered on a rustic 1½-story, rustic main lodge, with a large, stone fireplace and chestnut and pine paneled interior. The camp buildings include a separate cook house, a guest house, a corn crib, a garage, a boat house, and a lot cabin, on a 9-acre site along the Queens River. The camp was created by Marion Eppley, who founded Eppley Laboratories in Newport in 1915. Once encompassing more than 1300 acres of pine and hardwood forest, mostly in Exeter, the camp was reduced upon the donation of 863 acres to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island upon Marion Eppley's death in 1960.

#### FAIRGROUNDS ROAD

- 32-A. Watson House: A 2½-story, Federal farmhouse, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, in a 5-bay facade, in a porch across the front; and several additions. The house, set back from the road, is one of several Watson family houses in the area. (1870- S. Watson.)

#### GLEN ROCK ROAD

33. Barber House/"By A Brook" (Mid 19th Century; 117 Glen Road Road): A 1½-story vernacular dwelling, with a central entry in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade in the gable end, which faces the road, and an ell at the left side. The simply landscaped lot, which includes a small, wood-shingled shed, is bordered at the left side by stone-lined Sherman Brook. (1857- J. D. Barker?)

#### JINGLE VALLEY ROAD

34. Early 20th Century Farm Complex: Along the north and west sides of Jingle Valley Road is a fine, early 20th century farm complex, centered on a large, wood-shingled barn, a small, shingled, dairy barn, and two silos. The farm buildings, sited near a small pond and a large tract of open land, comprise a fine rural landscape.

#### KINGSTOWN ROAD

- \*35. Isaac Peace Rodman House/The Stone House: (1855; 961 Kingstown Road): A square, dressed-granite-block, Italian Renaissance dwelling, with a cupola at the center of the roof; a veranda across the south side; several small, gabled dormers on three sides of the roof; and a 2-story, granite block wing at the left side. The house occupies a large, well-landscaped lot, with several outbuildings, at the corner of Saugatucket Road at what was known as Rodman's Corner(s). The house was built by Isaac Peace Rodman, eldest son of Samuel, who developed the nearby village of Rocky Brook. Isaac went into manufacturing with his father and brother as S. Rodman & Sons. Active in local and state affairs, Isaac enlisted at the outbreak of the Civil War, raised a military company, and fought at Bull Run, Roanoke, and Newbern before contracting typhoid fever, in April, 1862, and returning home as a brigadier general. He returned to

battle several months later, and at the battle of Antietam, was mortally wounded. The house was vacated by the general's family in the late 1880s; it was closed, and remained vacant until 1910. Since then, it has had several owners, but remains in good condition today. (1857- Isaac P. Rodman.)

36. Bungalow (Early 20th Century; 1228 Kingstown Road): One of several bungalows built in South Kingstown in the early 20th century, this fine, wood-shingled residence features a 1-story porch created by the overhanging roof in front, and a smaller, recessed porch in a pedimented central section, at the attic level.

(For Numbers 1243-1382 Kingstown Road see Kingston Historic District, #3).
37. Alfred Schmidt Estate (1931; 1428 Kingstown Road): An early 20th century suburban estate centered on a 2½-story house with multiple, steep-roofed gables. The house, set on a well-landscaped estate, with rhododendrons and other shrubs and trees, and stone walls along the road, is typical of houses built during this period.
38. N. C. Peckham House (Mid 19th Century): A 2½-story, Greek Revival structure, with paired, brick, interior chimneys and a central entry in a 5-bay facade in a wrap-around piazza. (1855- N. Peckham.)
39. Peckham Cemetery (#5) and Old Fernwood Cemetery (#6): Along the north side of the road, opposite Fernwood Cemetery, are a pair of old, well-maintained burying grounds. They are separated by a dirt road. The one west of the road, a Peckham burying ground, is set behind an iron fence. The larger cemetery, on a slight terrace behind stone walls, includes many headstones. (1895- Cemetery.)

#### LIBERTY LANE

40. Clark Homestead (c. 1889): A 2½-story, multi-gabled, granite block structure, with some architectural details, including patterned wood shingles, sunburst motifs, and a Palladian window in the front gable; and a round-headed door and window in front. At the rear of the lot is a stone garage, and a house used as an office. The farm was in the Clark(e) family for many generations. A gambrel-roofed dwelling was the original homestead. This building, constructed entirely from materials obtained on the estate, was built by John G. Clarke, 2nd, a clerk of the supreme court from 1865 to 1883, and a representative in the general assembly. Later, the estate was acquired by Judge Sweeney. Today, it is Liberty Lane Apartments. (1831- J. J. Clarke Esq. [on site].)

#### MATUNUCK BEACH ROAD

41. Daniel F. Jones "Compound" (Mid 19th Century, c. 1913 et seq.; 722 Matunuck Beach Road): The Daniel Fiske Jones Compound consists of two houses and several outbuildings set on a lovely, landscaped

lot near Post Road. The building near the Matunuck Beach Road was originally the farmhouse of the Browning family, probably built in the early 19th century. The house at the rear was built as a barn. In the early 20th century, Mrs. Daniel F. Jones visited Edward E. Hale at his summer house nearby; soon after, Dr. Jones a noted Boston physician, rented this place, which he purchased about 1913 and used it as a summer residence. In 1931, the barn was converted into a house under George Locke Howe's direction. After Dr. Jones' death in 1937, the property went to his two daughters. Two rooms were added to the former barn in 1942 using Rockwell Du Moulin's plans, and the place became a permanent residence in 1943. (1857- R. Alien.)

#### MATUNUCK SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD

- \* 42. Browning Homestead Farm/Harbet Farm (1730 et seq.): A large farm at Matunuck, centered on two, joined, wood-shingled houses. The larger house, a 2-story structure, has a small, brick, off-center chimney; an entry with side lights in an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; and a 2-story ell at the rear. The adjacent Cape has a tall, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a very small shed dormer at the right side. The buildings occupy a house lot next to a farm complex of wood-shingled barns and sheds, several silos, and quonset huts. The extensive farm, an outstanding rural landscape, has been in the Browning family since the 17th century. (1870- W. & T. Browning.)
- \* 43. Samuel Perry House (1696-1716; 844 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road): A 2-story, end chimney house with a large, stone chimney near the left end; an entry at the left side of a 3-bay facade; multi-paned windows; and a 1½-story shed roof at the left side. According to tradition, the house was built by Samuel Perry, who came to South Kingstown in 1686 and died in 1716. The house remained in the Perry family until 1809, then went through several owners. In 1956, when surveyed by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for the Historic American Buildings Survey, it was vacant and its windows were broken, but Robert P. Hall acquired the property in 1957 and restored the house, which remains in well-preserved condition today. (1855- Wm. L. Browning.)
- \* 44. Green Farm/Windy Meadows (c. 1850 et seq.): Windy Meadows is a large tract of open land between the road and Truston Pond, centered on a 1½-story Greek Revival, T-plan house, and a complex of wood-shingled outbuildings. Around the buildings are fields bounded by stone walls, the ensemble constituting an aesthetically outstanding landscape. The land along the pond, a 115-acre parcel, was acquired by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, which turned it over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1981. (1857- N. Green & Co.)
- 45. S. S. Tucker House (Mid 19th Century; 870 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled farmhouse, with a brick, center chimney; a central entry, with a later portico, in a 5-bay facade; a 1-story, flat-roofed addition at the rear; and an outbuilding. The house is set back from the road on a private drive. (1870- S. S. Tucker.)

MIDDLE BRIDGE ROAD

46. Pettaquamscutt Rock: Also known as Treaty Rock, on this site--a rock outcrop above the Pettaquamscutt, or Narrow River--in 1657/58 the Pettaquamscutt Purchase was negotiated between a group of white men--John Hull of Boston, and John Porter, Samuel Wilbor, Samuel Willson, and Thomas Mumford of Rhode Island--and several Narragansett sachems--Quassaquanch, Kachanaquant, and Quassaquack. The purchase area, loosely referred to as the Narragansett Country, included all of today's South Kingstown and Narragansett and parts of North Kingstown and Exeter. (1857- Pettaquamscot Rock.)
47. Site of Cajoot Lead Mine: Near the southeast end of Tower Hill, south of Pettaquamscutt Rock, and several hundred feet west of Middle Bridge Road, is the site of the old Cajoot, or Tower Hill Lead Mine. John Hull, a prosperous Boston goldsmith, was included as one of the original Pettaquamscutt purchasers because of his wealth and knowledge of precious metals. The purchasers thought they had a black lead mine and hoped for gold and silver. Plumbago, or graphite, was found in several places, and was used for moulding dust in iron foundries. Thirty tons were recovered at one time by digging only four feet into the rocks of the hill. Reportedly, Indians smeared their faces with lead as a sign of mourning. Today, the old shaft is still there, but is filled in. (1857- Cojoot Lead Mine.)
48. J. T. Gould House (Early-Mid 19th Century): A Cape, with a brick center chimney, a central entry, with side lights, in a 5-bay facade, and a shed roof addition at the rear. (1857- J. T. Gould.)
49. E. Saunders House (Early-Mid 19th Century): A wood-shingled Cape, with a small, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with side lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a small, shed roof addition at the right side. (1857- E. Saunders?)
- \*\*50. Site of Jireh Bull House (17th Century): A granite marker set on a fieldstone base, on a small, grassy lot near Middle Bridge, marks the existence of the Jireh Bull House which stood some distance uphill from the marker. In 1663 Jireh Bull purchased a 20-acre lot along the river, and in 1668 was given 500 acres (including the 20 acre lot) by the Pettaquamscutt purchasers. He erected a stone house, referred to as a garrison house, on the eastern slope of Tower Hill, in the mid 17th century, which he used as a trading post much as Richard Smith had done at Cocomscussoc. During King Philip's War, the two garrison houses were designated places for troops assembling in the area in preparation for an attack on the Narragansetts in the Great Swamp. Seventeen people sought refuge from marauding Indians here. Before the troops arrived, the Indians attacked and burned the house on December 15, 1675, resulting in the death of 15 men, women, and children. After the war, Jireh Bull erected a dwelling near the site of the old house. The house was occupied and the land farmed for many years, until eventually the house decayed or was torn down. The stone wall foundations were used in the early 19th century for

the building of stone walls on the farm. The site remained obscure and went without notice until the early 20th century, when, under the Society of Colonial Wars, an archeological excavation was conducted, led by Norman Isham and Thomas G. Hazard, Jr., and the foundations were unearthed. In 1920, the site was given to the Rhode Island Historical Society. A reexamination of the site was conducted in 1981 by a field methods class of Brown University Anthropology Department; this study demonstrated the archeological importance of the site. The Jireh Bull site was entered in the National Register in 1983.

51. Middle Bridge: A causeway type bridge over the Pettaquamscutt, or Narrow River, with long approaches of large, irregularly-shaped granite blocks, which are covered with asphalt and lined with concrete, "Jersey barriers", and a wooden pier and railing central bridge section.

#### MINISTERIAL ROAD

52. Ministerial Road Scenic Roadway: Ministerial Road is an approximately six-mile long, north-south route connecting Kingstown Road with Post Road the the Ocean Scenic Highway. It crosses a section of the Great Swamp in its northern part, and in the south, in an area known as the Matunuck Hills, traverses the terminal moraine of the last glacier to cover Rhode Island. Both areas contain a large amount of laurels and rhododendron. The road takes its name from the ministerial lands, which were set aside in 1668 to help support a minister, but Ministerial Road itself was not laid out until 1857. In 1965, the Highway Beautification Act was passed by the U.S. Congress; in 1966, the Rhode Island legislature passed an act authorizing financing for landscaping and scenic enhancement of highways within the state. Governor John Chafee was instrumental in initiating a study for Ministerial Road, which was considered the highest quality scenic road in the state. Plans were drawn up for acquisition of land along both sides of the road, but no action was ever taken towards acquiring the land. The road today, primarily used by University of Rhode Island students as a short cut between the campus and the popular local beaches, is one of the most scenic in Rhode Island, with some properties of historical interest.
53. Camp Hoffman (1921 et seq.): Camp Hoffman is a 75-acre Girl Scout camp along Larkin Pond, comprised of a caretaker's house, a workshop, a longhouse, a skills center, and a large number of cabins and houses. The Girl Scout camp was started here in 1921. At first, there were tents in the center. In 1923, encampments were set up around the edge of the central meadow and a summer cottage was transformed for use as an infirmary, a camphouse and kitchen were built, and the waterfront developed. Many of the buildings were constructed of second-cut lumber known as "wainy-edged" boards, by Paul Eldred, the camps caretaker and builder. This

style of construction was used for later buildings. The old homestead, the Sweet Briggs House, was rebuilt as the New Old House in the 1930s. Other buildings were also rebuilt. In the 1930s, the Briggs family cemetery was cleared and trails cut. (1857- E. Briggs.)

54. Ministerial Marker: A large, roughly rectangular, granite slab, about six by two feet, resting on granite blocks, in a small clearing at the junction with Curtis Corner Road. The stone is inscribed, "Ministerial Land - 300 acres set apart June 4, 1668 by the Pettaquamscutt Purchasers - Income to the Ministry". The ministerial lands, near the northeast corner of Worden Pond, were connected to the town's original settlement at Tower Hill by a 17th century road. Although the intent of setting up the land tract was to attract a minister to preach to the inhabitants, there was no ministerial settlement ever made here and in 1821, the land was divided and sold, the funds going to the Kingston Congregational Church.
- \* 55. Tucker-Albro House (c. 1739; 155 Ministerial Road): A Cape, set gable end to the road; with a large, stone, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a large ell at the rear. There are two outbuildings on a relatively large lot that includes stone wall-bounded open land. The house and land are part of a parcel that was acquired, probably by a member of the Tucker family, in the early 18th century. John Tucker (1742-1806) owned 400 acres of land extending from Tucker Pond to Worden Pond. This house was probably built as a farmhouse in 1739. It remained in the Tucker family until the late 19th century, when it was acquired by John Albro, who continued farming the land. In 1965, the house was sold and restored and renovated. Although much of the property behind the house remains in open fields, the land has not been farmed for many years. (1831- Tucker.)
56. Camp Aquapaug (1931 et seq.): A Boy Scout camp extending from the road to Worden Pond and encompassing about 250 acres. There are a cabin, a ranger's headquarters, and 3 shelters. The property was once owned by Albert E. Lownes, who used it as a wildlife sanctuary. In 1931, John Hutchins Cady designed a replica of a 17th century house, which was built near the pond; he also worked on other camp buildings, which were built in rustic fashion. In 1935, Albert Lownes gave his property to the Boy Scouts for camping and as a wildlife sanctuary. It is still actively used for scout activities today.
57. Perryville Grange (c. 1927): A simple, rectangular, wood-shingled structure, with a fieldstone foundation and a central entry in the gable end, which faces Ministerial Road. The grange hall is one of many established throughout the state for grange members-- originally an organization for people interested in agrarian matters.

## MOONSTONE BEACH ROAD

58. Watson House (18th Century): A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, wood-shingled; typical early Rhode Island house, with a large, brick, center chimney and a transom light entry in an asymmetrical 4-bay facade. There is a large barn on the property. (1857- Mrs. E. Watson.)
- \*\*59. Perry-Carpenter Grist Mill (1716 et seq.): A small, wood-shingled structure, set on a stone and concrete foundation, with a shed addition at the east end that houses the turbine and power transmission equipment. The mill was reportedly built by James Perry in 1716 at another location on Mill Pond. Sometime before 1789, it was moved here and operated under a number of different owners. In 1874, it was purchased by Wanton R. Carpenter, and remained in that family for 90 years. The Carpenters installed the shed addition in the early 20th century. The mill still makes johnny cake meal on an irregular schedule. (1855- Grist Mill.)
60. R. Champlin House (1747): A heavily-altered Cape, set back from the road on a large lot that includes an old barn. (1857- R. Champlin.)
61. Browning-Clark House (Greek Revival): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, Greek Revival house with a small, stuccoed, off-center chimney and a central, hip-roofed portico entry in a 5-bay facade. (1857- W. T. Browning.)
62. Colonial Mill Farm (18th Century; 860 Moonstone Beach Road): A complex of several old, wood-shingled buildings, including a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story house with a small, brick, center chimney and an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade. A large barn is located close to the road; behind the house, along a small brook, are the ruins of a shoddy mill destroyed in the 1920s.

## MOORESFIELD ROAD

63. Mooresfield Farm (Mid 19th Century; 299 Mooresfield Road): A small farm just east of Kingston, set behind a fine, high stone wall along the road, which includes a barway. The farmhouse is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, wood-frame structure with a shed roof addition at the rear. Next to the house is an outstanding farm complex dominated by a fine, wood-shingled barn. (1857- A. S. Case?)
64. Tootell House/Hedgerow (1933): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, wood-shingled, Neo-Colonial house with 2, large, interior brick chimneys; a central, pedimented portico in a 5-bay facade; and a large ell at the right side, set gable end to the road. The house was designed by Gunther and Beamis Associates of Boston for Mrs. F. Delmont Tootell. Elizabeth Clark Gunther of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was landscape architect for the 3-acre grounds, which contain unusual plantings and a garden house.

65. Rose Hill Farm (Federal): A wood-shingled Cape with a brick center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. The large, landscaped lot, set behind a quarried granite wall along the road, includes a shed, a corn crib, and a barn foundation with massive granite blocks. The farm was in the locally important Rose family for many generations. (1857- G. Rose.)
- (See also Mooresfield Historic District, #6)
66. C. Slocum Farm (c. 1865: off Mooresfield Road): A farm, sited near the North Kingstown town line, centered on a 1½-story, vernacular, wood-shingled farmhouse, with a brick, off-center chimney; a central, porticoed entry in a 5-bay facade; and a 1-story ell at the rear. There is a small house lot, and extensive fields to the south. The farm, north of the Mooresfield district, is at the end of a long, private drive, lined in places by stone walls. (1870- C. Slocum.)
- \*\*67. Palmer Gardner House (18th Century): A large, 2½-story, typical Rhode Island farmhouse with a large, brick, center chimney; an unusual doorway (perhaps a later addition), with a broken scroll pediment and fluted pilasters, central in a 5-bay facade; twelve-over-twelve windows; and an ell at the rear. The large lot, set behind granite walls, has an outbuilding complex that includes two, wood-shingled barns. The house, extensively renovated in the 1970s, was, according to a local historian, probably built by a Watson and moved here from North Kingstown about 1800. (1855- P. Gardner.)
68. E. G. Slocum Farm (Mid 19th Century; 3503 Mooresfield Road): A small farm with open fields bounded by stone walls; centered on a 1½-story, vernacular, mid-19th century farmhouse. Nearby are several outbuildings--a cow barn, a horse barn, and a corn crib. This small farm is one of many of this type in South County. (1857- E. G. Slocum.)

#### NORTH ROAD

- (See also Kingston Historic District, #3)
69. School Number 3 (1882): A 2½-story, gable-and-hip-roofed, late 19th-century schoolhouse, with lattice work in the gable end, and paired, vertical, multi-paned windows. The schoolhouse, now unused, is set back from the road on a plain lot. (1895- Sch. No. 3.)
70. Job Greenman House (c. 1855; 62 North Road): A 1½-story, L-plan, Bracketed house, with 2, brick, interior chimneys; a bracketed hood entry at the left side of the front section; a 1-story bay at the right front; and an enclosed porch at the front of the rear section. (1862- J. Greenman.)

71. H. Eldred House (c. 1822; 150 North Road): A Federal Cape, with a pair of brick, interior chimneys near the center; a narrow, transom-lighted, central entry in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. The house occupies a fine site, with a picket fence atop granite blocks at the front, and stone walls along the road. There are 3 outbuildings at the rear of the property. (1857- H. Eldred.)
72. Potter-Noyes-Peckham Farm (1805; 221 North Road): A long, 1½-story, wood shingled residence, with an asymmetrical, 11-bay facade with 3 separate entries--a large one at the center and smaller ones at the sides; 4, small, shed dormers across the front; a large, stone, center chimney; and an ell at the rear. On the large lot, which includes excellent stone walls, and fields to the north and south, is a gambrel-roofed barn. The house is set back from the road at the end of a rhododendron-lined driveway. Originally, a large house stood on the property. Once described as an elegant mansion, it was built by Judge William Potter. In about 1777, Potter made a large addition to accommodate the religious zealot, Jemima Wilkinson, who lived here, with his family and her entourage for six years (1777-1783). In 1807, Judge Potter sold his interest in the homestead and moved to Genesee, New York. A new house was built about this time, and later acquired by Elisha R. Potter. In the latter half of the 19th century it was the residence of A. Noyes, then was the home of his grandson, Arthur Peckham, a large landholder. (1857- Judge Wm. Potter Farm, A. Noyes.)

#### OLD SUCCOTASH ROAD

73. The Bliss House (18th Century): A wood-shingled Cape, with a large, stone chimney, originally centered in a 5-bay facade (there is a 1-bay addition at the right side), and a large, 2-story ell at the rear, with later unsympathetic additions. (1857- E. G. Champlin.)
- \* 74. Henry Palmer House (1721; 557 Old Succotash Road): A wood-shingled Cape, with a large, stone, center chimney; a 5-light transom entry, centered in a 5-bay facade; and a 19th century kitchen ell at the north side. The house was reportedly built by Henry Palmer, and was later owned by John P. Sherman, who moved to Matunuck and became a farmer in 1806. His son, John P. (1810-1903), also built a sloop and began a coastal trade. In 1846, after a partnership with Henry Holley, which included running two stores, two sloops, and a large foundry, John Sherman returned to Matunuck and was a farmer and trader until 1873. His daughter, Harriett, married Clarke M. Sheldon, and lived here until 1908. (1857- J. P. Sherman.)

#### POST ROAD

75. The Manor: A large, 2½- and 3-story, multi-gabled structure, with 5, brick chimneys and a flat-roofed, central porticoed entry, with side and transom lights. The house, sited at the end of a

stone-wall-lined driveway in the center of a large, landscaped tract, was originally part-of the J. Robinson estate. It has been used as a nursing home for about the past 20 years.  
(1862- S. A. Robinson.)

76. Edgewood Farm (1877; off Post Road): Occupying a large tract of land, including an outstanding dry-laid stone wall and tree-lined drive, off Post Road, is a large estate centered on a large, rambling, wood-shingled house and several outbuildings. It is part of an estate "district" that was developed by the Robinson family in the 19th century. Several of the outbuildings here were converted to residential use by Robinson family members in the 20th century. (1895- "Edgewood"; J. P. Robinson Estate.)
- \* 77. Jeremiah P. Robinson House/Endelar (1887; 145 Post Road): A large and elaborate Queen Anne dwelling with wood-shingle and stone sides; several large, stone chimneys; an irregular plan; a veranda at the south side; and a round tower with a conical roof. Set back and secluded from Post Road, its rear part is now visible from Route 1. The large, well landscaped lot was once part of the J. P. Robinson estate.

A nearby residence was originally the carriage house-stable on the estate. This structure also has wood-shingle and stone sides, large stone chimneys, and a round tower with a conical roof, and an enclosed garage section at the left side. The 80-foot-long building, erected in 1889 by J. P. Robinson, had a double door entry for horses and carriages. Architect James E. B. Walker drew up plans for conversion of the building into a 10-room residence; the project was completed in 1948 for the daughters of J. P. Robinson.

Both Endelar and the carriage house-stable were designed by architect Stanford White, of the firm of McKim, Mead, and White. (1895- "Edgewood"; J. P. Robinson Est.)

78. Lewis-Madiera House (Mid 20th Century; off Post Road): A 1½-story, wood-shingled house, at the end of a long, private drive, above the Pots--a long, northern finger of Point Judith Pond. The house, adjacent to the Watson Tract, is used as a summer house by Louis Madiera and his wife, a former Lewis.
- \* 79. William Congdon House/Brookfield (c. 1690, 1930; 159 Post Road): A large house, sited on a landscaped lot at the end of a private drive. Originally a modest end chimney dwelling, it was radically changed in 1930. Under architect Albert Harkness' direction, the main part of the house was raised to 2½-stories, the ell enlarged, and a large addition made. The structure was transformed from a typical, early Rhode Island dwelling into a Neo-Colonial residence, a style commonly used by Harkness and in vogue in America and Rhode Island in the early 20th century. Another 17th century Congdon House nearby (#82-A) was also dramatically changed in appearance in the early 20th century. (1857- W. B. & W. P. Docray.)

80. House (Mid 19th Century; 161 Post Road): A 1½-story, wood-shingled, vernacular dwelling, with a central, Greek Revival entry in a 5-bay, south-facing facade; a small, brick chimney; 2 shed dormers at the south side; and several wood-shingled outbuildings. The large lot is set behind stone walls along the road (1857- J. B. Dockray?)
81. Champlin House (Federal): A 1½-story, wood-shingled house, with a large, brick, off-center chimney and an asymmetrical, 5-bay facade. The house, on a neat, terraced lot, was in the Champlin family in the last half of the 19th century. (1857- Mrs. B. Champlin.)
- \* 82. The Watson Tract: Between Post Road and Point Judith Pond is a rectangular tract of land, once the 211 acre estate of the Reverend Elisha F. Watson, which today includes an extensively remodeled 17th-century house, a 19th-century mill site, dam, and pond, and more than a half dozen houses built in the 20th century by Reverend Elisha Watson's descendants and family.

The old farmhouse was one of two Congdon family houses built in the immediate area in the 1690s. It was a typical early Rhode Island farmhouse, with a large end chimney; a gambrel roof; narrow, multi-paned windows; a simply-framed entry in an asymmetrical facade; and a steeply-pitched, shed roof addition at one end. Little is known of the Congdon family or of the history of the venerable dwelling before it was acquired by Elisha F. Watson (1814-1900), through marriage to Mary Dockray. Watson, a Brown University graduate and ordained minister, served several churches in Rhode Island before he retired to the estate, called Matunuck Brook Farm. In 1857, he constructed a substantial stone and earth dam along Matunuck Brook, creating a pond that provided water power for a grist mill he built. Elisha Watson was away again from about 1859 to 1864, including a three-year Army service as chaplain during the Civil War. Returning home to stay, he served as superintendent of schools for several years, was active in the temperance movement, and raised Shetland ponies which were sold to Newport and Long Island estates.

Elisha's son, Arthur H. (1849-1915), also a Brown University graduate, lived in Providence, where he engaged in commercial and industrial enterprises, including the electric company, banking, the railroad, and a steamboat company. After Elisha's death in 1900, the place was used as a summer residence and the land divided among the heirs. Some house lots were platted, but most of the 211-acre tract was left undivided. During the 20th century, family members began constructing houses on small lots. Most of them were architect designed and used as summer residences at first; later, many became year-round houses.

In 1906, the first of the family houses was erected by Arthur Watson for his daughter, Mary, who married Freeman Crocker. A decade later, Arthur's son, Byron Sprague Watson, erected a large

house. In keeping with the modern building styles, the old Congdon House was extensively renovated and enlarged in 1921 by architect Norman M. Isham, essentially obliterating the style and scale of the original dwelling. About 1930, two more houses were built on the Watson tract, and shortly before World War II, two more were added. The last house built on the original Watson tract went up about 1965.

One more houses was built, on adjacent land, in 1968, this one on a 70-acre parcel purchased earlier by Charles Fletcher (who married a Watson.)

The most noteworthy structures and sites on the Watson Tract today are:

- 82-A. The Congdon House/Elisha Watson House (1690-1700, 1921) A large, cross-gambrel-roofed, wood-shingled house, with several, large, fieldstone chimneys and a porte-cochere entrance at the west side. The large estate, which included several outbuildings behind the house, is set on a landscaped lot behind stone walls along Post Road. It was the residence of the Reverend Elisha F. Watson for much of the 19th century. In 1921, it was extensively renovated and enlarged by architect Norman M. Isham, and was used as a summer residence for several decades thereafter. (1857- Rev. E. F. Watson.)
- 82-B. Site of Elisha Watson's Grist Mill (1857): In 1857, Elisha Watson built a dam and grist mill along the southeast side of Elisha Watson's Mill Pond, along Smelt Brook (formerly Matunuck Brook). Later, the mill was dismantled and the stones eventually removed to Charlestown. Little trace remains of the grist mill today, but the well-constructed stone and earth dam and the former mill pond remain there. (1857- Grist Mill [Mattoonuck Brook].)
- 82-C. "Croftmere" (1906) A large, rambling; wood-shingled, L-plan, house, with two, large, stone chimneys; gambrel and gable-on-hip roofs; shed dormers; and several porches formed by the overhanging roof. Nearby is a wood-shingled, octagonal tower with a weathervane. house is set back from the road on a large, landscaped lot. Designed by W. G. Sheldon, the house was built in 1906 for Elisha Watson's granddaughter, Mary, as a wedding present upon her marriage to Freeman Cocroft.
- 82-D. Byron Sprague Watson House (c. 1917): A large, 2½-story residence, on a large, landscaped lot, with a brick, center chimney and a central entry with a pedimented hood, semi-circular fanlight, and side lights. The house, on a maple-lined drive, was built about 1917 for Byron Sprague Watson, the only son of Arthur H. Subsequent owners added two small cottages and a stable for hackney ponies.

- 82-E. E. Lewis Houses (1928): Two houses, designed by Albert Harkness, built for John B. Lewis and Arthur H. W. Lewis.
- 82-F. Davis House (c. 1939): A 1½-story, L-plan, wood-shingled house, sited near the south end of the mill pond. It was designed by architect Peter Geddes for use as a summer house. A nearby garage was recently converted to residential use.
- 82-G. Firewater Farm (1940): A 1½-story, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed residence, with a large, stone, center chimney; a simple entry near the center; two shed dormers; and a later addition at the south rear. The house which occupies an exceptionally lovely site at the west end of Smelt Brook Cove on Point Judith Pond, was built in 1940 as a hunting lodge and summer camp after plans by local architect Rockwell King DuMoulin. About a decade later, it was winterized and enlarged. An island several hundred feet southwest of the house is, according to historian Sidney S. Rider (The Lands of Rhode Island, 1904), the "Little Island Nahigonset", the source of the name, Narragansett, coined by Roger Williams.
- 82-H. Reverend John B. Lewis House (c. 1965): A contemporary dwelling built by Reverend John B. Lewis, rector of the Saunderstown Episcopal Church.
- 82-I. Hinman House (c. 1968): A contemporary house, built by U.S. Army Major General D. S. T. Hinman, Ret., sited on the 70-acre parcel acquired earlier by Charles Fletcher. Hinman married Anita H. Watson Fletcher.
83. Congdon Farm (Mid 19th Century; 172 Post Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled farmhouse, with a small, brick chimney; a central entry with a later, hip-roofed hood; and a large ell at the rear. The farm occupies a large tract along the road, with about a half dozen outbuildings. (1857- W. Congdon.)
84. William Peckham House/The Whaley House (c. 1806; 176 Post Road): A 2½-story house with a large, brick, center chimney and a later central entry with a simple, flat moulded entablature and side lights in an irregular facade--a 5-bay first floor and a 4-bay second story. The house was probably built by Judge William Peckham (1781-1863) when he acquired the land about 1806. At one time a tannery was located on the property, south of the house, in an orchard. The house is also known as the Whaley House for the family that occupied it after 1863 for many years. (1857- Judge Peckham, Tannery.)
85. House: A 2½-story, Federal house, with a pair of small, brick, interior chimneys; an enclosed, central entrance portico in a 5-bay facade; and a 1½-story, gambrel-roofed wing at the right side, rear. The house, set back from the road on a landscaped lot, was moved here from its original location near Point Judith Road in the town of Narragansett.

\*\*86. Commodore Perry Farm<sup>fn</sup> (1815 et seq.; 184 Post Road): The Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry farm encompasses 250 acres of field and woodland in the eastern part of the Matunuck Hills. Included in the farm tract is a 21-acre parcel around the house and several outbuildings. The main house is an extensively renovated and enlarged farmhouse. Outbuildings consist of a 1½-story, gambrel-and gable-roofed, early 19th-century barn remodeled as a residence; an early 20th-century garage converted to a caretaker's house; a small barn; a chicken house; and a springhouse or well house. Stone walls, which divide the grounds around the house and barn into a lane, orchard, night pasture, and field, enhance the scenic quality of the property. Some distance north of the house is an old Perry family burying ground.

The present house was built about 1815 by Oliver Hazard Perry or his father, Christopher, on the site of Freeman Perry's dilapidated old "mansion house" of 1743. Oliver Hazard Perry purchased part of the homestead farm at an auction in 1814, and added two other parcels of the old farm. In 1824, Oliver's widow, Elizabeth C., sold the farm to her uncle, Christopher G. Champlin, who later sold it out of the family. George Tiffany of New York, a son-in-law of Matthew C. Perry, purchased the farm in 1865. Rented out to tenants, by the early 20th century it was in a state of dilapidation. In 1929, after calls for preservation and restoration of the Perry House as a memorial by local historians and patriotic organizations, Mrs. Perry Tiffany, widow of George Tiffany's son, had the old farmhouse rehabilitated, and it was opened as a museum in honor of both Oliver and Matthew Perry. In the late 1930s and early 40s, interest was lost in the house, which once again deteriorated. The present owners acquired the place as a country house in 1944-45.

Perhaps the most interesting and unusual aspect of the place is the considerable oral, written, cartographic, and even graphic tradition that has grown around the Perry Farm. Maps, beginning as early as 1831, show this place as the birthplace of Commodore Perry. Lossing's Field Book of the War of 1812, published in 1868, describes the place as the "birthplace of Oliver Hazard Perry"; since then, this claim has been repeated in innumerable publications, souvenir prints, photos, and post cards. Although research has indicated that Oliver Perry was not born here, the symbolic, quasi-mystical associations with him give it an unusual but real historical significance. (1831- Birth Place of Com. O. Perry.)

fn: See the National Register nomination at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission for a more detailed account of this property.

- \* 87. Rocky Meadows Farm (1754; 205 Post Road): A 2½-story, Colonial farmhouse, with a large, brick, center chimney; an entry, near the center of the asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; and an ell at the rear. The house occupies a fine site on a large lot that includes several fine outbuildings. Reportedly, a great room in the basement was once used as a tavern. A Dr. Durfee, who renovated and occupied the house for many years, used it as a rest home for some of his patients. (1857- Mrs. J. Hazard.)
88. House (Federal; 218 Post Road): A 2½-story house, set gable end to the road, with a large, brick, center chimney; a recessed entry at the right side of the 4-bay gable end; and a 1-story addition at the right side with a veranda across the front. (1857- Hazard?)
89. Whaley Farm (Mid 19th Century; 226 Post Road): A 1½-story, L-plan, farmhouse, with a central entry in a 3-bay facade, and a complex of several 19th and 20th century outbuildings. Fields extend to the southeast. An older house was incorporated into a barn near the present residence. (1857- E. Whaley.)
90. Hazard House (18th Century; 269 Post Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed house, its end to the road, with an enclosed porch across the front, and several additions. Part of a large farmstead, with stone walls and rocky fields near the house, it was reportedly built by Judge Carder Hazard. (1857- Mrs. J. Hazard?)
91. Samuel G. Potter House (c. 1804): A wood-shingled, Federal Cape, with a stone center chimney; a central, transom-light entry in a 5-bay facade; two, small shed dormers at the right side; and a small ell. There is a wood-shingled barn nearby. The house was built by Samuel G. Potter (1753-1804), who served several terms as Rhode Island's Lieutenant Governor. (1857- W. S. Perry.)
- \*\*92. John Potter House/The Great House (c. 1730, 1945; 664 Post Road): A 1½-story, wood-shingled, renovated 18th century house, with several entries; a large, brick chimney at the east side, flanked by shed dormers; and a 1-story ell at the west end. The house occupies an outstanding site along the north shore of Potter Pond. It was the residence of John Potter, an 18th century "squire" and an acknowledged but not convicted counterfeiter. The house, originally a 2½-story, gambrel-roofed structure, became dilapidated in the early 20th century. It was restored after 1945; the western part was torn down and the roof changed and re-oriented. The house retains fine mid 18th-century interior woodwork, some original and some removed from a contemporary house in Newport. (1857- Great House.)
93. Pond House (1973): Near Great House is this large complex, hip-roofed structure, with hip-roofed dormers, and 2, large, square towers. The house designed by architect Rockwell King DuMoulin, is sited on a terrace behind a field stone wall and commands a sweeping view of Potter Pond to the south.

94. Hidden Hearth (Late 19th Century; 694 Post Road): A pair of rustic shingled-and-stone-sided buildings, one converted from a carriage house, are sited on a large lot screened from the road by a row of evergreens. They were the property of Charles Matlack of Boston, who probably built them. (1895- C. Mattack.)
95. Robert Beverly Hale Library (1896 et seq.): A 1-story structure, with a stone-and-brick chimney; a central entry with a semi-elliptical fanlight and sidelights; and later, flanking and projecting, 1-story wings. This small library, which serves the Matunuck and Perryville area, was dedicated to the memory of Robert Beverly Hale, a poet who died at an early age.
96. Edward Everett Hale House (1880s; 698 Post Road): A large, wood-shingled, 3½-story, cross-gambrel-roofed house, with 2 gable dormers; a small wing at each side, and an ell at the rear. It sits above the highway, facing south, with a commanding view of the coastal plain and nearby ocean. The house was built by Wager Weeden for Edward Everett Hale, a Unitarian minister and writer, and author of "The Man Without a Country". Edward Hale lived in Boston and spent some summers here; some of his descendants still live in the area. (1895- W. B. Weeden.)
97. Elizabeth Perkins House (1954; 684 Post Road): A 1-story, flat-roofed, vertical board and glass-sided, contemporary dwelling. The house, set on a large lot at the end of a private drive, was designed by Rockwell King Du Moulin for Elizabeth Perkins in 1954.
98. House (Early 20th Century; 700 Post Road): A 2-story, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed structure, set on a fine site atop a hill with a view of the ocean to the south. There is a stone, hip-roofed garage below. A wood-shingle and stone-sided house to the west may be associated with this property.
99. Wager Weeden Watering Place (1876): A large granite marker and watering trough along a stone wall at the Weeden farm. The marker is inscribed, "To Wager Weeden who lived on this farm from 1826 to 1863 and brought this water [from Wash Pond north of the road] here. Matunuck, 1876."
- \* 100 Weeden Farm/Willow Dell (1753, 1871 et seq.): A 1½-story, gambrel-roofed farmhouse, set back from the road, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and a 2-story wing at the west side. There are several wood-shingled outbuildings on the large, simply-landscaped lot.

The farm was part of a large tract--some 600 acres--extending to the ocean, that originally belonged to John Hull of Boston, one of the Pettaquamscutt Purchasers. In 1753, this house was built by Colonel Jeremiah Bowen (Bowers?) for his daughter. It was

later owned by the Jenckes family, who sold it in 1826 to Wager Weeden (1783-1863). Weeden's only daughter, Elvira, lived here for 62 years and gave it the name Willow Dell. In 1853, William B. Weeden, Wager's grandson, became owner. He added the ell in 1871, later made other improvements, and used it as a summer home. (1831- Judge Weeden.)

101. Upper Weeden Farmhouse (Late 19th Century): A 1½-story, L-plan, wood-shingled residence, with a small, brick chimney, set back from the road on a small, neatly-landscaped house lot. It is associated with the Weeden Farm, and may have been built by William Weeden, who summered here in the late 19th century. (1895- W. B. Weeden.)
102. Sibley Smith House (1942; 1125 Post Road): A 1-story, flat-roofed structure, with vertical-board siding punctuated by large window openings. A contemporary house typical of several others in the area, it was designed by Rockwell King Du Moulin for Sibley Smith, another local architect.

(See Perryville Historic District #8

103. Site of Western Meeting House and Burial Grounds (Historical Cemetery Number 65) (1750 et seq.): A 3-acre burial ground along the road, on a hill overlooking the coastal plain. This tract was given to the Society of Friends in 1750 by James Perry, and a meeting house was built in that year. The meeting house was dismantled in 1888. (1857- Friends Meeting House.)
104. J. C. Crandall House (Federal; 1080 Post Road): A 2½-story structure with a medium-sized, brick, center chimney; an entry with a small portico at the right side of an asymmetrical, 4-bay facade; 2, round dormers in front; a wing at the right side; and a recent, 1-story addition at the left side. The house is sited on a small rise behind a wood picket fence near the new highway. (1857- J. C. Crandall.)

#### ROSE HILL ROAD

- \* 105. George E. Rose, Jr., House (1861-63, 1958): A square, 2-story, granite block, Tuscan Renaissance Revival house with a massive, pilastered, off-center chimney; a recessed, central entry, with a transom and side lights, in a 3-bay facade; a 1-story bay window; and a 2-story, hip-roofed, clapboard-sided addition at the north side. There is a broad patio area along the house, which occupies a large, landscaped tract, with stone walls and wood rail fences. There are several outbuildings, including a barn, rebuilt in 1969, on its original stone base, and a family burial ground and a former quarry on the property.

The house was started in 1861 by George E. Rose, Jr. (1832-1896), a well-known and skilled granite worker and builder, and completed in 1863; it replaced an earlier Rose family dwelling that stood on the site. Stone for the new house came from the quarry on the property; the quarry also supplied material for curbings, stone walls, and bridges, and for the Yawgoo Mill. In 1955, the house and about 150 acres of land were sold out of the Rose family and renovated; five dormers and three small chimneys were removed and the new chimney built, and beams, windows, flooring, and plaster, were replaced. The addition was made in 1967. (1857- G. Rose.)

106. Historical Cemetery Number 10 (Rose Family et al.): A large, rural cemetery, bounded by unusually massive stone walls with huge, granite block cap stones. There are many gravestones, most inscribed with names and dates, but generally lacking ornamentation. Included are members of the Rose, Slocum, Davis, Browning, and Walker families. Some of the 45-50 stones here date from the mid 19th century, but most are from the early 20th century. The cemetery, laid out by George W. Rose, was originally on Mooresfield Road, but a new section of highway by-passed the old burying ground.

#### SAUGATUCKET ROAD

- \* 107. Watson House (c. 1812-20): A 2½-story structure with a large, brick, center chimney; a fine, central entry with a 3-light transom, projecting cornice, and fluted pilasters, in a 5-bay facade; corner quoins; a modillion-and-dentil course at the cornice; and an ell at the rear. This was the residence of Elisha Watson (1776-1847), one of a long line of Watsons who lived here. Elisha, a large landowner, kept a store here in the first years of the 19th century. He was an elector in the presidential election of John Quincy Adams in 1824. There is a Watson family cemetery (Number 22) nearby, on the east side of Rose Hill Road. (1857- Mrs. A. W. Watson.)

- \* 108. William C. Watson House (1838): A 2½-story, rectangular block, Greek Revival structure, with 3, tall, brick, interior chimneys, a central, portico entry in a 5-bay facade; a veranda at the left side; and a monitor roof. There is a 1½-story and a 1-story "telescope" wing at the rear. The ample, well-landscaped lot includes a Victorian wellhouse. (1857- W. C. Watson.)

#### SILVER LAKE

- \*\*109. Shadow Farm (Early 18th Century et seq.): A 70-acre property surrounding and including Silver Lake, containing two houses along the north side of the lake, with lawns, gardens, and vistas, and a number of outbuildings and ancillary buildings. Shadow Farm is part of a 3,000 acre parcel once owned by Rowland Robinson

(1654-1716). Rowland's son, William (1693-1751), who was Deputy Governor of Rhode Island, built a farmhouse, which was occupied by generations of William's descendants. The Robinsons were part of the Narragansett Planter aristocracy. William reportedly was credited with helping develop the Narragansett Pacer, a superior breed of horse that was in great demand in the Carolinas and the West Indies in the 18th century. The property around Silver Lake (known as Kits' Pond in 1857) remained in the Robinson family until 60 acres on the north side were sold to Samuel A. Strang of New York. In 1884, the Strangs began construction of a Queen Anne style house designed by Douglas Smyth of New York. Construction went on for several years before the house was completed. By 1895, a barn, greenhouse, and two smaller buildings were added. Samuel Strang died in 1898, and in 1901 the property was purchased by John L. Welsh of Philadelphia, who also used it as a summer residence. Welsh had the house extensively enlarged and remodeled in the Colonial Revival style in 1904; a large service wing was added to the west side of the house and the barn was altered. Currently, a condominium-townhouse development is proposed on the main 35-acre part, with a total of 74 housing units on the entire 56-acre property. (1857- E. A. Robinson [on site].)

#### SOUTH ROAD

110. John Clarke House (1817; 56 South Road): A 1-story, Federal house, with a small, brick, center chimney; an asymmetrical facade; and a large, 1-story ell at the rear. (1857- Clark.)
- \* 111. Solomon Carpenter House/Chanticleer Farm (c. 1705; 144 South Road): A 2½-story, wood-shingled, Colonial farmhouse, with a brick center chimney; an asymmetrical 4-bay, south-facing facade; and a lean-to addition at the rear. The house, built about 1705 by Solomon Carpenter (1678-1750), was the center of a farm for many years. In the 1920s and 1930s, it was the home of Madame Arnaud Michel and her son. During its occupancy by Madame Arnaud, a French opera star, member of the opera company at Nancy, and head of the French department of the Metropolitan opera school in the early 20th century, the 77-acre farm, which contained sheep and cattle, was known as Chanticleer Farm. (1857- Wm. F. Potter.)
112. Tefft House (1730): A wood-shingled, Colonial Cape, with a large, stone, center chimney; a central entry in a 5-bay facade; and an ell at the east side. There is a barn near the house, which is on a private drive off the road. A Tefft family cemetery (South Kingstown Number 18) is nearby. (1851- J. Tefft.)
113. Daniel L. Briggs House (1857): A 1½-story, wood-shingled structure, with a small chimney behind the ridge; a 4-light transom entry in a 5-bay facade; and a later ell at the rear. The house is part of a 250-acre farm on Tefft Hill. (1857- D. L. Briggs.)

114. H. Case House/Valley Ranch (c. 1860 et seq.): A remodeled, 1½-story, wood-shingled, Second Empire residence, with a stone and a brick chimney and a short, 2-story tower. In 1939, two porches were removed, and a new entryway, designed by Albert Harkness, was added. The outstanding and well-maintained property includes a very fine, wood-shingled carriage house with a high, granite block foundation. A windmill stood on the property until about 1911. Valley Ranch, as it is known today, has always been in the Case family. (1862- H. Case.)
- \* 115. Mileage Marker (1814): A pointed granite marker located just outside and in front of the town pound, indicating that Kingston village was two miles distant. The marker was set here in 1814. (1857- "Marker, Little Rest 2 M.")
- \* 116. Town Pound: Near the road is a former town pound. Like many others built in Rhode Island during the 18th century to impound stray animals, the square enclosure is bounded by stone walls.
117. Peggy Rock Pasture (18th Century; 586 South Road): A Colonial Cape, with a brick center chimney and a central entry in a 5-bay facade. (1857- 'N. Northrup.)

#### SOUTH COUNTY TRAIL

118. The Great Swamp Fight Monument (1906) Site of the Great Swamp Fight (1675): In the center of a grassy clearing at the end of a dirt road is a monument commemorating the Great Swamp Fight between Colonial soldiers and Narragansett Indians. The monument, a tall, irregularly-shaped obelisk, surrounded by five, large, irregular, granite block markers with the names of the several New England colonies involved--Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Plymouth--was erected by the Societies of Colonial Wars of Rhode Island and Massachusetts and dedicated October 20, 1906. The monument commemorates the December 19, 1675 engagement between the Narragansetts and the Colonial soldiers. The Indian fort, site of the fight, is farther back in the swamp. (1857- Narragansett Swamp Fight.)
- \*\*119. Henry Marchant House<sup>fn</sup> (pre-1760): The Henry Marchant Farm is centered on a 2½-story, Colonial farmhouse, with a large, brick, center chimney; a pedimented central entry, framed by Doric pilasters, in a 5-bay facade; and a shallow, lean-to addition across the rear. Near the house is a farm complex-- a wood-shingled barn; an old privy; and a modest, 19th century, shingled shed and carriage house. Also included on the 90 acre lot are the foundations of an early house, and a family cemetery bounded by a low stone wall. The house was built by Joseph Babcock and

<sup>fn</sup>. For a more detailed account of this property see the National Register nomination at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission office.

purchased by Henry Marchant (1741-1796), its most well-known owner, about 1775. Marchant, reared in Newport, was Rhode Island's Attorney General from 1700 to 1777. Between 1777 and 1780, he represented Rhode Island in the Continental Congress, and after the Revolution, Marchant served in the Rhode Island General Assembly. He ran the farm as a Narragansett Planter, while maintaining his mercantile and professional ties to Newport. His son, William (1774-1857) also commuted between South Kingstown and Newport. The land was regularly farmed throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, but in recent years has been used as a rural, retreat. The house has been well maintained throughout its history. Today, the Henry Marchant Farm remains an outstanding and intact complex, important as the home of an important 18th-century Rhode Islander and as a well-preserved mid-18th century house of considerable architectural interest. (1831- Marchant.)

120. Heaton Orchard Bridge, Number 269 (1931): A concrete bridge, with recessed concrete panel sides, over the Usquepaug River. The reinforced concrete arch has a span of 40 feet and is skewed to conform to the stream alignment. An overall width of 53 feet provides for a 4-lane highway and shoulders. The bridge was constructed by the Lutens Bridge Company of Concord, New Hampshire in 1931.

#### TORREY ROAD

121. Welsh House (c. 1915): A 1½-story, stuccoed residence, with wide eaves; a large, hip-roofed, glassed-in section atop the roof; 2, large, hip roof dormers at the south side; an enclosed porch; and a wooden, pergola-like porte cochere. There is a stuccoed garage nearby on this large, grassy property, which is screened by a tall privet hedge. The house, with a grand view to the east and south, toward the bay and ocean, was probably built as a summer residence.
- \* 122. Kymbolde (Early 20th Century): A large, Colonial Revival house on a large estate, with a large, brick, exterior chimney; a 2-story, tetrastyle porch-pavilion in front; and flanking, 1-story, flat-roofed dependencies. There is a stone garage, and another house, on this large, well-landscaped property which has a view of the river below and ocean beyond. The place was built by Charles Dean Kimball, governor of Rhode Island from 1901 to 1903, after plans by architect Stanford White, of McKim, Mead and White.

#### TOWER HILL ROAD

- \* 123. Observation Tower (1936-37) and Hannah Robinson Rock: The observation tower is a wooden structure, several stories high, with a hip roof. The tower occupies a small, park-like setting with a paved parking lot adjacent to it; nearby is the rock outcrop known as Hannah Robinson Rock.

The present tower, built on a high elevation along the coast, was the site of a stone lookout tower in about 1759. Although this site was used at various times thereafter as a lookout, the next

tower, the present one, was not built until 1936, when Route 138 was constructed and the area at the intersection purchased by the state. The recreation area laid out was named Hannah Robinson's Park after the woman who held secret meetings with her lover near the site of the present tower (according to one of the several versions of the Hannah Robinson legend). The tower was built during the summers of 1936 and 1937 by the Rhode Island Department of Public Works. It was used during World War II by the U.S. Army Signal Corps, which enclosed the sides for protection from the weather, and maintained a 24-hour watch during the war. The tower was returned to the state in 1945 and reconditioned for its present use.

124. Brown House (c. 1750): A 2½-story structure, set end to the road, with a central entry, with side lights, in a 5-bay facade, and a later balustraded deck on the roof. There is a wood-shingled barn, with a cupola, behind the house, on the large lot that includes stone walls and a family burying ground. The property was purchased from Caleb Arnold by Jeremiah Brown in 1685; the house was probably built by either his son, Samuel, or by Jeremiah. (1857- J. Nichols; Jer. Brown Farm.)
125. Site of Tower Hill: At and near the junction of Tower Hill Road (the old Post Road), Torrey Road, and Saugatucket Road are several residential and commercial structures, an old burying ground, and several sites, at what was once the settlement known as Tower Hill. Tower Hill, near the site of the Pettaquamscutt Purchase treaty signing, was the first settlement in the Narragansett Country. The first house was built here in the 17th century; by 1729, it was a community of considerable size. By then, the Post Road had been established and the Narragansett Planters had begun their period of prosperity. In 1732, the county seat was established at Tower Hill, which got its name in 1740. The principal village in South County, it contained, at various times, a hotel, dry goods and grocery stores, two churches, the court house, a jail, a large tavern, a school, and two blacksmith shops. There was a training lot for militia at the foot of the hill. In 1752, a new court house was built at Little Rest (Kingston) and the county seat moved there. After that, Tower Hill declined in size and importance, but remained a small community throughout the 19th century with the number of buildings gradually diminishing. In 1895, there was a school, a Baptist church, and several houses. Today, none of the extant structures dates from the 18th century. The most important property, and reminder of Tower Hill's former glory, is the Tower Hill (Heime-Torrey) Cemetery (South Kingstown Number 26), which includes the site of the Tower Hill Congregational Church, the predecessor to the Kingston Congregational Church. It was built on an acre of land given by Samuel and Hannah Sewall for a public meeting house in 1707. The Reverend Samuel Niles, the first Rhode Island native to graduate from Harvard, came here in 1702, and remained for eight years. About 1732, the

Reverend Joseph Torrey became minister of the church and served until his death in 1781. In 1820, the church moved to Little Rest and the building eventually deteriorated and was torn down. Today, only the cemetery remains, with its old fieldstone markers, and engraved headstones dating from 1746, including the grave-stone of Dr. Joseph Torrey. (1831- Tower Hill P.O.)

- \* 126. Shadblow Farm (1810): A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, Federal farmhouse, with 2, large, brick, interior chimneys; a central, pedimented entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; 2, small, gable dormers in front; and ell's at the right side and rear. This fine residence occupies a small, neat, well-landscaped house lot, including stone walls and several outbuildings, surrounded by farmland. (1857- W. T. Nichols.)
- 127. Shepherd's Run (1933): A large estate, centered on a large, Norman-style stone house set back from the road. Originally owned by the Sturges family, it was acquired by the Sisters of the Cross and Passion in 1959-60. They made additions to the property, including a dormitory and chapel behind the main house; a chaplain's house (converted from a railroad station that was moved here); Prout High School, along Route 1; and the Government Center, formerly St. Joseph's School.
- 128. Washington County Government Center (Mid 20th Century): A modern building, with a 2-story, hip-roofed, masonry central section, with two very large, rectangular chimneys. There are flat-roofed, 2-story wings flanking the central core, with a row of vertical windows across the entire front which subdue the horizontality of the facade. At the rear is a large ell.
- 129. Carter Killed Jackson Monument: A low, square, granite marker completely inscribed with an account of the murder of William Jackson, of Virginia, by Thomas Carter of Newport, for his money. The crime was done by a dagger about midnight on January 1, 1751. Carter was hanged the following May at Tower Hill.
- 130. Shingle House (Early 20th Century): A large, wood-shingled, 2-story, L-plan, structure, with 2, large, stone chimneys; large shed dormers; and a hip-roofed piazza supported by stone posts. There is a garage-residence on the well-landscaped lot.
- 131. Quaker Burial Ground (Historical Cemetery Number 95) (1710) / Site of Friends Meeting House: A triangular cemetery lot at the junction of Route 1 and Tower Hill Road containing many field-stone markers and several inscribed headstones. The Quaker lot was built next to a meeting house the Society of Friends erected in the early 18th century. It was destroyed by fire in 1790, and apparently rebuilt and used until 1858, when a new meeting house was built near Peace Dale. The abandoned meeting house here was later removed and became a dwelling. (1831- [shown by symbol].)

TUCKERTOWN ROAD

132. Tucker Homestead (18th Century): A 2½-story, wood-shingled farm-house, with an end chimney and exterior brick chimney, and an addition at the rear. (1857- Tucker.)

USQUEPAUG ROAD

133. 18th Century House: A 1½-story, wood-shingled, gambrel-roofed residence, with a large, stone, center chimney and an interior fieldstone chimney; a central entry in a 3-bay facade; two gable dormers in front; a lean-to at the rear enclosing a glassed-in porch; an ell at the left side; and a shed roof addition at the right side. (1857- T. Hoxie.)
134. Richmond Grange, Patrons of Husbandry Number 6 (1941, 1922): A long, 1-story structure, with an enclosed entry at the gable end, which faces the road. A typical, unadorned Rhode Island grange building, it was erected by a grange society organized in 1887, disbanded in 1890, and reorganized in 1911. This building, begun in 1914, was originally 3 bays long; in 1922, it was lengthened and a small front entry enlarged.

135. G. W. Hazard House (Mid 19th Century; 2217 Usquepaug Road): A 1½-story, bracketed residence, with a small, brick chimney; a 1-story bay window, with a bracketed cornice, at the right front; and a 2-story ell at the rear. There is a wood-shingled shed garage on the large, landscaped lot. (1857- G. W. Hazard.)

(See Usquepaug Road Historic District, #11)

136. Usquepaug River Bridge, Number 35 (1931): A concrete, single-arch span, with granite-block abutments and recessed-panel sides. It has a span of 30 feet, an overall length of 68 feet, and is 44 feet wide. The contractor, Thomas Mulcare, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., completed the bridge between March and August, 1931. It was built as part of a new section of highway that bypassed Usquepaug village.

WAITES CORNER ROAD

137. Underwood-Watson-Kenyon House (c. 1815): A 2½-story residence, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry, with sidelights, in a 5-bay facade; a 1-story ell at the rear, and a small porch at the left side. There are several outbuildings on the property. The house, built by Weeden Underwood on his 160-acre farm in about 1815, was purchased by Oliver Watson in 1826, and remained in the locally prominent Watson family for about 100 years. Purchased by Dr. Edward Kenyon in about 1926, it was in the Kenyon family until 1954-55, and is today commonly known as the Kenyon Homestead. Two other Watson family houses are

located in the immediate area, the nearby William Watson House (#138) and one further north, off Fairground Road (#32-A). (1857- B. S. & W. Watson.)

138. William Watson House (1857): A 2-story, wood-shingled residence, with 2, small, brick chimneys; a central, porticoed entry, with transom and side lights, in a 5-bay facade; and an addition at the rear. There are several barns behind the house. The house is locally known as the Oliver Watson House, after the builder's son. In about 1920, Oliver Watson donated the house to the town for use as a rest home; it is still town owned. (1862- B. S. & W. Watson.)
139. Cottrell Homestead (Federal): A 2½-story residence, with a large, brick, center chimney, modern "clapboard" siding, and a central, pedimented entry, with a fan light, in a 5-bay facade. The house and several outbuildings are part of a working farm, one of South Kingstown's largest. (1870- Mrs. Champlin.)

#### WALMSLEY LANE

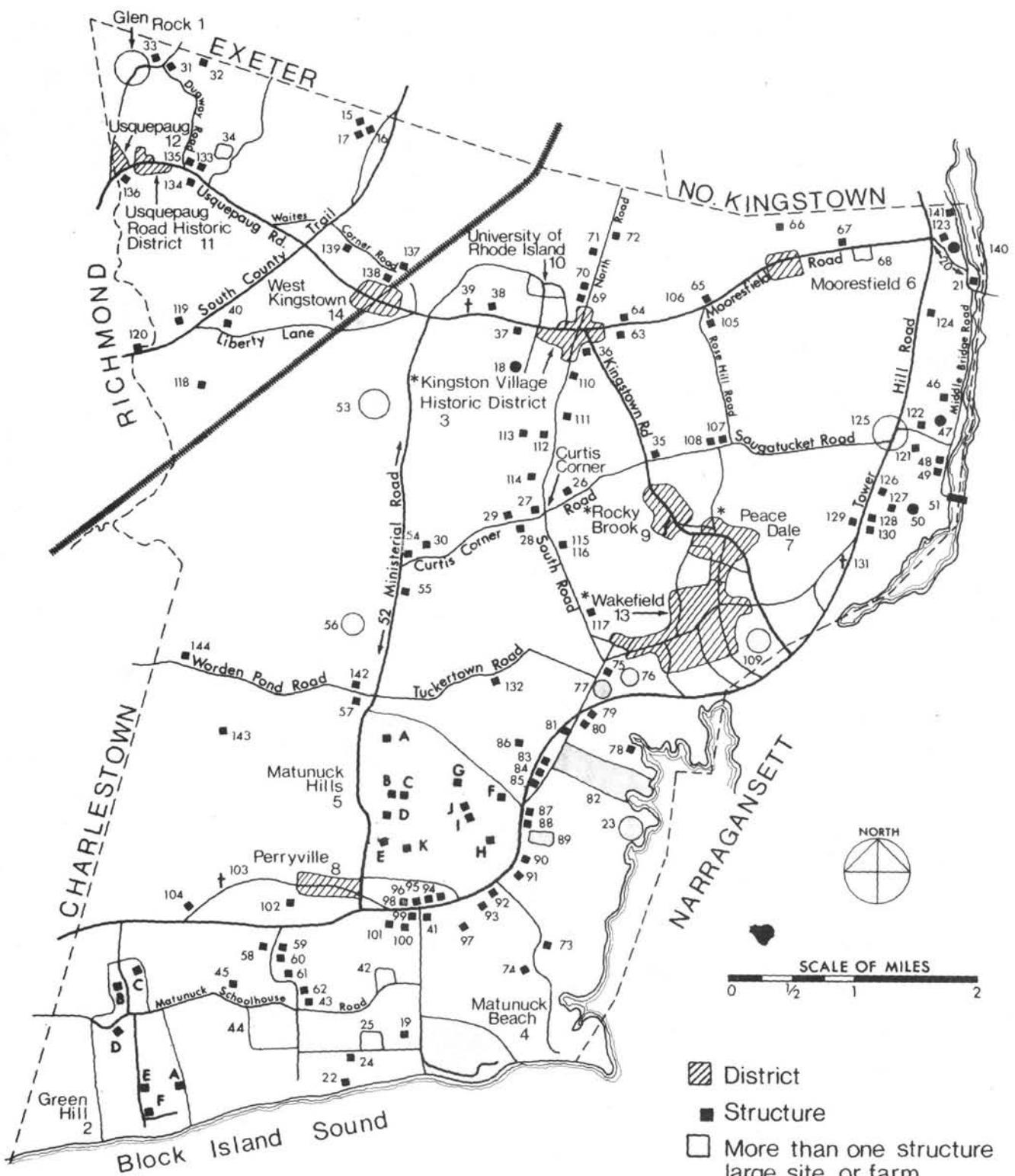
140. Site of the Glebe: In an area north of Bridgetown Road and west of the Pettaquamscutt River, along the slope of McSparran Hill, is the site of a house and farm, historically significant as the residence of the Reverend James MacSparran. Originally an 80-acre parcel of land belonging to the Gardiner family, who built a house here about 1690, the place was purchased in 1726 (or 1733) by MacSparran, sent to America from England in 1721 by the English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. MacSparran married Hannah Gardiner. He became rector of St. Paul's Church in North Kingstown. His home here was known as the "glebe", an early English name for a parish rectory and its adjoining lands. The house became a place of learning, virtue, religion, and lavish hospitality. Although his farm was not a true plantation, MacSparran became an important member of plantation society. He raised a variety of crops on his land, which included terraced gardens, two orchards, and fields. MacSparran owned about one dozen slaves, the males doing farm work or personal service and women engaged in housework or light outside work. After MacSparran's death in 1757, the house continued to serve as a permanent rectory. Several church members purchased the place, which they deeded to the church in 1761 as a perpetual Glebe for the maintenance and support of a minister. Several ministers lived at the Glebe and served St. Paul's Church. A division of South Kingstown in 1723 resulted in a geographic separation of the church and parish house. In 1800, St. Paul's Church was moved to Wickford. For about 20 years after that, several ministers living here held services alternately at Wickford and in the Glebe house. In 1818, a meeting house was erected at Tower Hill for South Kingstown members, the ministers at the Glebe moved to Wickford, and the place ceased to be the heart of the parish. The Glebe was sold at public auction in

1842, then changed hands several times, and gradually deteriorated. The 1937 W.P.A. guide to Rhode Island described it as dilapidated. In 1940, a 1-acre parcel, with the house and buildings, was conveyed to the Rhode Island Episcopal Convention, but the neglect of the building continued until it was demolished in 1957. In 1980, new owners of the property built a new house and incorporated what was left of the old Glebe house foundation into their garden. (1857- Glebe Farm.)

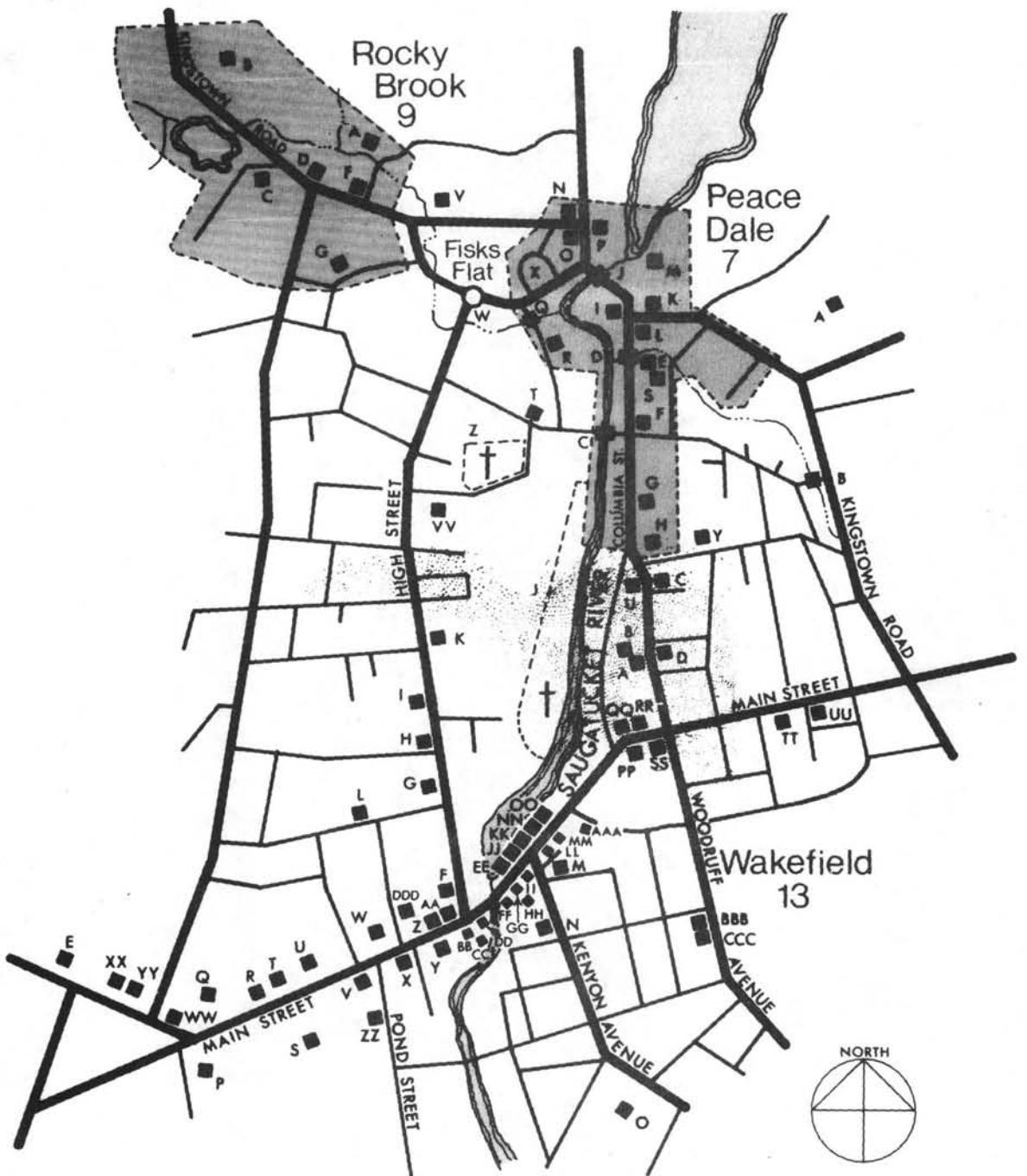
141. Mid-19th-Century House: A 1½-story residence; with a small, brick, chimney, and a central entry in a 5-bay facade, sited close to the road. There are several outbuildings. The immediate area abounds in stone walls, part of the old Glebe farm, and there are two cemeteries along the road south of the house. (1857- R. Gardner.)

#### WORDEN POND ROAD

142. Babcock-Tucker House (18th Century): A Cape, with a large, stuccoed, center chimney; a central entry, with transom lights, in a 5-bay facade; and several wings. The house was built by one of three Babcocks who owned the land from 1706 to 1796. It was in the Tucker family for the last half of the 19th century. (1857- Sam Tucker.)
143. House (18th Century): A wood-shingled Cape, with a large, brick, center chimney; a central entry in an asymmetrical, 5-bay facade; and a small ell. The house is set in the middle of a large field far back from the road. (1857- W. Tucker.)
144. Clark House/Card's Camp (18th Century; 1210 Worden Pond Road): A 2½-story residence, with a small, brick, center chimney; a large, flat-roofed portico at the front, and a shed roof addition at the rear. There are several outbuildings on the property, along the southwest part of Worden's Pond, now used as a campground and for recreation. (1857- S. Clarke.)

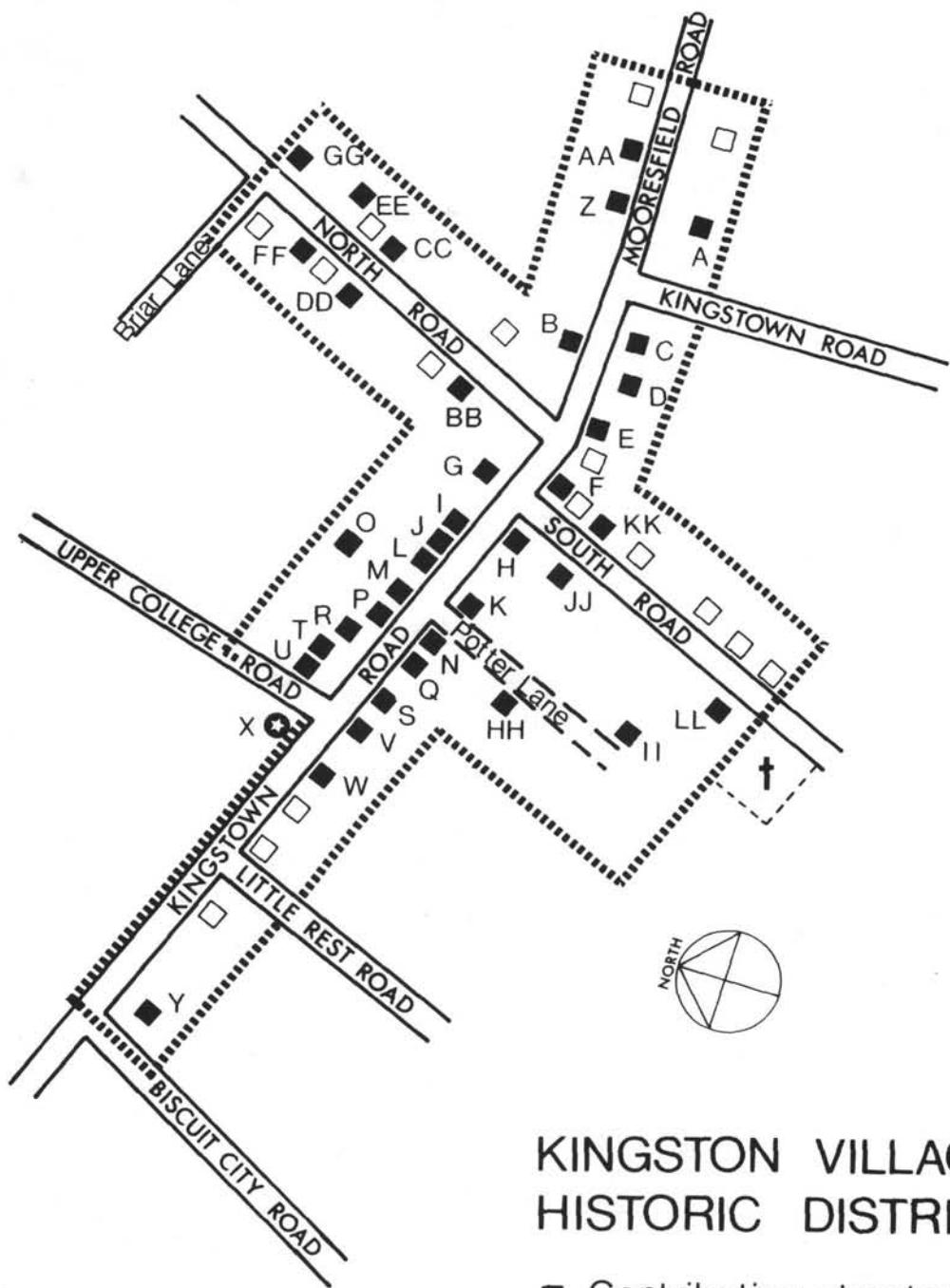


**SOUTH KINGSTOWN**  
DISTRICTS, STRUCTURES and SITES



PEACE DALE-ROCKY BROOK-WAKEFIELD

SCALE OF MILES  
0  $\frac{1}{8}$   $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{3}{8}$   $\frac{1}{2}$



## KINGSTON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Contributing structure
- Non-contributing structure
- Site

SCALE OF FEET  
0 250 500

APPENDIX A

NOTEWORTHY ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES\*

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
<b>COLONIAL PERIOD (to about 1775)</b>		
<b>Houses</b>		
** 3-F	John Moore House, 1710	1286 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-H	Elisha Reynolds House, 1738	1296 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-J	Joseph Perkins House, c. 1777	1305 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-K	John Douglas House, 1753	1308 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-L	Caleb Westcott Tavern, c. 1774	1309-11 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-Q	Kingston Inn, 1757 et seq.	1320 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-Y	John Potter House, 1775	1382 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-CC	Thomas R. Wells House, 1750	25 North Road, Kingston
*** 4-A	Stanton-Tucker House, c. 1720	Antique Road, Matunuck Beach
* 13-E	Dockray House, 1725, 1769	2 Dockray Street, Wakefield
* 42	Browning Homestead, 1730 et seq.	Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
* 43	Samuel Perry House, 1696-1716	844 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
* 55	Tucker-Albro House, c. 1739	155 Ministerial Road
58	Watson House	Moonstone Beach Road
60	R. Champlin House, 1747	Moonstone Beach Road
*** 67	P. Gardner House	Mooresfield Road
73	The Bliss House	Old Succotash Road
* 74	Henry Palmer House, 1721	557 Old Succotash Road
* 79	William Congdon House/ Brookfield, c. 1690	159 Post Road
+ 82A	Congdon House/Elisha Watson House, 1690-1700	164 Post Road
* 87	Rocky Meadows Farm, 1754	205 Post Road
90	Hazard House	269 Post Road
*** 92	John Potter House, c. 1730	664 Post Road
* 100	Weeden Farm, 1753	Post Road
* 111	Solomon Carpenter House, c. 1705	144 South Road

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- \* Recommended for the National Register.
  - \*\* Within a National Register District.
  - \*\*\* Entered individually on the National Register, or approved for entry in the National Register.
  - + Within a proposed National Register District or area.
- N.B. This list contains only those structures considered most interesting architecturally or historically. Some buildings appear in 2 places, one for their original construction date, another for a major renovation that stylistically changed the building.

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
112	Tefft House, 1730	South Road
117	Peggy Rock Pasture	586 South Road
*** 119	Henry Marchant House, pre 1760	South County Trail
124	Brown House, c. 1750	Tower Hill Road
132	Tucker Homestead	Tuckertown Road
133	House	Usquepaug Road
137	Kenyon Homestead, c. 1725	Waites Corner Road
142	Babcock-Tucker House	Worden Pond Road
143	House	Worden Pond Road

#### Other Buildings

\*\* 3-T King's County Court House,  
1775 et seq.

1329 Kingstown Road, Kingston

#### FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

2-A	Babcock House, c. 1788	off Browning Street, Green Hill
2-B	George H. Browning House	Green Hill Beach Road, Green Hill
** 3-E	Wilkins Updike House, 1819	1276 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-G	Asa Potter House, 1829	1291 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-I	Abel Cottrell House, 1819	1301 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-J	Thomas S. Taylor House, 1827	1305 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-N	Matthew Waite House, 1819	1314 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-P	John T. Nichols House, 1802	1317-19 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-R	Timothy Peckham Tavern, c. 1820	1323 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-S	Thomas P. Wells House, 1832	1328 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 3-Z	George Fayerweather House, 1820	8 Mooresfield Road, Kingston
** 3-CC	Thomas R. Wells House, (remodelled 1820)	25 North Road, Kingston
** 3-FF	Luke Aldrich House, 1829	36 North Road, Kingston
** 3-II	Elisha R. Potter House, 1809	Potter Lane, Kingston
** 3-JJ	Christopher Gardner House, c. 1820	7 South Road, Kingston
** 3-LL	Robert Helms House, c. 1788	31 South Road, Kingston
5-A	Tucker House	off Ministerial Road, Matunuck Hills
5-C	House	off Ministerial Road, Matunuck Hills
+ 7-M	Hazard Homestead, c. 1790 et seq.	Kingstown Road, Peace Dale
+ 7-N	House	10 North Road, Peace Dale
+ 7-O	House	North Road, Peace Dale
8-C	Potter House	Post Road, Perryville
9-F	House	783 Kingstown Road, Rocky Brook
+ 10-A	Oliver Watson House, 1792	U.R.I. Campus
** 11-A	Hopkins Farmhouse,	Usquepaug Road

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
* 12-C	Dr. Nathan Knight Farmhouse, c. 1785	Usquapaug Road
13-R	J.C. Gardner House	70 Main Street, Wakefield
13-W	Larchwood Inn, c. 1831 et seq.	176 Main Street, Wakefield
13-X	C.H. Hazard House	197 Main Street, Wakefield
13-Z	Sylvester Robinson House, 1831	324 Main Street, Wakefield
13-GG	Daniel Burdick House	455 Main Street, Wakefield
13-XX	C. Champlin House	31 Old Post Road, Wakefield
* 15	The Wells Place	Littlefield Lane (off Barber's Pond Road)
19	Lower Weeden Farm Farmhouse	Blackberry Hill Drive
21	House	Bridgetown Road
26	Jabez Tucker House	Curtis Corner Road
27	A. Holley House	Curtis Corner Road
65	Rose Hill Farm	Mooresfield Road
71	H. Eldred House, c. 1822	150 North Road
72	Potter-Noyes-Peckham Farm, 1805	221 North Road
81	Champlin House	Post Road
84	Peckham-Whaley House, 1806	176 Post Road
*** 86	Commodore Perry Farm	184 Post Road
88	House	218 Post Road
91	Samuel G. Potter House, c. 1804	Post Road
104	J.C. Crandall House	1080 Post Road
* 107	Watson House	Saugatucket Road
* 108	Watson House	Saugatucket Road
110	John Clarke House, 1817	56 South Road
* 126	Shadblow Farm, 1810	Tower Hill Road
139	Cottrell Homestead	Waites Corner Road

#### GREEK REVIVAL (1825-1860)

##### Houses

** 3-DD	Henry Eldred House, c. 1840	26 North Road, Kingston
9-A	Rodman House, c. 1850	Hopkins Lane, Rocky Brook
13-T	Dr. Willard H. Hazard House, 1840	92 Main Street, Wakefield
13-CC	House, c. 1834	327 Main Street, Wakefield
13-FF	William Robinson House, c. 1845	419 Main Street, Wakefield
13-QQ	Nathaniel C. Armstrong House, 1830s	756 Main Street, Wakefield
13-TT	Daniel Williams House, c. 1840	1041 Main Street, Wakefield
13-WW	Matthew Chappell House, c. 1830 et seq.	9 Old Post Road, Wakefield
13-ZZ	House, 1850	15 Pond Street, Wakefield
38	N.C. Peckham House	Kingstown Road

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
* 44	Green Farm Farmhouse, c. 1850	Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
61	Browning-Clark House	Moonstone Beach Road
<u>Other Buildings</u>		
13-AA	Sylvester Robinson Store, 1846	326 Main Street, Wakefield

#### MID-19TH CENTURY VERNACULAR (1840-1880)

##### Houses

** 3-AA	Solomon Fayerweather House, 1852	18 Moorefield Road, Kingston
5-B	House	off Ministerial Road, Matunuck Hills
5-E	Tucker House	off Ministerial Road, Matunuck Hills
33	Barber House	Glen Rock Road
48	J.T. Gould House	Middle Bridge Road
49	E. Saunders House	Middle Bridge Road
68	C. Slocum Farm, c. 1865	off Mooresfield Road
80	House	161 Post Road
83	Congdon Farm	172 Post Road
138	William Watson House, 1857	Waites Corner Road
141	R. Gardner House	Walmsley Lane

##### Other Buildings

** 3-U	Old County Records Office, 1857-58	1331 Kingstown Road, Kingston
+ 7-I	Peace Dale Mills, 1847 et seq.	Kingstown Road, Peace Dale
+ 7-L	Peace Dale Office Building	604 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale
7-U	Friends Meeting House, c. 1857	Columbia Street, Peace Dale
9-D	Rodman Mill, c. 1853 et seq.	Kingstown Road, Rocky Brook
9-G	Advent Christian Church, 1852	Sweet Fern Lane, Rocky Brook
13-F	Wakefield Mill, 1867 et seq.	High Street, Wakefield
13-BB	Bank Building, c. 1850	331 Main Street, Wakefield
13-PP	Wakefield Baptist Church, 1852 et seq.	Main Street, Wakefield

#### EARLY VICTORIAN (1840-1883)

##### Houses, Bracketed

** 3-GG	S. Perry House	39 North Road, Kingston
6-D	S. Gardner House	Mooresfield Road, Mooresfield

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
** 11-B	Aplin-Webster House, c. 1865	Usquepaug Road, Usquepaug Road Historic District
** 11-C	Lockwood-Kenyon House, c. 1865	Usquepaug Road, Usquepaug Road Historic District
70	Job Greenman House, c. 1855	62 North Road, Kingston
135	G.W. Hazard House	2217 Usquepaug Road
<u>Other Buildings, Bracketed</u>		
** 3-EE	Kingston Seminary, 1853	33 North Road, Kingston
*** 14-A	Kingston Railroad Station, 1876	West Kingston
<u>Houses, Gothic</u>		
13-C	Frank Carpenter House, 1865	47 Columbia Street, Wakefield
13-RR	John Armstrong House, c. 1860	772 Main Street, Wakefield
13-VV	Michael Shoughro House, c. 1875	9 Oakdell Road, Wakefield
<u>Houses, Italianate</u>		
* 35	Watson House, c. 1860 Isaac Peace Rodman House, 1855	141 Main Street, Wakefield 961 Kingstown Road
<u>Houses, Tuscan Renaissance Revival</u>		
* 105	George E. Rose, Jr., House, 1861-63 et seq.	Rose Hill Road
<u>Houses, with carpenterwork trim</u>		
7-T	Congregational Parsonage, c. 1870	Church Street, Peace Dale
13-N	House, c. 1865	29 Kenyon Avenue, Wakefield
<u>Other Buildings, with carpenterwork trim</u>		
+ 7-R	Narragansett Pier Railroad Station, 1876	Railroad Street, Peace Dale
<u>Houses, Second Empire</u>		
** 2-D	B.F. Brown House, c. 1875	1262 Kingstown Road, Kingston
** 11-E	James Webster House, 1883	Usquepaug Road, Usquepaug Road Historic District
30	G. Tefft House	147 Curtis Corner Road
114	H. Case House, c. 1860	South Road

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
<u>Other Buildings, Second Empire</u>		
13-I	South Kingstown Town Hall, c. 1877 et seq.	High Street, Wakefield
13-SS	Columbia House, c. 1880	837 Main Street, Wakefield
<u>Altered to Second Empire</u>		
** 3-T	Kings County Court House, 1876	1329 Kingstown Road, Kingston
<u>LATE VICTORIAN (1865-1900)</u>		
<u>Estates</u>		
* 76	Edgewood Farm, 1877	off Post Road
* 77	Jeremiah P. Robinson House/Endear, 1887	145 Post Road
<u>Houses, Bracketed</u>		
13-G	Daniel Sherman House, c. 1885	34 High Street, Wakefield
<u>Buildings, Romanesque</u>		
+ 7-K	Hazard Memorial Hall, 1891	Kingstown Road, Peace Dale
* 14-C	Washington County Courthouse, 1894	Kingstown Road, West Kingston
<u>Houses, Queen Anne</u>		
** 3-A	Sherwell/The Crossways, 1893	1243 Kingstown Road, Kingston
+ 7-A	The Acorns, 1894-95	off Broad Rock Road, Peace Dale
13-UU	Russell Sweet House, 1887	1087 Main Street, Wakefield
13-DDD	Elisha W. Cross House, c. 1885	5 Wright Street, Wakefield
* 28	R.R. Gardner House	Curtis Corner Road
<u>Houses, Shingled</u>		
4-C	Tucker House, c. 1890	Matunuck Beach Road, Matunuck Beach
4-D	Dewey Cottage, c. 1900	Matunuck Beach Road, Matunuck Beach
4-E	W.F. Segar House, c. 1890	Matunuck Beach Road, Matunuck Beach
13-L	John Sheldon House, c. 1888	33 Highland Street, Wakefield
13-M	Louis Bell House, 1898	8 Kenyon Avenue, Wakefield
13-HH	Episcopal Parsonage, c. 1900	behind 155 Main Street
<u>Other Buildings, Shingled</u>		
13-D	Christ United Methodist Church, c. 1890	Columbia Street, Wakefield

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
<u>Houses, Eclectic</u>		
13-P	Carder H. Tucker House c. 1885	off Main Street, Wakefield
13-BBB	A.M. Cunningham House, c. 1880	65 Woodruff Avenue, Wakefield
40	Clarke Homestead, c. 1889	Liberty Lane
94	Hidden Hearth	694 Post Road
96	Edward Everett Hale House, 1880	698 Post Road, Wakefield
<u>Other Buildings, Eclectic</u>		
+ 7-F	Peace Dale Congregational Church, 1870-72	Columbia Street, Peace Dale
9-C	Pumping Station, 1889	Kingstown Road, Rocky Brook
+ 10-B	Taft Hall, 1889	URI Campus
+ 10-C	Davis Hall, 1895	URI Campus
+ 10-D	Lippitt Hall, 1897	URI Campus
13-K	Union Chapel, c. 1880	High Street, Wakefield
13-DD	Bank Building, 1889	339 Main Street, Wakefield
13-II	Church of the Ascension, 1883	Main Street, Wakefield
13-LL	Kenyon's Department Store, 1891	505 Main Street, Wakefield
13-00	Commercial Block, c. 1875, 1899	504-522 Main Street, Wakefield
69	School Number 3, 1882	North Road, Kingston
<u>EARLY 20TH CENTURY (1900-1945)</u>		
<u>Houses, Miscellaneous</u>		
13-Q	F.D. Simmons House, 1914	Main Street, Wakefield
32	Eppley Camp. c. 1920	Dugway Bridge Road
+ 82-C	C. Freeman Crocroft House, 1906	166 Post Road
98	House	700 Post Road
121	Welsh House, c. 1915	Torrey Road
130	Shingle House	Tower Hill Road
<u>Bungalows</u>		
13-CCC	Bungalow	Woodruff Avenue, Wakefield
36	Bungalow	1228 Kingstown Road
<u>Estates</u>		
5-D	House	off Ministerial Road, Matunuck Hills
13-S	Dr. R.R. Robinson Estate, 1904	99 Main Street, Wakefield

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
* 13-U 37	William D. Miller Estate, 1934-35 Alfred Schmidt Estate, 1931	130 Main Street, Wakefield 1428 Kingstown Road
<u>Houses, Classical/Colonial Revival</u>		
** 3-HH 64	Old Manor House Tootell House/Hedgerow, 1933	Potter Lane, Kingston
* 79	William Congdon House (renovated 1930)	Mooresfield Road
+ 82-A	Congdon/Elisha Watson House (renovated 1921)	159 Post Road
+ 82-D	Byron Sprague Watson House, c. 1917	164 Post Road
+ 82-E	Lewis Houses (2), c. 1930	Post Road
+ 82-F	George C. Davis House, c. 1939	Post Road
+ 82-G	Mason F. Crocroft House, 1940	Post Road
* 109	Shadow Farm (renovated 1904)	166 Post Road
* 122	Kymbolde	Silver Lake
		Torrey Road
<u>Other Buildings, Classical/Colonial Revival</u>		
7-V	Peace Dale School, 1923	Kersey Road, Peace Dale
+ 10-K	Edward Hall, 1928	URI Campus
+ 10-L	President's House, 1931	URI Campus
+ 10-N	Eleanor Roosevelt Hall, 1936	URI Campus
13-A	Masonic Hall, 1903	42 Columbia Street, Wakefield
13-0	South County Hospital, 1925 et seq.	95 Kenyon Avenue, Wakefield
13-MM	Washington Trust Company	Main Street, Wakefield
13-AAA	Wakefield Post Office, 1936	Robinson Street, Wakefield
<u>Other Buildings, Tudor Revival</u>		
+ 7-H	Hazard School, 1911	Columbia Street, Peace Dale
<u>Other Buildings, Eclectic</u>		
+ 7-E	Neighborhood Guild, 1908-09	131 Columbia Street Peace Dale
+ 7-G	South Kingstown High School	Columbia Street, Peace Dale
+ 7-S	Stepping Stone Kindergarten, 1912	12 Spring Street, Peace Dale
+ 10-I	Rodman Hall, 1928	URI Campus
14-B	Railroad Signal Tower	off Kingstown Road

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>Road/Village</u>
<u>Other Buildings, Georgian Revival</u>		
+ 10-E	East Hall, 1909	URI Campus
+ 10-F	Ranger Hall, 1913	URI Campus
+ 10-H	Washburn Hall, 1921	URI Campus
+ 10-J	Bliss Hall, 1928	URI Campus
+ 10-M	Quinn Hall, 1936	URI Campus
+ 10-O	Green Hall, 1937	URI Campus
<u>Churches</u>		
4-B	St. Romuald Chapel, Early 20th Century	Atlantic Avenue, Matunuck Beach
8-A	Perryville Baptist Church, 1906	Post Road, Perryville
** 11-F	Queen's River Baptist Church, 1911	Usquepaug Road
.13-H	St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1932	High Street, Wakefield
<u>MID-LATE 20TH CENTURY (1945-1983)</u>		
<u>Houses</u>		
2-E	Contemporary Houses, early 1980s	Green Hill Beach Road, Green Hill
2-F	Summer House	Green Hill Beach Road, Green Hill
93	Pond House, 1973	Post Road
97	Elizabeth Perkins House, 1954	684 Post Road
<u>Public Buildings</u>		
10-P		
9-V	Buildings at URI, 1959-1972	
<u>Farms (Noteworthy)</u>		
25	Browning Farm	Card Ponds Road
30	G. Tefft Farm	Curtis Corner Road
34	Farm Complex, Early 20th Century	Jingle Valley Road.
* 42	Browning Homestead Farm	Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
* 44	Green Farm/Windy Meadows	Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
68	E.G. Slocum Farm	Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
89	Whaley Farm	226 Post Road

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