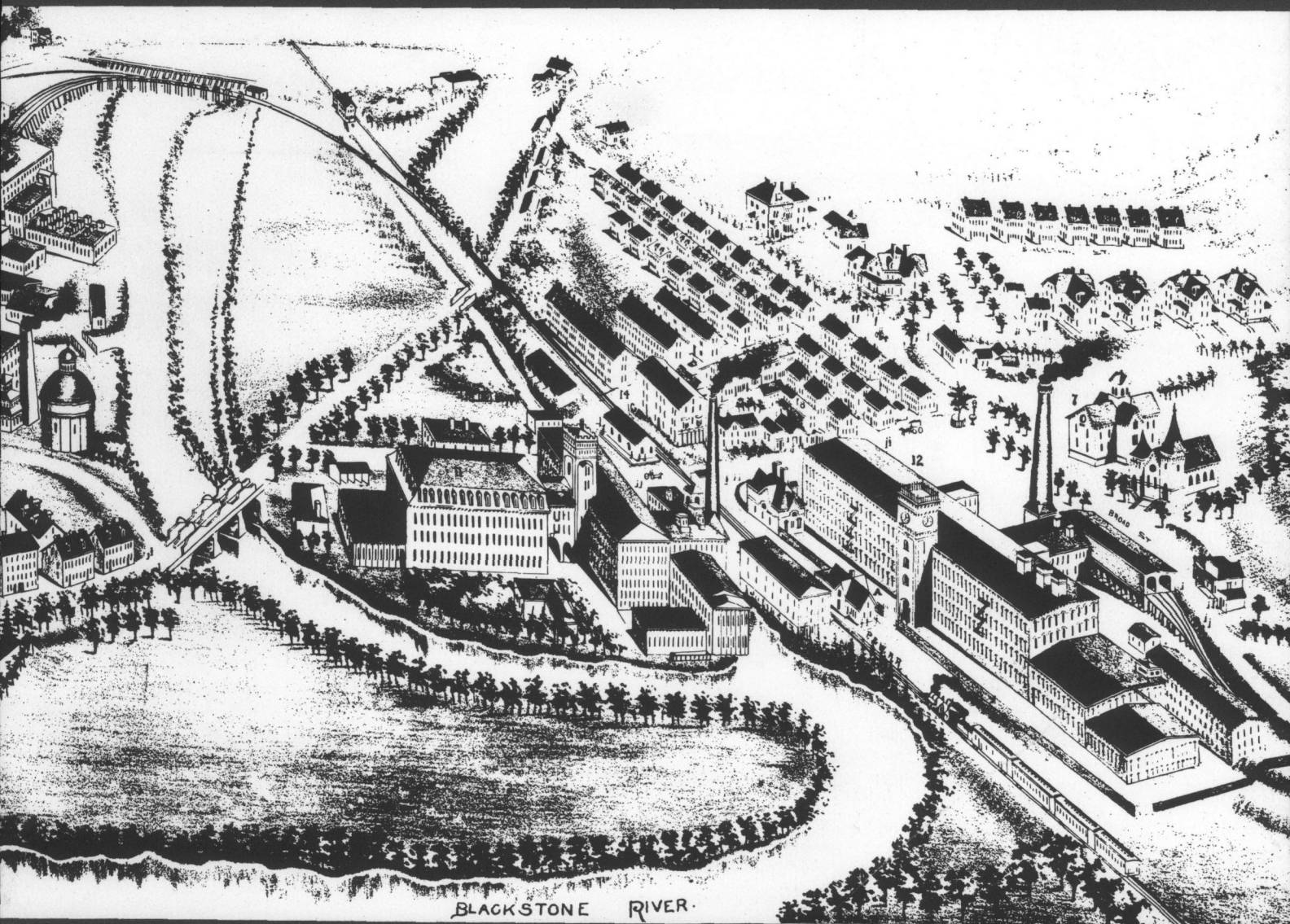


# Historic and Architectural Resources of Cumberland, Rhode Island



Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
Revised 1998

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*Historic and Architectural Resources of Cumberland, Rhode Island* is published by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, which is the State Historic Preservation Office, in cooperation with the Cumberland Historic District Commission.

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This document is a copy of the revised survey published in 1998.  
It has not been corrected or updated.

Since the original publication:

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

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

*Cover: Bird's Eye view of Lonsdale, Rhode Island (1888); lithograph, O.H. Bailey & Company, courtesy Rhode Island Historical Society.*

*Title page: Grants Mill (c. 1818); West Wrentham Road.*

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## PREFACE

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHP&HC) is the state office for historic preservation. It is Rhode Island's only statewide historic preservation program which identifies and protects historic properties and archaeological sites. Created in 1968, the Commission consists of sixteen members who serve in a voluntary capacity. Nine members are appointed by the Governor, among them a historian, an archaeologist, an architectural historian or architect, a museologist, and an anthropologist. Seven state officials also serve, including the Directors of the Departments of Environmental Management and Economic Development, the Chief of the Statewide Planning Program, the State Building Code Commissioner, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Chairmen of the House and Senate Finance Committee. The Commission employs a staff of historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, and architects.

The Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission is responsible for developing a state historical preservation plan; concluding a statewide survey of historical sites and buildings, and from the survey nominating significant properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register; administering programs of financial aid including grants, loans, and tax credits; reviewing federal and state projects to assess their effect on cultural resources; and regulating archaeological exploration on state land and under state territorial waters.

## INTRODUCTION

The following study covers the historical and architectural resources of the town of Cumberland, Rhode Island. In 1977, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission conducted an initial survey of cultural resources in Cumberland, resulting in a short preliminary report with an inventory of roughly 100 districts, structures, and sites. As interest in preservation in Cumberland increased and as new information became available, it became clear that the wealth of cultural resources in Cumberland required an updated, comprehensive survey and report. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission awarded a grant to the Town of Cumberland for the project. The new phase of work took place between October 1989 and March 1990. In 1997-1998, the Town of Cumberland conducted additional survey work and published this 1998 update of the 1990 report. This survey was funded jointly by the Town of Cumberland and the RIHP&HC (through the Certified Local Government program); the survey work was conducted by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

This report includes a short, illustrated account of Cumberland's architectural and developmental history, based on a variety of primary and secondary documentary sources. This section is followed by a list of historic properties already included in the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register and a list of properties recommended for nomination, as well as a list of areas established as local historic zoning districts by the Town of Cumberland. The subsequent section is an annotated inventory of properties of historic and architectural importance in the town.

NOTE: In the Historical and Architectural Development section, property names are followed by numbers and asterisks in parentheses. The numbers are map numbers, keyed to the town map located at the end of the report. Double asterisks (\*\*) indicate properties which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register or formally determined eligible for listing. A single asterisk (\*) indicates properties that are recommended for further study to determine if they are eligible for nomination to the National Register and the State Register.

## METHODOLOGY

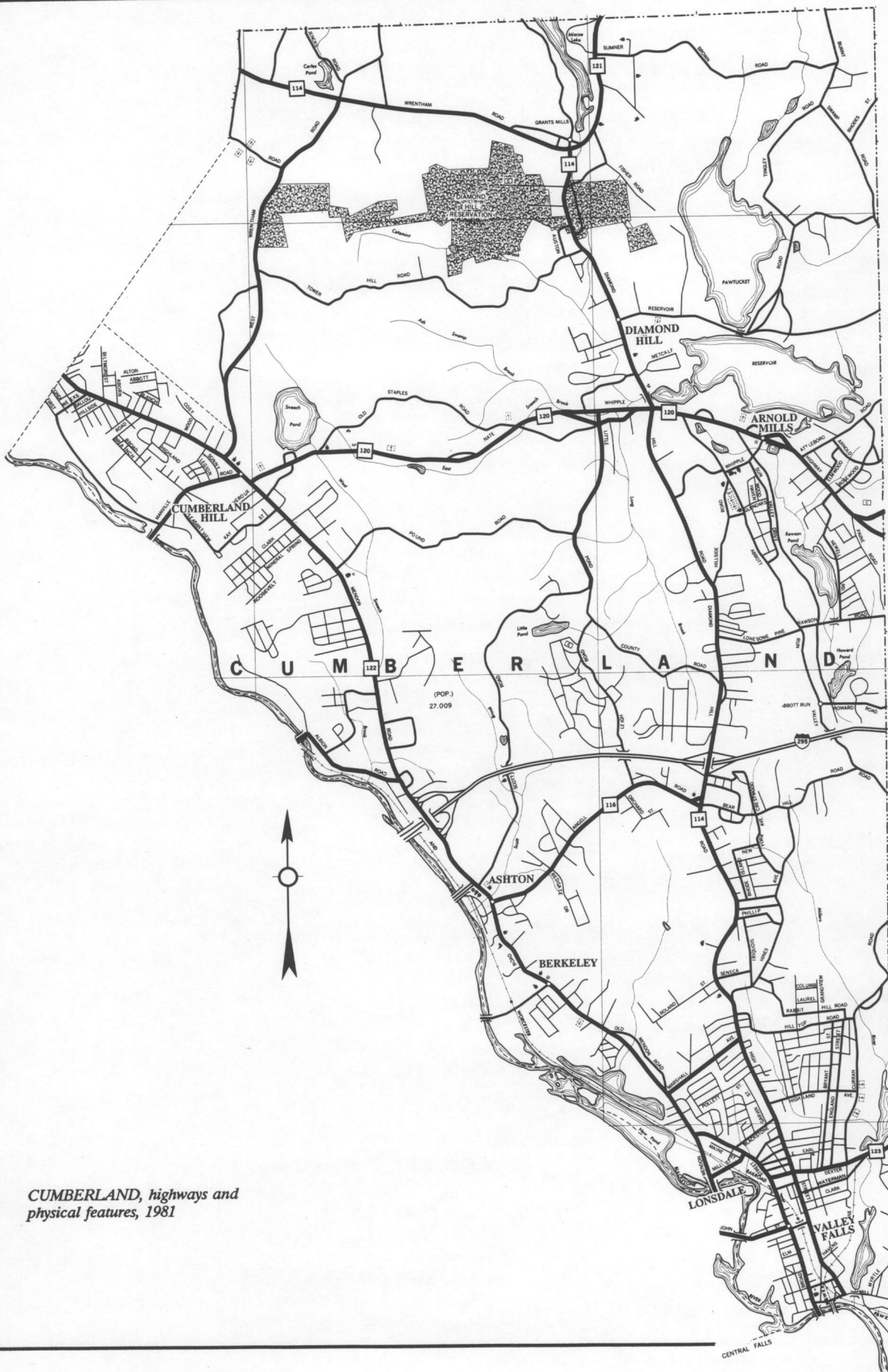
The purpose of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission's surveys is to identify and record structures, sites, and areas of historical or architectural significance within each community.

The surveys are accomplished by driving all public rights-of-way in a given town and noting on a 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 notes on history, use, condition, and architectural style or period. The survey data is on file at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission office, 150 Benefit Street in Providence, and is available for reference.

The significance of each property is evaluated in a preliminary fashion, and properties are assigned to 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 evaluated as eligible for the Register. Known archaeological sites are mentioned only incidentally in these studies to provide historical context. The major emphasis of the Cumberland survey and report is on extant historic buildings and structures. A selected inventory list appears at the back of this report.

During the 1990 survey project, research was conducted at several libraries, principally the Cumberland Public Library, the Rhode Island Historical Society Library, and the Providence Public Library. Information on National Register properties was obtained from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission files. Nineteenth-century maps (listed in the bibliography) were useful in associating individual properties with previous owners and in providing insight into the growth and development of villages and neighborhoods. The members of the Cumberland Historic District Commission provided invaluable assistance. The field survey, research, and report writing were undertaken by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., for the Town of Cumberland and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. Virginia Adams Fitch directed the project and was assisted by Hetty Startup, Susan Hollister, and Terry Bradney of the PAL Inc. staff. The 1998 update was undertaken by Virginia H. Adams, Nicolas C. Avery, and Jessica M. Snow of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Surveys conducted by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission ordinarily emphasize existing buildings and districts. For this survey, however buildings destroyed between the publication of the survey report in 1990 and this 1998 update are marked in the Inventory as DEMOLISHED.



*CUMBERLAND, highways and physical features, 1981*



## **PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL SETTING**

### **LOCATION AND POPULATION**

Cumberland is in Providence County and occupies 28.4 square miles at the extreme northeastern corner of Rhode Island. It is bordered on the north and east by the Massachusetts towns of Wrentham, Plainville, North Attleboro, and Attleboro, on the west by Lincoln and Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and on the south by Central Falls, Rhode Island. Cumberland is shaped like a rectangle which is missing its northwest and southwest corners. The straight and perpendicular north and east boundaries form a right angle and reflect colonial political divisions. The irregular south and west boundaries are defined by the natural course of the Blackstone River and by the setting off of Woonsocket as a separate town in 1867.

Cumberland's population of 29,038 (1990 figure) is concentrated in Valley Falls at the south end of town, along the two major north-south arteries, Mendon Road and Diamond Hill Road, and at a number of mill villages, such as Lonsdale, Berkeley, Ashton, and Arnold Mills, along the Blackstone River and its tributaries. Historically, the rest of the town has been characterized by dispersed rural agricultural and wooded upland settlement, although suburban development has significantly increased in these areas during the last twenty years.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Mendon Road (State Route 122) and Diamond Hill Road (State Route 114), which run northward from the narrow, south end of Cumberland, up the west side and center of town, respectively, are the primary, heavily traveled transportation routes. Originally laid out in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, both are two-lane thoroughfares with alternating rural, suburban, and densely developed corridors. They form the sides of a ladder-like road network and are connected by a series of east-west secondary roads. Angell Road (State Route 116), Nate Whipple Highway (State Route 120), and Pine Swamp Road (State Route 114) have been widened and upgraded, while others, such as Pound Road and Tower Hill Road, preserve a narrow, winding character. Numerous other small, early roads in villages and across rural areas, as well as newer suburban roads, provide local service. Interstate Route 295, a loop highway built in the 1970s around the Providence metropolitan area, crosses Cumberland from east to west just south of the geographic center of town, with interchanges at Diamond Hill and Mendon Roads.

Rail freight lines converge in Valley Falls. The Providence & Worcester Railroad runs up the east bank of the Blackstone River and crosses to Lincoln at Albion. The former New York, New Haven & Hartford and later Penn Central line, now part of the P & W, borders the east side of Valley Falls for about one mile before entering Attleboro, Massachusetts.

### **GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS**

Cumberland lies within an area known as the New England Upland physiographic zone and has a characteristically hilly landscape marked by rocky and uneven terrain. Pastures occupy the more gentle slopes, and the few remaining farms lie in the valleys. Elevations in the town range from 180 feet above sea level in river and lake valleys at the southern end of

town and increase northward, attaining a maximum at Beacon Pole Hill, 556 feet above sea level. Catamint Hill, Copper Mine Hill, Iron Mine Hill (known as Iron Rock Hill in the eighteenth century), and Diamond Hill are also in the north section of town. Thompson Hill, Hunting Hill, and Bear Hill, in the east-central part of town, are more gently sloping.

Cumberland overlaps three geological formations, a factor reflected in the town's great variety of minerals. The oldest bedrock is the Precambrian Blackstone Group of metamorphic rocks such as quartzite, schists, marble, and greenstone that underlie the Blackstone River Valley along the western edge of the town. In north-central Cumberland, the underlying bedrock is the Precambrian Esmond Igneous Suite, a medium to coarse grained massive granitic rock. The Coal Age, or Pennsylvanian Period sedimentary bedrock of the eastern edge of town is part of the Narragansett Basin formation that extends along both sides of Narragansett Bay.

One of Rhode Island's three masses of gabbro, a dark gray rock composed chiefly of ferromagnesian minerals, lies in the northwest section of town. The world's only known deposit of cumberlandite is at Iron Mine Hill, on the west edge of the northern gabbroic formation. Cumberlandite is a titaniferous magnetite rock whose unique composition and potential economic use have sparked attempts at exploitation for nearly 250 years. Significant efforts have been undertaken in recent years by the town and the state to preserve this unique natural source area. Iron Mine Hill has been reduced to approximately half its original size by extensive mining and quarrying. Small deposits of iron, copper, titanium, zinc, molybdenum, and tungsten also are found in the area east, northeast, and north of Sneece Pond. Two deposits of coal in the southeastern section of Cumberland are among several in Rhode Island that were mined in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Cumberland soils were created by glacial action and are mostly unsorted glacial till. They are primarily sandy loams, ranging from poorly to well drained, and from fine to medium texture, with pockets of extremely stony sandy loams and exposed surface boulders. The finer grained soils are suited to agriculture and to wildlife habitat.

Cumberland is immediately drained by the large Blackstone River watershed, which is part of the Narragansett Bay drainage basin. The river itself is a major topographic feature, with its steep banks and broad channel. Prehistoric Native American settlement, early European colonization, nineteenth-century industrial development, and transportation routes have all been influenced by the river. Smaller streams, such as Abbott Run, Monastery Brook, Scott Brook, and Sneece Brook drain into the Blackstone. Abbott Run, the most important of these streams, rises in the northeast corner of town and meanders for a distance before flowing east into Attleboro, Massachusetts. It reenters Cumberland at the south end of town, where it joins the Blackstone. Wooded wetlands and swamps are associated with these streams. The most prominent, in the northern part of town, are Ash Swamp, Pine Swamp, and Burnt Swamp.

A number of ponds, lakes, and reservoirs, mostly manmade, are scattered throughout the town. Arnold Mills Reservoir, constructed in the 1880s, and Diamond Hill Reservoir, constructed in the 1920s, on Abbott Run in the northeast corner of town, are the largest. Further downstream are Rawson Pond and Howard Pond, and, at Valley Falls, Robin Hollow Pond and Happy Hollow Pond. These ponds all were formed by dams built to create water power sources in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sneece Pond, a large body of water in the northwest section of town, and Little Pond, a small pond near the geographic center, are the two most prominent natural lakes. Sneece Pond was converted to become part of the town's water supply system in the early 1930s.

# HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DEVELOPMENT

## OVERVIEW

In the millennia before European settlement, Cumberland was inhabited at different times by Native American peoples. They quarried the numerous rock outcrops for tool manufacture, and most likely fished the Blackstone River and hunted animals in the forest cover. Little is known about the use of this area by the Native American Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes who lived in Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts in the seventeenth century. The Indian way of life at that time was one of seasonal migration; they lived near the coast in the warm months and retreated to protected inland forests in the cool months. Several Indian place names suggest that Cumberland may have been included in this dynamic pattern.

Cumberland's remoteness at the edge of the Plymouth Colony drew its first white settler, William Blackstone, about 1635. A scholar and Anglican clergyman, Blackstone brought his large library and settled on the river to pursue a contemplative and secluded life. Additional settlers arrived, but hostilities with the Native Americans erupted into King Philip's War in 1675, disrupting the community and surrounding settlements. With the death of King Philip and end of the war in 1676, settlement proceeded without interruption.

Cumberland's settlement began to take form in the eighteenth century, when houses were built and land was cleared for farms in the gentle river valleys and uplands. On the whole, the farms were small, focused on generating sufficient crops and meat to sustain the individual family. The town's population increased dramatically, and many roads were laid out that are still in use today. The area's rich forest resources, mineral deposits, and water-power locations spurred the establishment of a number of industries. Iron ore was mined and iron items manufactured at several locations from the early eighteenth century until at least the time of the Revolution. Grist mills and saw mills for grinding grain grown on the farms and for processing timber into lumber were erected along the streams and rivers.

Several small hamlets appeared in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, centered around a church, a mill, or a shop. Arnold Mills, the area along Abbott Run, Cumberland Hill, Diamond Hill, and Robin Hollow still have a distinctive character today. Happy Hollow has been absorbed into Valley Falls.

In the nineteenth century, transportation and industrial advances transformed the western edge and southern end of Cumberland along the Blackstone River, affording it a prominent place in the history of the textile industry in the Blackstone Valley. The first cotton mill, erected around 1800 at Robin Hollow, was followed by a second at nearby Happy Hollow about 1818. While the mills were somewhat isolated at first, completion of the Blackstone Canal in 1828 and the Providence & Worcester Railroad in 1847 linked them and the whole length of the Blackstone Valley to the region's urban centers. A smaller, late, secondary line built in 1877 connected Valley Falls in eastern Cumberland to Franklin, Massachusetts.

Cumberland's potential attracted the Providence mercantile firm of Brown and Ives, which established three large mills with associated villages on the east side of the Blackstone River after the Civil War. The mill villages of Ashton (1867), Berkeley (1872), and "new" Lonsdale (1860 and 1886) -- an expansion of an 1831 mill village across the river in Lincoln -- all included workers' and superintendents' houses, schools, and stores, as well as business-related structures, arranged in a tight cluster. The 1886 Ann and Hope Mill at Lonsdale was heralded

as one of the largest textile mill of the time, and the village was noted for its attention to aesthetics and planning. Other textile mills were constructed at Manville and Valley Falls.

In the eastern part of town, along Abbott Run, a machine shop was erected in 1825 at the small hamlet of East Cumberland, later Arnold Mills. Saw and grist mills continued to operate in Grants Mills and other scattered locations in the agricultural uplands. Granite quarrying near Diamond Hill, as well as less prosperous coal, copper, and other mineral mining, also contributed to Cumberland's economy. Along with massive railroad and road bridges at the Blackstone River, smaller iron truss bridges built on secondary roads helped connect sections of town.

In 1868, the heavily industrialized village at the northwest corner of Cumberland split off as the town of Woonsocket, and Valley Falls became the political center of Cumberland, later reaffirmed with construction of a new town hall in 1894. Schools and churches built outside the company mill villages served the rural Yankee population. In the second half of the nineteenth century, however, many of the new industries' workers were immigrants from Ireland, Canada, and continental Europe. Their presence required the establishment of Roman Catholic churches and other institutions.

Widespread automobile use and improved road access have influenced the pace and impact of Cumberland's growth in the twentieth century. Increasingly, the town's agricultural and forested landscape has been subdivided for residential development. Since the 1960s, this intense development has threatened to engulf the discrete villages and efface the town's historic development pattern of individual village nodes separated by extensive rural land.

## **PREHISTORIC NATIVE AMERICAN OCCUPATION AND SETTLEMENT**

A human presence is known to have existed in Rhode Island for over 10,000 years, long before Europeans came to settle here in the seventeenth century. Our present understanding of prehistoric Native American settlement patterns and subsistence practices is derived mainly from studying archaeological sites and changes in the physical environment and climate over this long period. Numerous sites are known to exist in northern Rhode Island, including Cumberland.

The most common types of prehistoric occupations recorded in the interior uplands of northern Rhode Island, nearby southern Massachusetts, and in Cumberland were small, specialized camps used by groups that may have traveled the Blackstone River drainage basin and may have had both inland and coastal subsistence and settlement adaptations. The numerous inland rivers, streams, and wetlands found in the Blackstone River drainage region would have provided environmentally suitable locations for seasonally abundant and varied faunal and floral natural food sources. These sources would have attracted groups of prehistoric Native Americans who carried out hunting and gathering activities. The region's geological formations also offered raw material to be quarried and made into stone tools. Rock outcrops provided protected overhangs where camps could be established in rock shelters.

As the last glaciers melted and retreated during the Paleo Indian Period (10,000 to 8,000 Before Present), dramatic environmental transformations occurred. The sea level rose, flooding Narragansett Bay, and warmer temperatures caused the spruce and pine forests to be gradually replaced by deciduous trees. The small human population at that time hunted large

game, such as mastodon, caribou, and moose. A single Rhode Island site, in Lincoln, is known from this period. The following Early Archaic (8,000 to 7,500 B.P.) and Middle Archaic (7,500 to 5,000 B.P.) Periods were eras of continuing warming, and at least one Middle Archaic site has been found in the region.

The most intense occupation of northern Rhode Island appears to have occurred in the Late Archaic and Transitional Archaic Periods (5,000 to 2,500 B.P.). Temperatures rose to levels even higher than today's and stabilized, as did the sea level. The mature forests supported a greater variety of animals and plants than in earlier periods and, therefore, a greater number of prehistoric Native Americans. Site locations, including the Late Archaic Sassafras Site (RI-55) (\*\*), a quarry workshop in Cumberland, which is listed in the National and State Registers, seem to have been oriented to terraces and flat-topped bluffs adjacent to or overlooking swamps, streams, and river margins. Camp sites are known along Abbott Run, and rock shelters have been found near Nate Whipple Highway in the hilly, northern part of Cumberland.

During the Woodland Period (3,000 to 450 B.P.), prehistoric use of the upland interior zone seems to have decreased, although one Middle Woodland occupation has been found in nearby Massachusetts. Evidence suggests that there was a shift to coastal areas and resources during this period. Coastal sites are plentiful and record the introduction of horticulture, pottery, and a more sedentary village life, with seasonal movement to take advantage of resources available at different times of the year. In the seventeenth century, Roger Williams recorded that the Native American population stayed along the coast during the spring and summer and moved to protected inland sites during the fall and winter.

The area that is now northern Rhode Island was situated at a crossroads where Native American Nipmuc, Wampanoag, and Narragansett territories overlapped in the seventeenth century. Before European settlement, the general vicinity of present-day Cumberland was part of a large tract of Wampanoag territory called Pawunawket or Pokonaket. Indian presence is suggested by the existence of two reported village locations, one at Senechteconet (or Senechtaconet) near Ash Swamp and East Sneeck Brooks and the other near Diamond Hill.

In 1616, 1619, and again in 1633-34, contact with European traders exposed the southeastern New England Indians to diseases to which they had little resistance. The resulting epidemics decimated entire villages and fractured traditional tribal boundaries and alliances. The Narragansetts, who escaped the worst effects of the epidemics, emerged as the dominant local tribe at the time of permanent European colonization.

## **SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SETTLEMENT**

About 1635, William Blackstone, reputedly the first European settler near Shawmut, later the site of Boston, left that region to avoid religious intolerance and settled near the river that was later named in his honor, in today's Lonsdale section of Cumberland. Although trading posts had existed earlier, Blackstone was the first white man to settle in what is today Rhode Island. To the Indians, the place was known as Wawepooseag, or "the place where birds are taken," and was used as a fishing ground. When Blackstone arrived, the area was part of Plymouth Colony. Here, with his family, servants, and a library of about 200 books, he devoted his life to study and agriculture. Blackstone called his farm "Study Hill" and his home "Study Hall" and lived here until his death in 1675. Although he was an educated man, a minister of the Church of England and a close friend of Roger Williams, he lived in relative

solitude. Even before his death, however, lands adjoining his estate were settled by new arrivals.

By the 1640s, Native American Wampanoags living in the area began to sell off lands in Cumberland to European settlers who were eager to exploit the rich hunting and fishing grounds of the Blackstone River Valley. In 1661, Captain Thomas Willett purchased a large tract, known as the Rehoboth North Purchase, from Wamsytte (or Wamsutta), oldest son of Massasoit, the Wampanoag leader. This Plymouth Colony territory included present-day Cumberland and adjacent parts of Woonsocket. In 1694, it became part of Attleborough (known since 1914 as Attleboro) when that settlement was incorporated as a township. It was known as the "Attleborough Gore" until it was annexed to Rhode Island in 1747 and renamed for William, Duke of Cumberland. The last boundary change in the political development of Cumberland occurred on January 31, 1867, when the northwest corner of the town was set off to form part of Woonsocket.

Settlement of Cumberland was slow and sporadic in the seventeenth century. The settlers were typically farmers, and dispersed agrarian settlement characterized the area from the mid-seventeenth to the early eighteenth centuries. The earliest known road in Cumberland was laid out along the east side of the Blackstone River in a north-south direction from Valley Falls to the Mendon line in 1650. This may have been an existing Native American trail and survives today as Mendon Road. Although there were no bridges over the Blackstone, several shallow places were used as crossings.

Strained relations between the natives and Europeans in southern New England erupted into war in 1675 between the Wampanoags and Plymouth Colony settlers. During King Philip's War (1675-1676), many of the isolated houses in the settlement, including Study Hill and William Blackstone's library along with it, were burned. A marker in Lonsdale to commemorate William Blackstone (\*\*), was relocated in 1997 from its former site to a new park at the corner of Blackstone and Broad streets. In 1676, a group of men under Captain Michael Pierce was ambushed at the Blackstone River wading point near the present-day Macomber Stadium in Valley Falls. Nine men were taken captive by the Indians, killed, and buried in a common grave, subsequently known as Nine Men's Misery. The exact site is not known, but in 1928 the State built a stone-and-cement cairn-like monument to commemorate the seventeenth-century event. The Narragansetts maintained a neutral position, but in harboring Wampanoag refugees, angered the colonists, who declared war. Toward the end of the war, the Narragansett sachem Canonchet was captured at a wading place near Study Hill and the present Whipple Bridge in Lonsdale and was sent to Connecticut to be executed. The death of King Philip in 1676 signaled the end of active hostilities.

The ensuing peace allowed accelerated settlement of Cumberland, as well as the other Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts colonies. By the end of the seventeenth century, a number of families, some returning to rebuild, had settled in Cumberland. These included the Ballous, Bartletts, Cooks, Jillsons, Whipplés, and Towers. Among them was John Bartlett, who constructed a house at Manville, where his descendants later set up several mills. Unlike most New England towns, Cumberland settlers did not immediately erect a meetinghouse, but until 1700 met in each other's homes to conduct religious services.

Few of Cumberland's seventeenth-century buildings are known to survive. The oldest part of the Hixon Homestead at 27 Hines Road is thought, on the basis of its construction techniques, to date from the years just following King Philip's War (\*). Future study of Cumberland's older houses may reveal more seventeenth-century buildings hidden by later additions.

*Hixon Homestead/Maple Shade  
Farm (late 17th century); 27  
Hines Road*



*John Cole Farm (c. 1776, c.  
1810-15); Reservoir Road*



*Luke Jillson House (c. 1752, et  
seq.); 2510 Mendon Road*



## EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Like other New England towns, Cumberland's population greatly increased in the eighteenth century. The first census reports available for the town record approximately 806 permanent inhabitants in 1748. By 1774, this number had more than doubled to 1,756 people. Again, the town at that time included half of present-day Woonsocket, which was part of Cumberland until after the mid-nineteenth century.

Most settlers were farmers, although serious efforts to establish industries occurred as well. Land was cleared and farms were established in the fertile valleys of Abbott Run and other streams and along Mendon Road near the Blackstone River. Most of the farms were small and operated to provide basic crops and a small number of livestock for family consumption. At least one larger farm did exist, however, established by Stephen Brown before 1740 on land now occupied by Cumberland High School. By 1750, the number of agricultural settlers warranted establishment of a Town Pound (#169) on Mendon Road.

Some of the early, modest Colonial farms and farmhouses survive today, including several in the Abbott Run Valley in the northeast part of town. One of the best preserved is the John Cole Farm (c. 1776, c. 1810-15) on Reservoir Road (\*\*). It includes not only a simple one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed cottage typical of the period, but also a complex of several early agricultural outbuildings. Like the John Cole House, the Elisha Waterman House (1757) at 1707 Diamond Hill Road and the Whipple-Jenckes House (late seventeenth/early eighteenth century) at 8 Fairhaven Road (formerly 2500 Diamond Hill Road, \*\*) have asymmetrical facades indicating several periods of construction. One of the few gambrel-roof cottages built during this period, the Amos Arnold House (mid-eighteenth century) (\*\*), stands at 315 Sneech Pond Road in Arnold Mills and is associated with the early development of that mill privilege. Early barns rarely survive today, but an excellent example is the mid-eighteenth-century Tower-Flagg Barn at 100 Abbott Run Valley Road (\*\*).

In addition to these simple cottages, a small number of more substantial, two-and-one-half-story houses with decorative, classically inspired entrances were built, including the Luke Jillson House (c. 1752 et seq.) at 2510 Mendon Road (\*\*), the Captain John Walcott House (1720) at 735 Nate Whipple Highway (\*\*), a nearby house at 4 Ridgeland Road (\*\*), and the Ebenezer Metcalf, Sr. House/The Elms at 331 Abbott Run Valley Road in the center of Arnold Mills (\*\*).

The dispersed farmsteads were linked by a network of lanes lined with stone walls, some of which later became town roads. Sections of two of these early roads along Tower Hill Road (\*) and West Wrentham Road (\*), are particularly well preserved. Other roads which retain remnants of their early character include Pound Road and Cook Road. The Blackstone River continued to be crossed at wading places, including the previously established crossings at Valley Falls and Lonsdale.

The town's first meetinghouse was erected about 1700 at Abbott Run, south of the later village at Arnold Mills, and stood until 1825. In 1749, the local Baptist society, formed by the Cooks and Ballous in 1632, established a second meetinghouse in the northwestern part of the town. Built on land donated by James Ballou, it was originally known as the Elder Cook Meetinghouse, named after its first pastors, Josiah and Nathaniel Cook. It was subsequently renamed to honor Elder Abner Ballou, who served as pastor from 1775 to 1806. This structure served Baptists in the area of Cumberland near the later Woonsocket town line for over 200 years. The building was used until the mid-twentieth century, but was taken down in 1966 following severe damage by a fire. A three-acre burying ground across Elder



Ballou Meetinghouse Road from the marked site of the meetinghouse contains the graves of many of the early Baptist families, including the Ballous and Cooks.

While small-scale agriculture remained the primary economic activity of Cumberland residents in the eighteenth century, the opportunities for industrial endeavors soon were recognized. The most important factors were the area's abundant minerals, forest resources, and water power sources on the Blackstone River, Abbott Run and smaller streams. Saw mills and grist mills, which supported domestic settlement and agriculture by providing lumber for construction and milled flours from grain crops, were established in several locations throughout the town. A saw mill was in operation at Arnold Mills by 1745, and, in 1786, Samuel Hathaway built a dam and a saw and grist mill at the confluence of Burnt Swamp Brook and Indian Brook in the northeast corner of town. Levi Tower established a saw mill on Falls Brook in 1779.

The most significant industry during this period, however, was iron manufacturing. At least three furnaces were erected within the bounds of present-day Cumberland in the mid-1730s: Furnace Unity at the Upper Works on the Blackstone River at Manville; Furnace Carolina (\*\*) along Abbott Run; and a possibly another furnace at Happy Hollow. A fourth blast furnace, the Crabtree, was built at Robin Hollow. As of 1998, the exact location of either of the blast furnaces had not been determined. Iron ore came from Iron Mine Hill and several deposits of magnetite near Cumberland Hill, but bog iron grubbed from the surrounding swamps was probably the principal source. Titanium in the ore from Iron Mine Hill made it extremely refractory, and thus hard to smelt. Dr. William Douglas, writing around 1750, stated that there were three furnaces in Cumberland which made small cannon in 1745. Some of the cannon are said to have been used during the siege of Louisburg in 1745, when the colonists and British captured a strategic French fortification on Cape Breton Island during the French and Indian Wars. While Furnace Unity may have been active during the Revolution, any products cast at that time are unrecorded. The other two furnaces had long since been abandoned. There were also two bloomery forges for the manufacture of wrought iron products in Cumberland during the eighteenth century: the Unity Forge, associated with Furnace Unity; and the Arnold Mills Forge, associated with Furnace Carolina, possibly located at the site of the lower works, or Fog Mill, on the Abbott Run (Abbott Run Early Industrial Sites Archaeological District #3).

The town's grist mills and saw mills, which were essential to the largely agrarian economy of the community, however, remained important and in operation from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. None of the eighteenth-century mills is standing today, although mill ponds, dams, stone foundations, and stone-lined sluiceways remain in several locations.

Cumberland's abundant forest resources, including oak, pine, and other trees, also helped sustain the town's economy by providing wood for heating, charcoal for the iron works and lumber for residential and commercial construction. Lumber processed at the saw mills was sold to boatyards in Boston, in Providence, and in Warren, Rhode Island. Firewood was hauled to both the Boston and Providence urban areas. In addition, boat manufacturing prospered in the Arnold Mills area, with at least nineteen shops producing and selling about 400 small boats annually at the end of the century. None of the buildings associated with this industry is known to survive as freestanding structures. The ell of the Hixon Homestead (\*) is one of several in town said to originally have been a boat shop, later relocated.

During the Revolutionary War, Cumberland contributed both soldiers and supplies, but the town itself was little affected. At Beacon Pole Hill, the highest elevation in town however, a beacon was erected in about 1775, which was the northernmost of a series of four signal

*Miller House (c. 1797); Tower Hill Road*



*Lewis Tower House (1825); 2199 Mendon Road*



*Cyrus Cook House/Orchard House (1810); (Old) West Wrentham Road*



beacon sites in Rhode Island. Based on what is known about the Providence beacon on Prospect Hill, the Cumberland beacon was most likely an 80-foot-high mast from which a kettle of burning pitch could be suspended to warn of British movements or attack. Remnants of the burnt pitch are still visible on the rocks of Beacon Pole Hill.

While Cumberland's eighteenth-century settlement pattern remained largely scattered, a few small hamlets did emerge, organized around a shop, a mill or a church. Arnold Mills, an agricultural hamlet settled by members of the Arnold, Walcott and Metcalf families, among others, organized around a milling privilege. At the same time, the adjacent Abbott Run neighborhood, with a church and mills, was among the most clearly defined and the site of initial efforts to create a centralized town government. The beginnings of small settlements also occurred at Manville/Cumberland Hill, at Valley Falls and at Woonsocket Falls.

The first dwellings in Cumberland of some architectural pretension date from the Federal period (1770-1830), and greater numbers of both modest and more sophisticated houses survive than from earlier eras. These houses were almost exclusively of wood-frame, pegged post-and-beam construction, with either a center chimney or two interior chimneys. They typically had a gable roof, with a symmetrical, five-bay facade and central entrance in a flank elevation, and were either one-and-one-half or two-and-one-half stories tall. Often, they were oriented to take advantage of southern exposure, rather than to a nearby road.

The finest extant example is the Miller House, built about 1797 at 161 Tower Hill Road (\*). The house is particularly distinguished by a wooden bird over a fanlight in the central pedimented entrance and by other fine exterior and interior detailing. The Lewis Tower House (1825) at 2199 Mendon Road (\*\*) is unusual in several respects, including its two-story porch, which appears to be original. Two outstanding examples with doorways incorporating narrow pilasters, sidelights and flat entablatures are the Cyrus Cook House/Orchard House (1810) (\*) and the Darius Cook House (c. 1795) (\*) at 12 and 7 Old West Wrentham Road respectively.

More common throughout the town are the smaller, simple cottages, whose entries sometimes incorporate entrance sidelights or transoms. Examples include the Ezra Blake House (c. 1800) at 2715 Mendon Road with its leaded transom, and the Angell Carpenter House (c. 1800) at 2799 Mendon Road with its sidelight entrance surround abutting the roof cornice. The Burlingame-Noon House (c. 1800 et seq.), 3261 Mendon Road (\*\*), originally constructed as a one-and-one-half-story cottage and enlarged to its present Greek Revival appearance in the mid-nineteenth century, retains its Federal-period interior trim.

## **NINETEENTH-CENTURY INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

During the nineteenth century, Cumberland was transformed from a dispersed rural town to a collection of discrete villages set in a sylvan and agrarian landscape. Industry and transportation developments were the motivating forces, and the western part of town along the Blackstone River corridor was most dramatically altered.

North of Pawtucket, the Blackstone River was navigable only by small boats, and a series of falls required portages. Efforts to improve transportation along the important Blackstone River Valley industrial spine between Providence, Rhode Island, and Worcester, Massachusetts, began early in the century. Completion in 1828 of the Blackstone Canal, which ran alongside and sometimes within the river, helped open up interior sections of the valley. The canal was situated on the western side of the river in Lincoln, although canal-

related features, such as the Mott Dam, crossed to the Cumberland side. Problems with seasonal water level fluctuations, ice in winter, and controversy with mill owners over water rights, however, hampered operation and by 1848 the canal had closed.

Longer-lived was the Providence & Worcester Railroad, which opened in 1847 on a route parallel to, and occasionally on top of, the canal. With station stops at Valley Falls, Lonsdale, Berkeley, Ashton, Albion, and Manville (the latter two in Lincoln), the railroad provided passenger and freight service up and down the valley. Passenger service was terminated in the 1940s, but freight service continues today. In 1877, rail service along the eastern edge of Cumberland began with completion of the Valley Falls-Franklin branch line of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Railroad. It served Valley Falls, the Cumberland Mills at Dexter Street, Abbott Run, Arnold Mills and Grants Mills until it ceased operation in 1942.

Both railroads converged at the southern end of town at Valley Falls, where industrial growth was accompanied by a tremendous growth of population, industry, and commerce. At the same time, similar but more intense growth occurred in the northwest part of town. In 1867, this development was politically confirmed when Woonsocket split off as a separate town, and Cumberland's civic center moved from Cumberland Hill southward to Valley Falls, where it remains today.

Road improvements, which occurred most intensively in the second half of the century, included upgrading existing thoroughfares and, in some cases, construction of new ones. Pine Swamp Road, in the northern part of town, was laid out in the 1890s, originally as a log road across Pine Swamp. In the 1880s, the town undertook a major bridge-building campaign to facilitate transportation in and around several villages and small industrial/agricultural hamlets. At least six iron truss bridges were erected by the Boston Bridge Company -- at Arnold Mills (\*\*), Church Street (\*\*), Rawson Road (\*\*), and Howard Road (\*\*). Other iron and stone bridges were constructed over waterways and railroad tracks in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; a number of these bridges survive today.

The southern end of Cumberland at Valley Falls lies just one mile north of the site on the Blackstone River in Pawtucket where, in 1790, Samuel Slater introduced the first efficient, water-powered textile machinery in the country. Ten years later, about 1800, the Industrial Revolution reached Cumberland when the town's first cotton textile mill was erected at Robin Hollow in Valley Falls. A second mill was established in 1818 at Happy Hollow, now Valley Falls, and by mid-century, mills were also operating on Broad Street in Valley Falls and at Manville (on the Cumberland side of the Blackstone River). The Industrial Revolution's impact was fully felt in the second half of the nineteenth century, when the town's major mills were built. After 1860, the Lonsdale Company, owned by the Providence mercantile firm of Brown and Ives, constructed three important mill villages on the Blackstone River: Lonsdale (1860, 1871, 1886, et seq.\*\*), Ashton (1867, et seq.\*\*), and Berkeley (1872, et seq.\*\*). Each had a large brick mill and brick houses for mill workers and their families. The villages were conceived and executed as self-contained communities characterized by harmonious design and materials. As time passed, small commercial and residential neighborhoods of wood-frame buildings grew up next to the villages, along Mendon Road.

The nineteenth century was also a time of active geological exploration, and efforts to exploit mineral resources were made throughout Cumberland. Relatively large-scale mining occurred at Iron Mine Hill and in the area west of Diamond Hill, where a quartz quarry marked by remains of the crusher and railroad loading facility and a large granite quarry were worked. Coal was mined at Valley Falls at Diamond Hill Road and High Street, and in northern

*Stone walls (early 19th century);  
Pound Road*



*Crandall/Franklin Farm (mid-  
19th century); Abbott Run  
Valley Road*



*Evans Farm (mid-19th century);  
Rhodes Avenue*



Cumberland at Diamond Hill and Long Pond roads. Other mining attempts, such as the copper mine at Copper Mine Hill and Tower Hill, produced relatively low economic rewards.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, Cumberland's population, including Woonsocket, had grown from 2,056 in 1800 to 8,216 persons in 1865. Following the setting off of Woonsocket, the numbers dropped to 3,882, but doubled by 1890, to 8,090, and rose to 8,925 by 1900. The population not only grew in size, but also in ethnic diversity. Irish immigrants who had come to build the Blackstone Canal and later to work in the mills were joined as the century progressed by French Canadians and Italians.

At the end of the nineteenth century, Cumberland's growth required better public services. The Cumberland Street Railway Company, incorporated around 1878, operated a horse car route from Valley Falls up High Street, Blackstone Street, and Mendon Road to Cumberland Hill. Beginning in the 1890s, the horse car system was replaced by an electric street railroad. Begun by the Rhode Island Company and later run by the United Electric Railways Company and the United Transit Company, the route extended from Valley Falls to Cumberland Hill. Restructuring of the education system followed passage of the state act abolishing school districts and establishing townwide school systems in 1894. Shortly thereafter, the Bernard F. Norton School, the first Cumberland High School, was built in 1889 at 364 Broad Street in Valley Falls. Major water supply improvements first occurred in 1885-1887 when the Diamond Hill Reservoir was created on Abbott Run by the Pawtucket Water Supply Board to meet that city's water needs.

Despite a tremendous increase in population and industrial prosperity during the nineteenth century, most of the town remained farmland and forest, and Cumberland retained a strong agricultural economy, particularly in dairying and fruit production. The compact mill villages were separated from each other by countryside. As late as 1898, the area beyond Berkeley was described as a "country of farm houses, orchards, open fields, stone fences, and timber-covered hills."

The agrarian legacy of the nineteenth century is recorded in the formation in 1887 of the Cumberland Grange #2, the first grange in northern Rhode Island (remodeled and converted to a private residence in 1996) and construction of the Grange Hall at 1 Whipple Road in 1895 (\*\*), as well as in the many farm houses, remaining agricultural landscapes, and stone-walled roads. The Follett/Carpenter House and Farm (c. 1800) at 44 Angell Road (\*) is among the best preserved of the town's farms, retaining its open fields and agricultural setting.

Grants Mill, a saw and grist mill built in 1818 by Joseph Grant, is the sole local survivor of the numerous small mills that dotted the Cumberland landscape into the twentieth century. It is a well preserved, simple, wood-frame structure. Its site at the south end of Lake Miscoe includes a dam and a stone-lined sluiceway (\*).

## **CUMBERLAND HILL**

At the turn of the nineteenth century, Cumberland Hill became the focus of town government, commercial, and institutional growth. The small eighteenth-century hamlet on Mendon Road had developed on a high bluff overlooking a Blackstone River crossing to Manville in present-day Lincoln. Here, a grist mill, a saw mill and the Union Foundry had been started on a small feeder brook on the east bank of the river, and in 1736, 1747, and 1756 taverns were opened. Shortly after its incorporation in 1795, the Cumberland Catholic Baptist Society erected a church and, in 1800, a building to house the newly formed Cumberland

Academy Company. The Academy, later known as the Cumberland Union School Company, served the area's pupils until the introduction of the public school system. The earliest recorded community library, founded in 1819 by the Cumberland Literary Society, also was housed in the Academy building. Morning Star Lodge #13 F. & A. M. met at Cumberland Hill, first in the school and then in a Masonic Temple, from 1810 until 1848. In 1823, the Cumberland National Bank was added, a handsome Greek Revival structure which stood until the 1960s. None of these buildings survives today.

Cumberland Hill remained the seat of town government until 1868, when manufacturing and transportation changes in the town spurred removal of the town center to Valley Falls. In the mid-nineteenth century, a large textile mill was erected at Manville on the site of the earlier grist mill. The mill was mostly destroyed by a fire in the 1950s. Its ruins and one mill building still in use on Flat Street remain, along with rows of well preserved double mill houses on Boyle and Mount Pleasant View avenues, overlooking the mill site.

Cumberland Hill also was able to capitalize on its high land, cool breezes, and clean air, becoming a small summer resort in the late nineteenth century. Ephpheta House (c. 1900) on Manville Hill Road was constructed during this period as a boarding house for Manville Mill, and Highland House (1843) at 3329-3331 Mendon Road served as a hotel. Contributions to Cumberland Hill's real estate, agricultural, and commercial profile at the end of the century were made by Ormando R. Vose, who built a simple farmhouse (c. 1888) at 3449 Mendon Road, and substantial Queen Anne style second house (c. 1890) at 3533 Mendon Road at the northern edge of the village. This period also was marked by the arrival of a substantial number of Russian and Austro-Hungarian immigrants. Saint Mary's Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church (later Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church), constructed at 55 Fountain Street in 1908 (\*), was the first Eastern Orthodox church in Rhode Island.

## VALLEY FALLS

About 1800, Samuel Slater persuaded Elisha Waterman and Benjamin Walcott to erect a cotton mill, later known as Abbott Run Cotton Mills, at Robin Hollow near present-day Valley Falls. This event signaled the beginning of Cumberland's development as an important textile manufacturing center in the nineteenth century. About 1818, a second textile factory was established by Crawford Titus at Happy Hollow, also in Valley Falls. By the mid-nineteenth century, Valley Falls was an important industrial center, with large brick and stone mills lining the Blackstone River in both Cumberland and the adjacent village of Central Falls. The Valley Falls Company mills in Cumberland, owned by the Chace family, were destroyed by fire in the 1930s the foundations were the basis for the Valley Falls Heritage Park created in 1993-1995. Other nineteenth-century enterprises in the village included coal mining, which was carried on for a short time by the Blackstone Coal Mining Company in the vicinity of High Street and Diamond Hill Road, and the Rhode Island Horse Shoe Company, later the Union Horse Shoe Company, which operated from 1867 until 1914.

With its early textile mills and choice location along the Providence & Worcester Railroad, Valley Falls became the new seat of town government in 1868. Industrial growth and civic stature prompted the construction of dense neighborhoods of single and multi-family housing, as well as commercial and institutional buildings. By 1870, more than 100 buildings existed along Broad Street, Diamond Hill Road, and the streets in between. St. Patrick's Church (1861, remodeled 1936) at 285 Broad Street (\*) was erected by the first Roman Catholic parish in Cumberland and reflects the immigration of new ethnic groups at the end of the century.

## CUMBERLAND HILL

*Cumberland Hill School (1902,  
1914); Mendon Road*



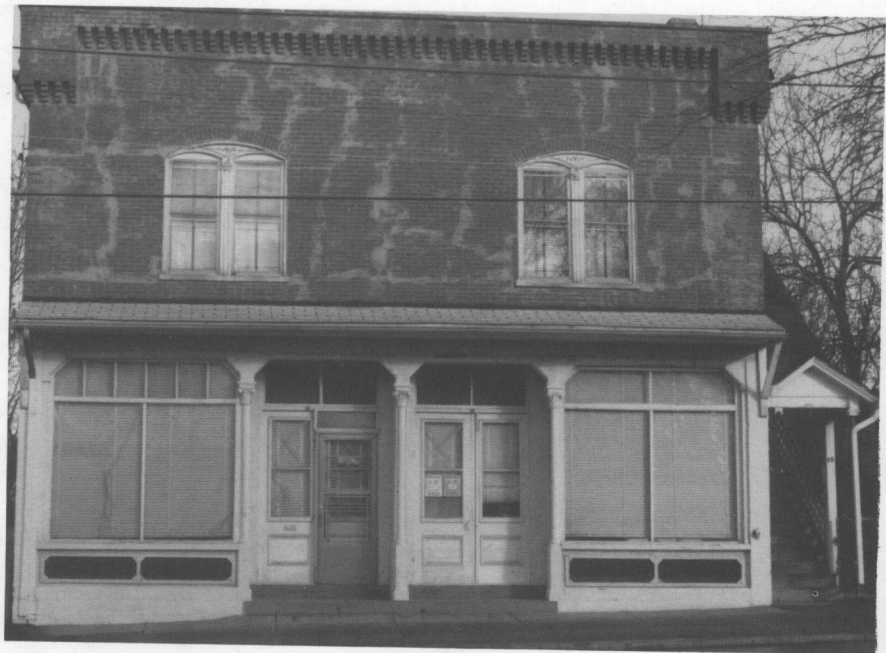
*Ornando Remington Vose's  
First House (c. 1888); 3449  
Mendon Road*





## VALLEY FALLS

*Former Post Office (c. 1890);  
12-16 Mill Street*



*Commercial Building/Rogers  
Hardware (late 19th century;  
DEMOLISHED); 159 Broad  
Street*



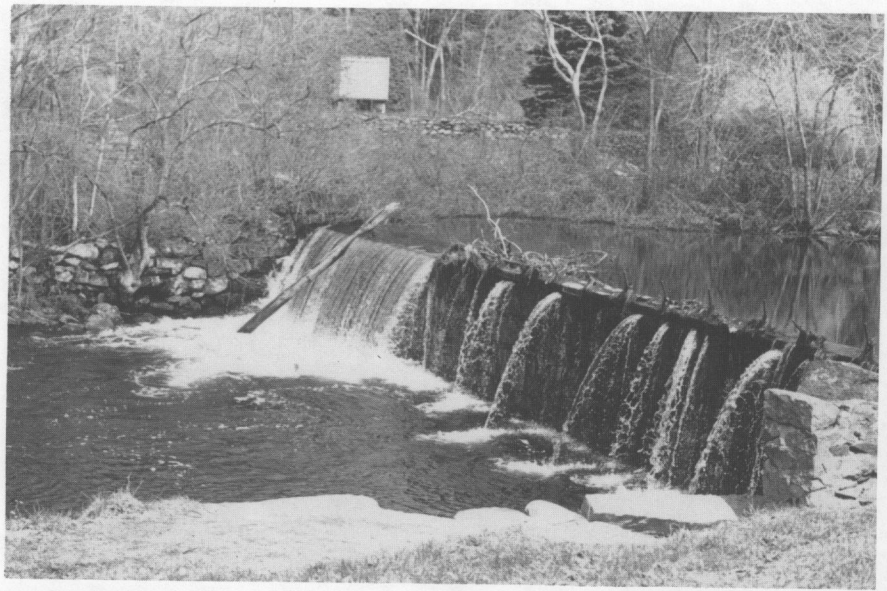
*John F. Clark House (c. 1882);  
95 Broad Street*

*Town Hall (1894); 45 Broad  
Street*



## ARNOLD MILLS

*Mill Dam and Foundation  
(18th/early 19th century);  
Arnold Mills*



*United Methodist Church  
(1828); Nate Whipple Highway,  
Arnold Mills*



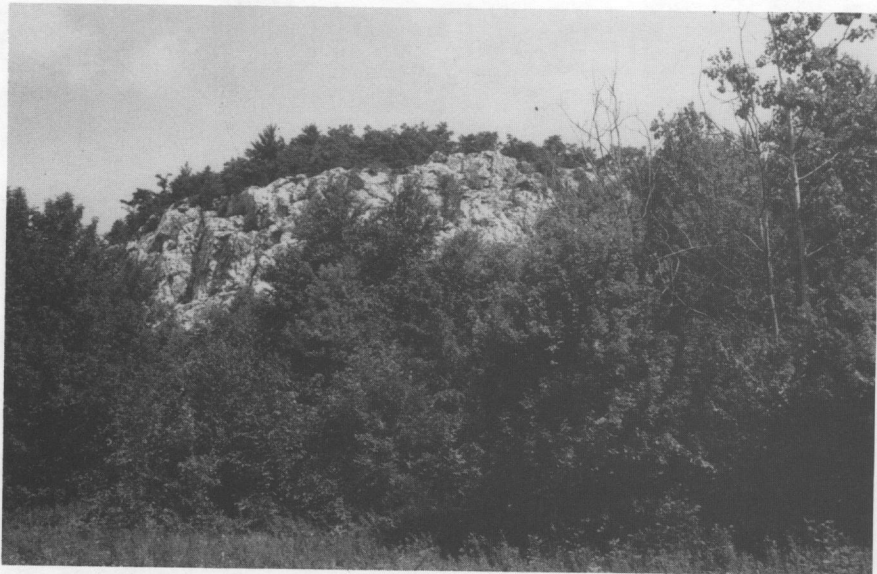
*House (c. 1800); Sneech Pond  
Road; Arnold Mills*



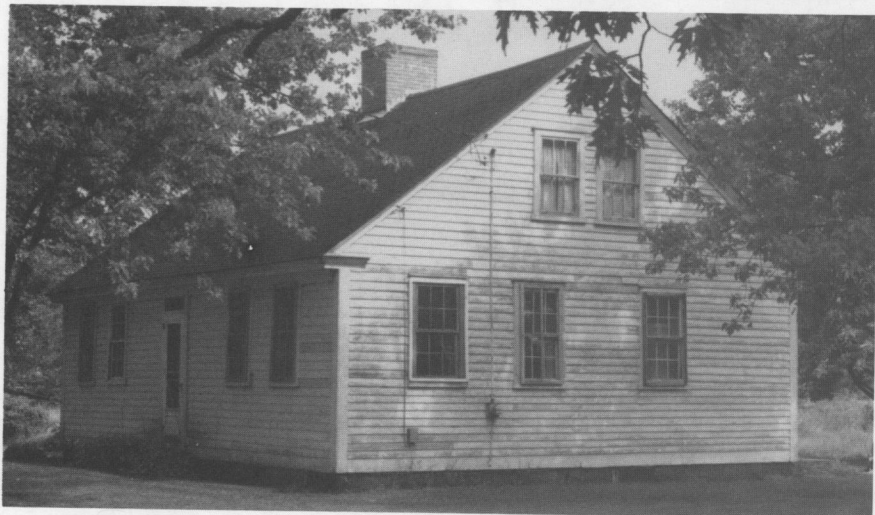
*Dr. Addison Knight House (c.  
1844-46); Sneech Pond Road,  
Arnold Mills*

## DIAMOND HILL

*Granite Quarry (mid-to late  
19th century); Diamond Hill*



*Whipple House (c. 1838);  
Diamond Hill Road*



*G. Whipple Store (late 19th  
century); Diamond Hill Road*



Civic improvements included a brick fire station (1887) at 272 Broad Street and a brick post office at 12-16 Mill Street (\*), both now converted to other uses, as well as a new Town Hall (1894) at 45 Broad Street (\*). A three-story, brick building with a large central clock tower and Colonial Revival style trim, the Town Hall, designed by the architectural firm of William Walker & Son, is a prominent landmark. The best preserved of Valley Falls' commercial buildings from this period was Patterson Brothers House and Store, a brick commercial block at 159 Broad Street, which later housed a hardware store (\*\*; demolished 1998).

Residential construction was predominantly mill worker housing, much of which was owned by the Valley Falls Company, as well as modest single- and multi-family houses. A group of houses on Abbott Street preserves the character and setting of this period. On the outskirts of Valley Falls, residential subdivisions such as the Hill Land, Bayview, and Highland Homes plats, were created off of Broad Street and High Street beginning in the 1870s. Valley Falls also attracted a small number of wealthier residents. The John F. Clark House (c. 1882) at 91 Broad Street (\*) is a two-and-one-half-story, cross-gable-roofed, Queen Anne style dwelling with patterned shingles, a pilastered chimney, and carved decoration. Reportedly designed by William R. Walker & Son, it is the most elaborate late Victorian house in Cumberland.

#### **ARNOLD MILLS \*\***

Arnold Mills, originally known as East Cumberland, was settled in the mid-eighteenth century. In 1825, new growth was sparked when Joseph and Ebenezer Metcalf built a small, wood-frame machine shop to manufacture machinery for cotton mills on Sneece Pond Road. The loss of this important building by fire in 1987 was a major blow to the documentation of early industrial buildings in Rhode Island. During the rest of the nineteenth century, modest expansion of the village occurred, including construction of a new dam, establishment of a post office, and the building of a school house along with a half dozen houses. Institutional buildings included construction of a Friends meetinghouse in 1810 on Abbott Run Valley Road and a Methodist church in 1828 at 696 Nate Whipple Highway. Arnold Mills never became more than a small rural manufactory and commercial center, however, and today retains much of its nineteenth-century character and charm.

#### **DIAMOND HILL \***

Diamond Hill, also located in the northeastern part of Cumberland, evolved into a small commercial center in the first half of the nineteenth century. Growth of the village was spurred to a degree by the opening of a large granite quarry on the east slope of Brush Hill, north and west of Diamond Hill. The Diamond Hill Quarry, principally owned by Amasa Whipple, operated through most of the nineteenth century and is said to have provided stone for the Massachusetts State House in Boston and entrance steps for Providence homes. Around 1820, a saw mill was built in the village, and later a tavern, school, hotel, post office, store and several dwellings were added. Regional transportation improved in 1877 with the completion of the Providence-Franklin spur of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Railroad, with a station stop on Reservoir Road at Diamond Hill. This fairly remote section of Cumberland was directly affected by regional urban expansion in 1885-1886, when the industrialized City of Pawtucket built the Diamond Hill Reservoir northeast of the village.

The loosely arranged, linear village in the level agricultural plain along Diamond Hill Road continued as a local center into the twentieth century and still serves as a focus for this part of town. It contains a number of good examples of vernacular nineteenth-century domestic buildings and a commercial building gem, the excellently preserved Diamond Hill General Store, at 3782 Diamond Hill Road, with two original storefronts under a bracketed cornice.

### **LONSDALE \*\***

In 1860, the Lonsdale Company, owned by the Providence mercantile firm of Brown and Ives, expanded its 1831 operations on the Blackstone River in Lincoln across the river into Cumberland. Construction of a new mill on the broad flood plain here marked the beginning of the "new village" of Lonsdale. A second mill was built in 1871, and, in 1886, the Ann and Hope Mill was completed. The 1886 mill was built by Providence mill architect and engineer Frank P. Sheldon. In contrast to the smaller earlier mills, this large new mill represented great progress and increased size in mill construction and production capabilities. The monolithic, four-story, brick main mill building is 498 feet long and has a low-pitched, bracketed roof and a central stair tower. It was the focal point of what was considered a model mill village, praised for attention to esthetics and planning. Sited east and uphill of the mill on both sides of Mendon Road, the workers' homes, dating mostly from the 1860s and 1870s, were noted as comfortable brick cottages with modern conveniences set on ample grounds, a departure from traditional mill housing.

In the late nineteenth century, Lonsdale was one of the most prosperous and thriving manufacturing communities in Rhode Island, where mill workers were said to enjoy better than average living conditions. At Lonsdale, Berkeley, and Ashton, other Lonsdale Company villages in Cumberland, many workers owned their own homes. Because of their stability, the villages came to be held in high regard. The mill itself operated at the forefront of technological innovation and in the first decades of the twentieth century was one of the first and largest users of the new Draper loom, with its automatic bobbin changer. The major products at that time were cotton cloths: cambric muslins, Hollands, and sheetings. The company ceased operation in the 1930s and the mill is now used for light manufacturing.

### **ASHTON \*\***

In 1867, in a program of further expansion, the Lonsdale Company erected a large, three-and-one-half-story, mansard-roof brick mill, later enlarged to four full stories with a flat roof, at Ashton, on the east side of the Blackstone River north of Lonsdale. A compact group of associated multi-family brick tenements and other buildings, including a handsome mansard-roofed office, also were built. This mill played a major role in nineteenth-century textile technology and was the site of the first large-scale test of the high-speed Sawyer spindle, one of the earliest of its type developed in the United States. The mill houses here are noteworthy for their simple form and dense arrangement. The village is tucked into a narrow, low flood-plain site at the bottom of a bluff carrying Mendon Road in this section.

### **BERKELEY \*\***

With the establishment of the Berkeley mill and village in 1872, the Brown and Ives' Lonsdale Company became the second-largest textile company in Rhode Island, one of the

## LONSDALE

*Ann and Hope Mill (1886);  
Lonsdale*



*Mill Housing (1870s); Lonsdale*



*Mill Housing (1880s); Lonsdale*



ASHTON

*Ashton Mill (1867); Ashton*



*Ashton Mill Workers Housing (1870s); Ashton*



*Ashton Mill Workers Housing (1860s); Ashton*



## BERKELEY

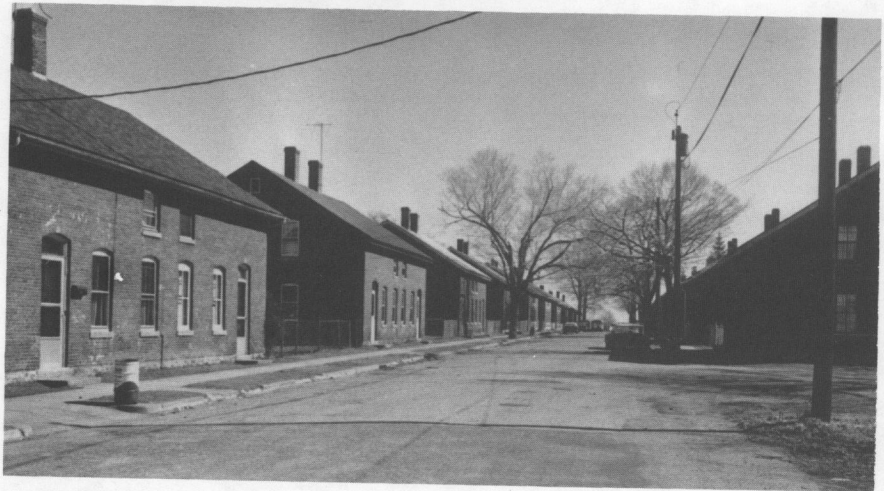
*Berkeley Mill (1872); Berkeley*



*Berkeley School (c. 1872);  
Martin Street, Berkeley*



*Workers Housing (1870s);  
Berkeley*





first users of the Corliss steam engine (rather than river waterpower), and one of the foremost cotton manufacturing firms in New England. The village was named for Bishop George Berkeley, the noted eighteenth-century philosopher. It is similar to Lonsdale and Ashton in the architectural style and in the use of brick as the principal building material. It retains a fine mill with a Romanesque tower at 30 Martin Street, mill housing, a mill superintendent's house, and a school. Like the other Lonsdale Company mills, the Berkeley Mill produced cotton cloth, specifically cambric muslins and fine shirtings, and in 1891 employed 600 workers and ran 927 looms. In 1891, it was the site of a bitter strike over unwelcome changes in piece rates paid to workers and increases in loom speeds. This nineteenth-century manufacturing development, commonly referred to as the "stretch out and speed up," caused worker dissatisfaction throughout the textile industry.

The Berkeley mill operatives were, for the most part, either Irish Catholics or Methodists. Reverend Norman Vincent Peale, while a divinity student at Boston University, conducted services at the Berkeley Methodist Church. The church is set on a hill overlooking the village and is now used as a commercial building.

## TWENTIETH-CENTURY SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

In the first decades of the twentieth century, Cumberland continued much as it had throughout the previous century. After World War II, however, Cumberland's strong rural-urban dichotomy gradually diminished because of the mobility afforded by the automobile and the pressures of suburban residential growth in the ring around the urban centers of greater Providence and nearby Woonsocket. The town's population remained steady from 1900 until the 1940s, then more than doubled between 1950 and 1980.

In the town's industrial sector, the pressures experienced by textile manufacturing throughout the northeast affected the Cumberland mills. The Albion Company Mill at Valley Falls was demolished about 1934 and the Manville Mills destroyed in a fire in the 1950s. The Lonsdale Company discontinued operations at Ashton in the 1930s, at Berkeley a short time later, and at Lonsdale, although still expanding in the 1920s, around mid-century. While a few new firms manufacturing other types of goods were established, such as Standard Nut & Bolt Co. at 49 Abbott Street and Hindley Manufacturing Co. at 9 Haven Street in Valley Falls, Cumberland has never regained its industrial economic base.

Agriculture continued to be an important activity, but it too began to taper off by mid-century and has now almost completely disappeared. Most farmers engaged in dairy farming, growing hay and grazing cows on land cleared in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries around early farmsteads. One large farm established in the early twentieth century is still intact with a farmhouse and barn (c. 1920) at 250 West Wrentham Road in the northern part of town. The larger farms were primarily located in the eastern part of town along the Abbott Run and scattered in the fertile valleys along streams and brooks.

Few isolated, single-family houses were constructed in the outlying areas of town in the early twentieth century. A notable exception is the house known as Grayrock (1920) at 130 Angell Road (\*), a large, stone country house built by Squire Senior Nicholson, who owned a chain of grocery stores in Pawtucket. New residential construction primarily occurred, however, in suburban plats laid out along the major roads, such as Rosemont off High Street (1901), Ingleside (1919) and Longview (1925) off Mendon Road near the Woonsocket line, and Waterman Heights (1926) between Diamond Hill Road and Hines Road. During the 1920s and 1930s, the first large, automobile-oriented suburban subdivision with serpentine

roads was created at the Lippitt Estate. It was formed around the country farm estate of Senator Henry F. Lippitt, in an isolated setting off Little Pond County Road. The brick, Colonial Revival style Lippitt house burned in 1920, was rebuilt but was destroyed by fire again in 1938.

Other developments that caused changes in the town include improved water supply systems, the building of religious retreats and modest summer resorts and recreation facilities. In 1900, seven members of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (OCSO), known as Trappists, established a monastery known as the Monastery of Our Lady of the Valley on 500 acres of land between Diamond Hill Road and Berkeley Village, at 1464 Diamond Hill Road. Several large monastery buildings and a porter's lodge were built of granite quarried on the site. In the wake of a severe fire that heavily damaged the building, the property of 500 acres and several buildings was acquired by the Franciscan Friars of Graymoor, New York, and then by the Town of Cumberland. It remains as a significant open-tract of land and as an important recreational and educational center for the town. Another large religious retreat was established at Mount St. Rita by the Sisters of Mercy in the early twentieth century at 6 Sumner Brown Road. The property occupies a large tract of land in the northeast corner of town at the intersection of West Wrentham and Sumner Brown roads.

In the northern part of town, increased water demand in Cumberland and in Pawtucket resulted in construction of two new reservoirs. In 1927, Arnold Mills Reservoir was added to the Pawtucket Water Works' existing facilities at Diamond Hill Reservoir. Two years later, in 1929, the Cumberland Water Works was formed with an appropriation of \$70,000,000 to adapt Sneece Pond for water supply use. A pump station and standpipe were constructed.

One of the earliest recreation sites in the town was Diamond Hill State Park, acquired in the 1930s. The hill's 315-foot vertical drop offered a ski slope with a rope tow and a toboggan run. In the 1970s, a ski shop, and restaurant were opened, but proved unsuccessful, losing to competition from Ski Valley on the opposite side of the hill. At Senechtaconet Park on Sneece Pond, a pavilion attracted residents in the summer for recreation, boating, dancing, and band concerts at the turn of the century.

Over the course of this century, a series of transportation improvements have increased ease of access to and from urban areas. As part of a major road program, the Ashton Viaduct (1934-1945) (\*\*), an immense, arched, concrete bridge, was constructed to carry George Washington Highway from Mendon Road at Ashton across the Blackstone River to Lincoln. Other improvements included construction of highways in adjacent towns of northern Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts, such as State Route 146 to the west in Lincoln and Woonsocket, Interstate Route 95 to the east and Interstate Route 295, which passes through the center of Cumberland. At the same time, movement within the town has been eased by the upgrading of historic local roads such as Angell Road (State Route 116), Nate Whipple Highway (State Route 120), and Pine Swamp Road (State Route 114).

Since World War II, the town has undergone substantial suburbanization. During the 1960s, the town's population increased by almost 41 per cent to a total of more than 26,000 people. To meet the changing student population, a new high school was erected in 1961 at 2602 Mendon Road at Cumberland Hill. This growth trend has continued into the 1990s, much of it in new residential subdivisions off Mendon and Diamond Hill roads, and in the northern part of town around Arnold Mills and Grants Mills. As a result, Cumberland has become a bedroom community for adjacent urban areas.

*Gray Rock (1920); 160 Angell  
Road*



*Ashon Viaduct (1934-45);  
George Washington Highway*

Some influx of industry has occurred, both in existing mill facilities and in newly constructed plants. Sand and gravel operations along the Blackstone River have been active since the mid-century and have dramatically altered the land forms and landscape, particularly around Berkeley and below Cumberland Hill.

Despite trends towards homogenization of its historical landscape character, Cumberland retains several different types of historical environments. Along the Abbott Run Valley and in the northern part of town, open farmscapes reflect a long-standing agricultural tradition. Scattered about are Native American sites, quarries and mines, early mills, burying grounds, farm complexes, and villages. In the Blackstone Valley are the larger urban clusters and mill villages, mostly late nineteenth century in origin. These are important reminders of Cumberland's industrial heritage, which began in the seventeenth century and flourished in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Between the villages and scattered about the town are more recent buildings -- houses, farms, schools, factories, and businesses--which are an important part of Cumberland's historical continuity, reflecting changing perceptions, economic trends, and ideals.

The buildings, structures, sites, and landscapes cataloged in this report are Cumberland's most notable cultural resources, but their importance is not singular. Collectively, they are Cumberland's material history, through which the lives and life ways of past residents can be read. In the face of increasing change, they become even more precious.

## **THE NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES**

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of properties that are significant in American history and worthy of preservation. The State Register of Historic Places is the state government's list of historically significant properties. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission identifies properties which may be eligible for the National Register and, with the State Review Board, proposes that the Secretary of the Interior approve them for inclusion in the Register. The National Register is an important planning tool as well as a record of the physical remains of America's past.

The benefits of being in the National Register and the State Register include:

- Recognition of the property's importance in national publications and listings.
- Eligibility to apply for federal planning and restoration grants when funds are available (presently funding is not available).
- Eligibility to apply for low-interest loans from the RIPH&HC Revolving Fund.
- Eligibility to apply for state income tax credit equal to ten percent of approved restoration work on owner-occupied historic houses.
- Assurance that the property will not be altered or demolished by federally funded, assisted, or licensed projects without careful consideration by the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; in Rhode Island, state funded, assisted, or licensed projects are reviewed by the Historical Preservation Commission.
- Eligibility for federal tax provisions. If an income-producing property is listed in the National Register, certain federal tax provisions may apply.

Listing in the Registers is primarily a tool to encourage the preservation and recognition of our national heritage. The Registers are not a stumbling block in the way of progress; they are reminders that the preservation and re-use of properties which give our towns and cities their identity are part of progress.

Listing in the National Register and State Register does none of the following things:

- It does not require the owner to preserve or maintain the property. Unless the owner applies for and receives special federal or state benefits, she/he can do anything with the property which is permitted by local ordinances.
- It does not block federal or state projects when these are shown to be in the public interest. Careful consideration of such projects which call for alteration or demolition of National and State Register properties is required.
- Demolition of Register properties does not result in significant tax penalties.

A number of districts, buildings, and sites in Cumberland have already been entered in the National and State Registers or have been formally determined eligible for inclusion in the Registers. As a result of the survey, additional properties are recommended for further study and possible nomination to the Registers. Descriptions of each property listed below appear in the Inventory that follows.

Properties entered in the National and State Registers (for boundaries consult RIHP&HC):

Arnold Mills Historic District  
Ashton Historic District  
Berkeley Mill Village Historic District  
Lonsdale Historic District  
Furnace Carolina Site (RI-2045), on Abbott Run  
Tower-Flagg Barn Complex, 100 Abbott Run Valley Road  
Sassafras Archaeological Site (RI-55), Albion Road  
Patterson Brothers House and Store, 159 Broad Street [DEMOLISHED 1998]  
Whipple-Jenckes House, 8 Fairhaven Road (formerly 2500 Diamond Hill Road)  
St. Joseph's Church Complex (c. 1872, 1888), 1301-1317 Mendon Road  
Lewis Tower House (1825), 2199 Mendon Road  
Luke Jillson House (c. 1752 et seq.), 2510 Mendon Road  
Burlingame/Noon House (c. 1800 et seq.), 3261 Mendon Road  
John Cole Farm (c. 1776), 41 Reservoir Road  
Ballou-Weatherhead House, 68 Tower Hill Road

Properties determined eligible for listing in the National and State Registers:

Church Street Bridge, 1882, Church Street  
Ashton Viaduct, 1934-45, George Washington Highway (partially within the Ashton  
Historic District)  
Howard Road Bridge, c. 1886, Howard Road  
Rawson Road Bridges, c. 1886, Rawson Road  
Arnold Mills Bridge, 1886, Sneece Pond Road (Arnold Mills Historic District)

Properties recommended for further study:

Abbott Run Early Industrial Sites Archaeological District  
Diamond Hill Village Historic District  
Old West Wrentham Road Historic District  
Rawson Road/Abbott Run Historic District  
Tower Hill Road Historic District  
Valley Falls Historic District  
Follett/Carpenter House and Farm (c. 1800), 44 Angell Road  
Squire Senior Nicholson House/"Grayrock" (1920), 130 Angell Road  
Cumberland Town Hall (1894), 45 Broad Street  
John F. Clark House (1884), 91 Broad Street  
St. Patrick's Church, Rectory, Convent, and Parochial School (1861 et seq., 1936), 285  
Broad Street  
G. Whipple Commercial Block (late nineteenth century), 3782 Diamond Hill Road  
Hixon Homestead/Maple Shade Farm (seventeenth century et seq.), 109 Hines Road

Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church (1908), 55 Fountain Street  
Former Post Office, (late nineteenth century), 12-16 Mill Street, Valley Falls  
Miller House (c. 1797), 161 Tower Hill Road  
Grants Mill (c. 1818), 8 Wrentham Road

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

## LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

By establishing local historic district commissions and instituting design review, Rhode Island communities monitor and guide construction activity in their historic areas. Local historic districts are special overlay zoning areas created by a community to help safeguard a valuable architectural and historic legacy and to preserve a special sense of time and place. These qualities may be found in buildings, structures, sites, landscape features, and elements of their settings. The distinctive character of a district may be made of diverse or similar elements that together form an important part of the community's heritage. A local historic district zone may consist of one or more historic properties.

Local historic district designation reflects the community's desire to protect its individual historic character. Local historic district designation is NOT the same as listing in the National or State Register of Historic Places (although the three types of districts may have similar or identical boundaries). Maps with boundaries of local historic districts may be consulted at the Cumberland Town Hall.

In Cumberland, four local historic districts have been established since 1987. The Cumberland Historic District Commission reviews proposed changes to the exteriors of buildings within the districts.

Local historic districts:

- Ashton Historic District
- Lonsdale Historic District
- Old West Wrentham Road Historic District
- Tower Hill Road Historic District





## INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following inventory of cultural resources includes many currently known properties that are important to the historic and architectural development of Cumberland. It should not be considered absolutely comprehensive, however, as future study may reveal additional properties for inclusion. All historic properties within designated National and State Register districts and local historic districts are listed. The only exception is the Berkeley Mill Village Historic District, where only major and representative buildings have been recorded and included.

Inventory entries are keyed as follows:

- Key:   \*   Recommended for further study to determine eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register.
- \*\*   Listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register or formally determined eligible for listing.
- +   Designated local historic district.

In the case of historic districts, all individual entries for properties included in officially designated National and State Register districts or local districts (\*\* or +) are keyed. Districts which are recommended for further study (\*) are keyed only at the district entry. Individual properties recommended for designation (\*) are keyed individually.

Material in this inventory is arranged alphabetically. Road and district names are listed in a single alphabetical sequence, with cross referencing where necessary. On each street, properties are listed by address number. Properties without address numbers are listed in the same order in which they occur on the street. Dates and names in parentheses at the end of an entry refer to the property's identification on nineteenth-century maps. 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, set side to the road, and are wood-clapboard-sided.

### ABBOTT RUN EARLY INDUSTRIAL SITES ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

- \*           This early eighteenth- through early-nineteenth-century district south of Arnold Mills, along the Abbott Run, consists of two sites, one several hundred yards south of the village and one at the junction of Bishop's Brook. Both sites are associated with early iron works.
- \*\*           FURNACE CAROLINA, RI-2045 (c. 1734-1754): The site of an eighteenth-century cold blast furnace located near Whipple Road (now Arnold Mills Road) on the Abbott Run. It is the upper of the two works. Ore was brought here from Iron Mine Hill, and also, possibly, bog iron ore

· ABBOTT RUN EARLY INDUSTRIAL SITES ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT (continued)

was obtained locally or from other places. Today, this mill site is indicated by foundations, dams, trenches, and other man-made works.

At the lower works, once known as the "Fog Mill," nails and other iron products were manufactured. This was possibly the site of the 18th-century Arnold Mill bloomery forge associated with Furnace Carolina. Later, a small wooden factory was built and manufactured cloth until 1836. Manufacturing ceased here by the late nineteenth century and all buildings eventually were destroyed. The exact location of this second site has not been determined.

ABBOTT STREET

Abbott Street runs north-south over a small rise along the east side of Valley Falls and the west edge of the area historically known as Happy Hollow, the site of the Abbott Run Cotton Mill in the nineteenth century. Along it are a cluster of well-preserved, one-and-one-half-story and two-and-one-half-story, late Victorian frame houses, of modest scale, but with rich, pattern-book ornament in the Queen Anne style and bracketed mode.

- 23, 25, 26 HOUSES (late 19th century): Three one-and-one-half-story, Late Victorian frame houses at the intersection with Smith Street. Number 21 is an asymmetrically massed, cross-gable, Queen Anne style dwelling with a canted corner and prominent, pedimented entrance porch. Number 25 has an end-gable roof, heavy bracketed entrance hood, barge boards, and a bracketed bay window. Number 26 has a central entrance under a steeply pitched gable. A bay window and all trim has been removed, all original bracketed trim and windows have been replaced, and the entire structure has been clad with artificial siding.
- 42 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable, two-family house covered with asphalt shingle and trimmed with paired brackets. It has, on the facade, two bracketed bays and a two-story, turned-post porch. (1895-appears)
- 48 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, cross-gable, clapboard and patterned shingle house. Although the windows have been replaced, the house retains much of its original stock detailing, including a wraparound spindlework porch with a roof gable marking the location of the entrance steps. All the windows are replaced, and the building is clad with artificial siding. (1870-D. Murray)
- 49 STANDARD NUT & BOLT CO. (early 20th century): A two-story, parapeted-flat-roof, concrete industrial building with one-story, concrete and clapboard-sheathed extensions, sited near the railroad tracks. (1895-different wood buildings on site.)

## ABBOTT RUN VALLEY ROAD

- 10            CARGILL HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal house with a five-bay facade and center entrance with side lights and dentils under a flat entablature. A long wing extends to the rear. The house is clad with artificial siding. Two small barns are located behind the house. The property retains an agricultural setting including a small orchard next to the house and fields across the street with granite fence posts and a large granite barn foundation. This was the residence of the Cargill family, a local farming family, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. (1870-O. Cargill)
- 21            CARGILL/CARPENTER HOUSE AND FARM (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal house with a five-bay facade, flat-head entablature over the central entrance and a one-and-one-half-story central wing. A fine, large-frame, Late Victorian bank barn with a cupola stands nearby. It was part of a large working farm, known for its apple orchards, which was the home of the Cargill and Carpenter families throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The farm complex is well preserved. A new residential subdivision and condominiums are nearby. (1838-David Cargill)
- 80            ECHO HILL FARM (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal house with a fine central doorway with sidelights. An addition with a Tuscan veranda and circular corner belvedere was made to the right side in 1903. It was the residence of the Cargill family in the nineteenth century and later owned by the Howard family. The surrounding agricultural land has been altered by residential development. (1838-Jason Cargill)
- \*\*100        TOWER-FLAGG BARN COMPLEX (mid-18th to early 20th century): An agricultural complex containing one principal structure consisting of three connected barns. The oldest two Tower Barns are two- and three-bay, scribe-rule, gunstock-posted English barns dating from the mid-18th century. They are rare survivors of this building type, built by the Tower family, early settlers of Cumberland. The Flagg Barn (1930-1934) is a balloon-frame horse barn with a steep pitched gable roof. Charles O. Flagg was a founder of the state agricultural school (University of Rhode Island) and a progressive farmer. The property also contains a 19th-century, post-and-beam shed and tack house, an early-20th-century milk house, and the site of the Tower House, also known as the Biscuit House, constructed between 1713 and 1724 and burned in 1927. An early-20th-century house heavily altered in the 1970s and a modern riding ring are located to the south and west of the barn complex. (Benjamin Tower)
- 105         HOUSE (1860s): A two-story, flank-gable, Greek Revival-style house clad with wood shingles. The house has an off-center chimney, and a central entrance with a Neo-Colonial, gabled pediment and flanking sidelights.

## ABBOTT RUN VALLEY ROAD (continued)

Windows are 6/6 with molded caps, and ½-height windows on the second floor facade, and a one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable side ell. This house was owned by two sisters of Charles O. Flagg.

- 115 HOUSE (1860s): A modest, one-and-one-half-story, end-gable, Early Victorian house with a bracketed, hip-roof front porch, side-hall entrance, and diagonal stickwork bracing in the gable peak. (1870-M. Sheldon)
- 130 HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story Federal structure with interior end chimneys and a fine central doorway. The house is oriented south at an angle to the road. According to local tradition, the house may contain an earlier, c. 1740 component and may have been moved to its current site. Its immediate setting is well preserved, although modern residential development now encircles the house. (1838-Wm. Sayles?)
- 134 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story Italianate structure with bracketed cornice, eaves, and door hood,. The house has a 2-bay facade with a 2-story continuous bay window. The building has 6/6 replacement windows with molded caps, and rests on a granite block foundation.
- 140 HOUSE (mid-18th century): A simple, one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Colonial cottage set end to the road, with an asymmetrical, 6-bay facade. The house sits in an agricultural setting. (1838-Hawkins?)
- 142 CRANDALL(?)/FRANKLIN FARM (mid-19th century): A relatively large tract of gently rolling farmscape north of Rawson Road, consisting of open land with fine stone walls along the road and across the fields. The farm is centered around an agricultural complex that has a c. 1840 one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, five-bay, center-entrance house with two gable dormers breaking the cornice line and a one-and-one-half-story wing with gabled dormers. A large, wood-shingled, gable-roof barn with a clapboarded, gable-roof ell and a silo is associated with the property. This was one of the last operating dairy farms in the town. The buildings and field on the west side of the road are intact. Fields across the road to the east were part of the Johnson family holdings and have been subdivided. The farm property is now owned by the Town of Cumberland and preserved as open space. (1838-Clark C. Crandall?)

(The following properties are included in the Arnold Mills Historic District:)

- \*\*301 DAVIS METCALF HOUSE (early 19th century): Davis Metcalf (1778-1848), a son of Ebenezer, Sr., erected this Federal style house early in the nineteenth century. It is a two-story, flank-gable, center-chimney structure with a one-and-one-half-story wing extending to the right. Since 1962, a Federal style, Tuscan entry porch has been removed and the sidelight entrance given a fanlight and broad pediment with returns. (1838-D. Metcalf)

## ABBOTT RUN VALLEY ROAD (continued)

- \*\* PECK CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--CUMBERLAND NO. 19 (mid-18th century et seq.): A well-maintained hillside burial ground, surrounded by woods and fenced with rubblestone walls. It dates back to at least 1754 and is the earliest local graveyard. It contains numerous fine slate and brownstone eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century headstones of early families, including Ballous, Pecks, and Whipples, as well as a handsome granite-block-fronted receiving tomb built for Joseph Whipple in 1825. (1838-on)
- \*\* METCALF CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--CUMBERLAND NO. 20 (mid-18th century et seq.): A small, well-preserved and maintained graveyard surrounded by woods on a small hill near the old Friends Meetinghouse, bounded by rubblestone and random ashlar walls. It contains 25 headstones dating to the 1850s. (1838-on)
- \*\*331 EBENEZER METCALF, SR. HOUSE/THE ELMS (late 18th century): A two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal house with a fine Georgian entrance consisting of fluted Tuscan pilasters upholding a flat-topped entablature with a heavy cornice highlighted by modillions. A large back wing is finished in a plain, mid-nineteenth century style. Ebenezer, Sr., the first Metcalf to settle in the Arnold Mills area, was the father of Ebenezer, Jr., and Joseph, who established the Metcalf Mill. Today, the house is surrounded by a modern tract of residential development. (1838-J. Metcalf)

(End of properties in the Arnold Mills Historic District.)

- 362, 366 HOUSES (late 19th century): These two similar, one-and-one-half-story frame cottages were moved here just south of Nate Whipple Highway from "Red Village," near the Diamond Hill granite quarry, in the early twentieth century. They each have a five-bay facade, central entrance, molded window caps, and two small interior chimneys. There is a large, gable-roof stone barn at the rear.

## ADAMS STREET

- 10 FORMER ST. STEPHEN'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOCIAL CLUB (1933): Located just off Manville Hill Road in Cumberland Hill, this is a one-and-one-half-story, red-brick structure set on a high, fully-exposed, stuccoed basement. The pitched roof has an end gable at the entrance facade and is hipped at the rear. The facade has yellow brick trim at the corners, in a band at the cornice line, and surrounding a circular window above a Tuscan entry portico. A double set of modern concrete stairs leads to the porch. Windows are simple punched openings, some retaining original sash. St. Stephen's Church was located the Manville section of Lincoln. The building has been converted into housing and is surrounded by a complex of detached apartment buildings known as Rustic Village.

## ALBION ROAD

ALBION DAM (mid-19th century): A stone dam across the Blackstone River between Cumberland and Lincoln, built to supply power for the Albion mills on the Lincoln side of the river. The Cumberland side, with rock outcrops and rough topography, was never developed.

- \*\* ALBION BRIDGE (1885; reconstructed 1995/1996): A pin-connected, two-span, Pratt pony truss bridge built by the Boston Bridge Works over the Blackstone River between Cumberland and Lincoln. Listed in the National Register as part of the Albion Historic District, Lincoln.

## ANGELL ROAD

- \*44 FOLLETT/CARPENTER HOUSE AND FARM (c. 1800): An excellently preserved and evocative farm complex and agrarian landscape on the north side of Angell Road in the rolling valley of Scott Brook. The complex near the road is centered on a one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal cottage with a sidelighted central entrance and a one-story wing, set behind a white picket fence with granite posts. A drive leads between the house and orchard to a grouping of nineteenth and early twentieth century outbuildings, including a one-story stone structure (icehouse or milkhouse?); a small shed; a large, L-plan, gable-roof barn; and a chicken coop. A large tract of fields surrounds the property, which is among a small number, and perhaps the best preserved, of surviving nineteenth-century farms in Cumberland. A residential subdivision has been developed across the street. (1838-Lyman Follett?)

- 127 DANIEL WILKINSON HOUSE (1824): A two-and-one-half-story Federal house with two large brick interior chimneys and a central doorway with side lights under a gabled portico. The Wilkinsons were early settlers in this part of Cumberland. In the late nineteenth century, the property was owned by John Angell, who married into the Wilkinson family. (1838-Daniel Wilkinson)

WILKINSON CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY-CUMBERLAND NO. 32 (early 19th century): This small family burying ground is divided into three sections enclosed by a stone wall and granite fence posts. Each section contains a central monument surrounded by graves of the Remington, Wilkinson, Harris, and Thompson families dating from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century. The cemetery is overgrown and in poor condition. The frontispiece of the left half of a double receiving tomb is totally collapsed. The right half, also deteriorating, was erected by James Wilkinson in 1833 in honor of his wife Rowena.

## ANGELL ROAD (continued)

\*130 SQUIRE SENIOR NICHOLSON HOUSE/GRAYROCK (1920): Grayrock is a large, two-and-one-half-story, T-plan, hip-roof suburban estate house constructed of random ashlar with wood trim. Colonial Revival detailing includes exposed rafter ends and single and paired-column Tuscan entry porticoes. It has two massive ashlar chimneys, small hip dormers, and a variety of windows: 6-over-6 double-hung sash, bands of multi-light casements, oriels, and a long round-arch stair window. It is sited at the end of a long drive off Angell Road on a landscaped terrace atop a hill with vistas to the north. Its character and scale make it an unusual house in Cumberland. Stone for the house may have been quarried from the nearby granite quarry. It occupies the former Wilkinson/Thompson families' Cherry Orchard property and was built by Squire Senior Nicholson of Pawtucket as his residence. Nicholson was the president and treasurer of the Nicholson-Thackray Company, a grocery chain incorporated in 1902, with over 40 shops in Pawtucket and Central Falls. His son, William H. Nicholson, general manager of the company, lived on West Wrentham Road at Cumberland Hill. In 1929-30, the company was consolidated into the First National Stores, now known as FINAST.

140 JEREMIAH WILKINSON HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, five-bay Federal house with one center and one end chimney and a central doorway with a wood fan. There are additions at the right side and at the rear and stone walls on the property. The Wilkinsons were early settlers in this part of Cumberland. In the early nineteenth century, the property was owned by James Wilkinson, who is buried nearby in R.I. Historical Cemetery--Cumberland No. 32 (see below). (1838-James Wilkinson)

UNION CHAPEL, NOW FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY CHAPEL (1873-75): A simple and picturesque, one-story, wood-frame, Late Victorian Gothic meetinghouse, originally built by the Cumberland Universalist Church. It has a steep gable roof; a projecting, gabled, enclosed entrance porch with a bracketed and doorhood; and pedimented and bracketed window lintels. Cross-bracing in the gable peaks and roof finials has been removed. (1895-Union Chapel)

GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARK (1932; REMOVED 1998): A former small, landscaped park at Chapel Four Corners at the intersection of Diamond Hill and Angell roads, honoring the bicentennial of the birth of George Washington, has been removed during a roadway improvements construction project. A monument consisting of a large rock with a bronze plaque has been relocated to the front of the Four Corners Community Chapel.



## ANN & HOPE WAY

(The following properties on this street are located in the Lonsdale Historic District:)

- \*\*+1** ANN & HOPE MILL (1886): The Ann & Hope Mill is a 498-foot-long, four-story, brick textile mill with double hung 6-over-6 segmental-arch windows with granite sills. The main building has a flat roof and bracketed cornice and a four-story tower with a flat roof and bracketed cornice projecting from the center bay of the west facade. In 1901, a two-story addition with matching tower was constructed on the mill's southern end. Both sections now have one-story cinder block additions along the west facade. The mill was designed by Frank P. Sheldon, a Providence mill architect, and was one of the nation's largest textile factories when it was built. The mill operated until 1936. (1888-Ann & Hope Mill)
- \*\*+** LONSDALE MILL (c. 1913): A small, four-story, brick textile mill located across the Providence & Worcester railroad tracks from the Ann & Hope Mill. The first floor of the street end has been modified, with some openings now closed and a large mural painted over the surface. The mill was part of a larger complex built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and demolished for the most part in the 1930s.
- \*\*+** LONSDALE WAREHOUSE (c. 1870): A tall, windowless, flat-roofed brick warehouse, built over the railroad line.
- \*\*** RAILROAD DEPOT (early 20th century): A one-story, gable-roofed, brick train station, with broad overhanging eaves, vacant and in disrepair.
- \*\*** ANN & HOPE BOILER HOUSE (probably c. 1886): A square, brick boiler house, with a brick stack.

(End of properties in the Lonsdale Historic District.)

## ARNOLD MILLS ROAD (formerly WHIPPLE ROAD)

(The following properties on this street are included in the Arnold Mills Historic District:)

- \*\*1** FORMER CUMBERLAND GRANGE NO. 2 (1895): This two-story, cross-gable Late Victorian structure, now converted to a residence, has a recessed central entrance set in the three-bay primary facade, and carved pendants drops in the gable peaks. It was the home of the first grange (est. 1887) organized in northern Rhode Island. Governor D. Russell Brown and Secretary of State Charles P. Bennett were the principal speakers at the dedication ceremony. The organization and its building attest to the continuing importance of Cumberland's agricultural economy at the end of the nineteenth century. (1895-Grange Hall)

## ARNOLD MILLS ROAD (continued)

- \* SCHOOLHOUSE (1828): A one-story, end-gable, frame schoolhouse, which originally had two doors at the street end (one has been removed). The building was moved here from a nearby site. It is owned by the North Cumberland Fire District and used for municipal meetings.
- \*\* HOUSE (late 18th century): A one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof, residence clad with clapboard and resting on a stone foundation. This house has been recently restored, with a new brick, center chimney, 9/6 windows, and a wood door with a transom in a simple frame.

## ARNOLD MILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Abbott Run Valley Road, Nate Whipple Highway, Sneece Pond Road, and Whipple Road [now Arnold Mills Road])

- \*\* This village had its beginning in 1734, when mill privileges at the present site were sold to William Walcott, Samuel Streeter, and Daniel Wilkinson, and a sawmill was built. In 1735, a blast furnace was erected here by John Metcalf of Dedham, which he sold the next year to Dr. William Clarke of Boston and other prominent Boston merchants. In 1745, Amos Arnold purchased land and buildings here and erected a gristmill. In 1825, a machine shop was added, and a church was built in 1827. The machine shop burned in 1987, but the church is still standing. As early as 1831 the place, with industries, shops, churches and houses, was identified as Arnold Mills, and the village remained a small rural center through the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. Today, Arnold Mills is essentially a residential community, its old structures and houses well preserved, with few modern intrusions. The district consists of three noncontiguous segments.

## ASHTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Front Street, George Washington Highway, Mendon Road, Middle Street, Old Angell Road, Scott Road, and the Blackstone River)

- \*\*+ The Ashton Historic District is an old rural waystop and paternalistic manufacturing village in the Blackstone River Valley, located on an important transportation corridor through the rural areas of northeastern Rhode Island. Ashton began to develop where Mendon Road, the chief highway from Providence through the Blackstone Valley, passed near a ford across the Blackstone River known as Pray's Wade or Landing. In the early nineteenth century, an inn (now demolished) was located near the intersection of Mendon and Old Angell roads. Industrial development of the area began when the Smithfield Cotton and Woolen Company purchased land for a mill privilege on the Lincoln side of the river near the ford. Between 1810 and 1815, the Smithfield Company built a small mill

## ASHTON HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

and a few workers' houses. Despite the construction of the Blackstone Canal in the 1820s, the mill was not very successful and, in the 1840s, the Lonsdale Company acquired the mill.

The Lonsdale Company was one of the most prosperous and productive textile manufacturers in Rhode Island. It was established between 1831 and 1834 by the Providence mercantile house of Brown and Ives, and served to channel China trade profits of the Brown and Ives families into industrial ventures. During the Lonsdale Company's tenure, the mill and village prospered and grew. The construction of the Providence & Worcester Railroad in 1848 and demand for textiles created by the Civil War contributed to the company's development, and in 1867-68, the Lonsdale Company built a new brick mill, a group of brick workers' houses, a brick schoolhouse, and a new Episcopal church.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth, Ashton Village expanded along Mendon and Scott roads. The later development in the "Upper Village" was constructed by private individuals, probably mill employees, who were able to save enough money to build their own homes and shops.

In the nineteenth century, the village of Ashton encompassed both sides of the river and was connected by a bridge across the Blackstone north of the brick mill. Construction of the Ashton Viaduct between 1934 and 1945 and the resultant demolition of the bridge cut off the original settlement in Lincoln from the rest of the village in Cumberland. Remnants of the Lincoln portion of Ashton village still exist.

The development of Ashton illustrates the typical pattern of development and expansion of the textile industry in nineteenth-century Rhode Island. At Ashton, the early factory, built in an uninhabited rural area with adjunct housing, was acquired by the Lonsdale Company during the era of ownership consolidation. The company continued to operate the Ashton mill and its mills down river at Lonsdale. When it expanded, it built new factories at both Lonsdale and Ashton and established a new mill at Berkeley, on the Blackstone between the two villages.

## BEAR HILL ROAD

130

**DOUBLE HOUSE** (late 18th century): This double, Federal-style house, is two-and-a-half stories tall with a flank-gable roof and a six-bay facade. It is clad with clapboards and rests on a stone foundation. Entrances are located in the first and fourth bays from the west, and are surmounted by simple caps. A brick, exterior chimney rises along the east elevation. The house has 6/6 windows. A full-length shed roof dormer is located on the rear slope of the roof. Small, one-and-a-half-story gable roof additions are located on the east and west elevations.

## BERKELEY MILL VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Lawrence Street, Martin Street, Mendon Road, Victory Street, and Woodward Street)

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Martin's Wading Place, located in Martin's Way at the foot of Martin Street in Berkeley, was an early crossing of the Blackstone River. The mill village of Berkeley was established here by the Lonsdale Company, textile manufacturers, in 1872. The Lonsdale Company was formed by the Brown and Ives families between 1831 and 1834, and Berkeley was the third cotton textile mill village they established in Cumberland. The steam-powered mill was located along the Blackstone River with convenient access to the Providence & Worcester Railroad. The planned mill village complex, which included structures for industrial, residential, and educational activities of all its mill workers and employees, represents the final phase of a long tradition of paternalistic, company-built mill towns established in New England in the nineteenth century.

In addition to the handsome mill building with picturesque campanile, the section of the village devoted to workers' housing is particularly significant for its strong, simply ordered architectural effect. Set in a rural area where there was no shortage of land, the brick houses were grouped for convenience but spaced to avoid the spread of fire. This provided a spaciousness of light and air but formed a visually cohesive plan of uniformly designed and sized structures.

Alterations and demolition of original structures in the mill village have been minimal, and although modern commercial development has occurred along Mendon Road and in the area around the mill itself, the workers' housing remains isolated, and the entire complex retains its original character and integrity as a planned community.

## BRAYTON COURT

(The following properties on this street are located in the Lonsdale Historic District:)

\*\*

LONSDALE MILL HOUSES (1880s): A group of seven identical, two-and-one-half-story, brick, granite-trimmed, four-family mill houses. Each is six bays wide with an entrance at each end of the facade and a bracketed cornice. The houses are at Nos. 2, 4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12 and 13/14 Brayton Court. A group of 18 additional identical mill houses is located on Main Street.

## BLACKSTONE RIVER

(The following property is located in the Ashton Historic District:)

\*\*\*

ASHTON DAM: This stone dam spans the Blackstone River in the Ashton Historic District. At the Cumberland side is a gate which was once used to control the water level in the pond behind the dam that provided power to the Ashton Mill.

## BLACKSTONE RIVER (continued)

(The following property is located in the Lonsdale Historic District:)

- \*\*+ DAM AND RAILROAD BRIDGE (1893-94): A combination railroad bridge and curved dam across the Blackstone River at Lonsdale. The dam is constructed of rubble, faced with granite ashlar. Five stone piers, built out and up from the dam, support the railroad tracks. The structure was built by the Lonsdale Company to connect the old village of Lonsdale to the newer village at Lonsdale where the spur joined the main line of the Providence & Worcester Railroad. The railroad remained in use until 1954.

## BLACKSTONE STREET

(The following properties are located in the Lonsdale Historic District:)

- \*\*\*+1 SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE (c. 1870): A two-and-one-half-story, T-plan, Italianate, red-brick house with granite trim; a one-story porch across the Broad Street facade has been closed in and is now covered with artificial siding. A large board-and-batten carriage barn is set to the rear of the lot.
- \*\*+2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16 ASSISTANT OVERSEERS' HOUSES (c. 1920): A group of four identical, one-and-one-half-story, brick double houses, four bays long, lining the south side of Blackstone Street. The doors are set at each end of the facade under trellised porches, one sheltered by a curved hood, the other by a pitched roof.
- \*\*+3-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17 OVERSEERS' HOUSES (1880s): A group of four identical, two-and-one-half-story, overseers' double houses built on relatively large lots on the north side of Blackstone Street. Built of red brick and trimmed with brownstone, the houses are T-shaped and have a cross-gable roof. Entrances are set under one-story porches at the angles.

(End of properties in the Lonsdale Historic District.)

## BOYLE AVENUE

- 20-22; 26-28; 34-38 MILL HOUSES (late 19th century): A group of three double mill houses located off Manville Hill Road in Cumberland Hill and associated with the former textile mills at Manville. They are similar to the larger group of dwellings on Mount Pleasant View Avenue, just above them (see entry below). Units 20-22 and 26-28 have been heavily altered; unit 34-38 remains the least altered and the closest to its original appearance.

## BROAD STREET

(The following properties are located in Valley Falls:)

- \* **BROAD STREET BRIDGE (1915):** This stone-arch bridge carries Broad Street over the Blackstone River in Valley Falls and connects the town of Cumberland with the city of Central Falls. It is the third bridge at this site, which has been used as a river crossing since the early nineteenth century.
  
- VALLEY FALLS HERITAGE PARK/SITE OF VALLEY FALLS MILLS:** At the corner of Broad and Mill streets, the ruins of the large, nineteenth-century Valley Falls textile mill complex, which burned in the 1930s, are located along the north bank of the Blackstone River above the dam. In 1993-1995, the site was developed as a park and became the new home for the Shea Bridge, an 1886 lenticular truss bridge formerly in the Georgiaville Historic District, Town of Smithfield.
  
- 22 **FORMER VALLEY FALLS BAPTIST CHURCH, now KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ST. THOMAS HALL (c. 1840 et seq.):** This tall, one-and-a-half-story structure is clad with artificial siding, has a brick-face entrance, and rests on a concrete covered stone foundation. The entrance, comprised of a steel-and-glass replacement door, is contained under a pedimented gable projection. This congregation was founded in 1832 and met in local mills until a plain wood-frame building was constructed on the present site in 1840. The church was rebuilt or remodeled in 1877, 1928, 1935, and in the mid-20th century. (1870-Baptist Church)
  
- \*45 **CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL (1894; William R. Walker & Son, architects):** The three-story, cross-gable, Colonial Revival style, brick Town Hall has carved terra cotta decorative motifs in the gable ends; a central, wooden, three-tiered clock tower with cupola above the street facade; a roof cornice with modillions and a plain frieze; and a mix of rectangular and round-arch window openings. The front entrance is within a recessed porch. Ongoing rehabilitation plans include removal of twentieth-century replacement aluminum windows with horizontal panes and installation of new sash to match the original. This was Cumberland's first building constructed specifically as a town hall and was built on land previously owned by the Valley Falls Company. The architectural firm William Walker & Son designed numerous public buildings in Rhode Island during this period.
  
- \*91 **JOHN F. CLARK HOUSE (1882):** An elaborate, two-and-one-half-story, Queen Anne style house with patterned shingles, cruciform plan, steeply pitched roof, pilastered and corbeled chimney, round-arch gable reveal, and many decorative treatments, including date in gable and brackets. The house, which may have been designed by the architectural firm of William R. Walker & Son, is the most ornate house of its type in Cumberland. Its location on an elevated corner lot in the center of Valley Falls makes it an important landmark. (1895-appears)

## BROAD STREET (continued)

- 130 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-a-half story, Italianate style house with wood clapboards and a flank-gable orientation, resting on a brick foundation. The building has a two-story bay window with 2/2 windows in the main block and 6/6 windows in a one-and-a-half-story rear ell. The house retains its original double doors.
- 135 FORMER VALLEY FALLS UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, now FRIENDLY SONS OF SAINT PATRICK CLUBHOUSE (1885): This is a simple, tall, two-story, end-gable-roof, clapboard and shingle Queen Anne style former church in Valley Falls. It has a central entry under a pedimented hood supported on brackets, above which are a round-arch, stained-glass window and a square corner tower with a tall, pyramidal hip roof. The building has been sheathed with artificial siding. It appears unlabeled on an 1895 map and on a 1947 map as the Universalist Church.
- \*\*159 PATTERSON BROTHERS HOUSE & STORE (c. 1882; DEMOLISHED 1998): A well-preserved, one-story, wooden, Late Victorian commercial block with a low-pitch gable roof set flank to the street. The three intact storefronts of uneven sizes have large, four-light display windows framed with half columns and recessed entrances under a wide roof cornice supported on large, chamfered and cross-braced brackets. The block is attached to a two-and-one-half-story, end-gable Victorian house. It later housed Roger's Hardware store until it was demolished.
- 272 FIRE STATION (1887): A two-story, hip-roof, brick fire station with central projecting roof gables and three grouped, round-arch windows above two engine-bay doors on the street facade. It has been heavily altered for use as an auto body repair shop. Changes include replacement doors and windows and stuccoing of the brick walls.
- 284 HOUSE (late 19th century): A one-and-a-half-story, five-bay wide, late Greek Revival-style, flank-gable house. The house is clad with clapboards, rests on a brick foundation, and has a flank-gable, asphalt shingle roof. A Colonial Revival, hip-roof porch spans the facade.
- \*285 ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, RECTORY, CONVENT AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL (1861 et seq., 1936): An Early Victorian, tall, stone church with a cruciform plan; a tall, square projecting central tower with a spire; and tall, narrow stained-glass windows. Dating from 1861, this was the first Roman Catholic parish established in Cumberland. The church building was erected the same year and was totally rebuilt in 1936 when the original wood structure was encased in stone. Originally, the parish, which served the new influx of Irish and European mill workers, extended from Central Falls to the Woonsocket line. A two-and-one-half-story, Late Victorian, mansard-roof rectory; a two-and-one-half-story, Late Victorian, mansard-roof convent; and a mid-twentieth-century, yellow-brick parochial school are south of the church, along Broad Street. The Catholic Institute, a seminary that once stood across the street, no longer exists. The cemetery is located on High Street. (1870-R. Cath. Ch.)

## BROAD STREET (continued)

- 364            **BERNARD F. NORTON SCHOOL/CUMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL (1889):** This building was recently rebuilt with little architectural reference to the original structure, other than massing and material. The original building was a two-story, hip-roof, brick and sandstone school building with Romanesque and Classical Revival detailing. The building had a projecting pedimented central entrance bay and grouped rectangular windows with hewn sandstone lintels and sills. Extensive flat-roof, two-story brick additions with cast-concrete trim were added to either end in the early twentieth century. The renovated school is an unarticulated brick structure with large plate-glass windows, and steel and glass entryways. Construction of the first high school reflected the introduction of townwide public education and Cumberland's expanding population at the end of the nineteenth century. A War Memorial to Cumberland's soldiers in wars from the Revolution to World War I was located in front of the school until it was moved to the Monastery. To the rear of the building is a Memorial Park presented to the town by the Lonsdale Company on July 7, 1924. (1895-School)

(End of properties in Valley Falls.)

(The following properties are located in the Lonsdale Historic District:)

- \*\*\*+            **BLACKSTONE MARKER (c. 1889):** This is a plain, beige granite marker inscribed with William Blackstone's name, dates, and deeds, including the popular conception of him as "Founder of Boston," and the more accurate "First white settler in Rhode Island." The monument was raised in Lonsdale by the descendants of William Blackstone to memorialize this early settler; an earlier monument stood nearer the river. In 1996 it was relocated to its present location in the new park at the intersection of Broad and Blackstone streets. (1895-Blackstone Monument)
- \*\*+525            **WILLIAM E. BLACKSTONE SCHOOL (1873):** A two-story, gable-roof school building constructed of red brick with simple punched openings, granite lintels and sills, and a projecting, gabled central entrance bay. This school was built by the Lonsdale Company for workers' children and replaced an earlier school built in the 1850s. It was named for a descendant of William Blackstone, who donated the land. (1895-School)
- \*\*+531            **MASONIC BUILDING (1928):** A simple, two-story, T-plan, Neoclassical brick building with a center door and a cross-gable roof. The building is now occupied by the Blackstone River Theater.
- \*\*+550-52,  
554-56,  
558-60            **MILL HOUSES (c. 1870):** A group of three identical, one-and-one-half-story mill workers' houses, six bays wide, with two doors set at the center of the facade. The cornice is bracketed.
- \*\*+561            **KENT-SMITH HOUSE (c. 1838):** A one-and-one-half-story, five-bay frame dwelling with center chimney and a two-bay addition on the southern end. The entrance has sidelights and there is a small rear ell. The building



## BROAD STREET (continued)

is an early house preceding the industrial development of Lonsdale. Some windows have been modified, and the house is now covered with artificial siding. (1838-H. Kent)

- \*\*+562-64 LONSDALE MILL HOUSE (1880s): A two-and-one-half-story, brick, granite-trimmed, four-family mill house, six bays wide, with an entrance at each end of the facade and a bracketed cornice.
- \*\*+566-68,  
570-72 LONSDALE MILL HOUSES (c. 1870): Two identical, one-and-a-half-story, brick mill houses, six bays wide. The two doors are set in the center of the facade; the cornice is bracketed.
- \*\*+574  
through 600,  
even nos.  
only LONSDALE MILL HOUSES (c. 1880s): A group of seven identical, one-and-one-half-story double mill houses, four bays wide. The two entrance doors are set at the center of the facade and the cornice is bracketed.
- \*\*+577 GARVIN HOUSE (between 1870 and 1888): A two-story, frame, Italianate house with modillion cornice and paired arched windows above a Colonial Revival style portico with decorative frieze. This dwelling was the residence of Lucius F.C. Garvin, who came to Lonsdale to practice medicine and was the physician for the Ann & Hope Mill. Garvin served several terms in the state legislature and was governor of Rhode Island from 1903 to 1905. (1888-Lucius F. Garvin)
- \*\*+602-04-  
06 LONSDALE MILL HOUSE (before 1870; probably 1860s): A two-story, wood-frame house, eight bays long, with simple Greek Revival doorways in the third and sixth bays.

(End of properties in the Lonsdale Historic District.)

- 695 AMERICAN LEGION POST 14 (1934): Located at the north end of Broad Street where it intersects with Mendon Road, this is a one-story brick structure. The main facade has an end-gable section projecting from a flank-gable hall section. The central entrance is flanked by six punched windows with a continuous lintel block.

## BURNT SWAMP ROAD

- 6 HOUSE (early to mid-19th century): Located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Burnt Swamp Road and Torrey Road near the Massachusetts border, this is a simple, one-and-one-half story, flank-gable-roof, center-entrance house. The relatively tall spacing between the facade windows and cornice, the presence of gable end returns, and the pitch of the roof suggest it was constructed in the nineteenth century, although it has had Colonial-inspired renovations. (1838-Wm. C. Harrington)

## CHURCH STREET

- \*\* CHURCH STREET BRIDGE (1882): A narrow, riveted-iron, Warren through-truss bridge carrying Church Street over the Providence & Worcester Railroad in Valley Falls. Designed and constructed by the Boston Bridge Work, this is highly significant as the oldest of only three nineteenth-century, full through-trusses in Rhode Island. It is exceptionally well preserved, including its original natural gas lamp posts and railing. The bridge was thoroughly rehabilitated in the 1990s by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, at which time the gas lamps were converted to electricity.

## CLARK STREET

- 22 FORMER CENTRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL (1924): Located in Valley Falls at the corner of Clark and Kinsman streets, this is a two-story, flat-roofed, rectangular, symmetrical brick school with spare, classically inspired, cast-concrete trim. The central entrance of the three-bay facade has a round-arch opening with fluted pilasters and a modillion cornice below a square window with eared architrave surround and central volute. A date plaque decorated with an open book and swags, set in a low central parapet has been removed from above the window and replaced with artificial siding. Cast-concrete string courses and roof coping and a variety of vertical, square, and wide horizontal window openings complete the building. The main entrance door has mid-twentieth century aluminum and glass replacement treatments, and all windows have been recently replaced. The concrete details surrounding the entrance are deteriorating. The building is now the Lighthouse Family Worship Center.

## CROSS STREET

(The following properties on this street are located in the Lonsdale Historic District:)

- \*\*+ LONSDALE TENEMENTS, LATER WAREHOUSES (c. 1870): Two long, one-story, red-brick blocks, 19 bays long, built on stone foundations and trimmed with granite. The doors are set in the first, fifth, ninth, thirteenth, and seventeenth bays. Built for residential use, the structures were later modified for use as warehouses -- the doors and windows have been boarded over and freight doors opened at the gable ends. The buildings are currently vacant.

## CURRAN ROAD

ST. BASIL'S CEMETERY, R.I. Historical Cemetery-Cumberland No. 5 (19th century): This cemetery contains over 300 burials and is associated with St. Basil's Church in Central Falls.

## CURRAN ROAD (continued)

MT. CALVARY CEMETERY, R.I. Historical Cemetery-Cumberland No. 6 (19th century): This cemetery contains over 1000 burials and is associated with St. Patrick's Church.

## DEXTER STREET

232 HOUSE (early 19th century): A small, one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable cottage with a five-bay facade and a side ell. Since the mid-1970s, its facade has been veneered in false brick and two windows on the facade have been replaced with a bay window. (1838-Waterman Mills)

CEMETERY, R.I. Historical Cemetery-Cumberland No. 3 (19th century): This cemetery contains over 500 burials.

## DIAMOND HILL ROAD

1329 HOUSE (late 18th/early 19th century): This modest flank-gable house is one-and-a-half-stories tall, five bays wide, with a center chimney. It is clad with asbestos shingle and rests on a stone foundation. The house has a plain, central entrance protected by a metal awning. Original windows have been replaced by horizontal, single units. A one-story, low pitched gable ell has been added to the south elevation.

1355 HOUSE (late 19th century): This one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable, Italianate style house is five bays wide, and two bays deep, with a brick, central chimney. The house is clad with clapboards and rests on a stone foundation. A bracketed hood protects the entrance, and pent hoods protect 1/1 replacement windows. A one-story, gabled sun porch (late 20th century) has been added, and the building is set at an angle to the street.

1464 FORMER CISTERCIAN MONASTERY (c. 1900): The 500-acre monastery property includes the monastery building, a stone porter's lodge, and several brick outbuildings. The three-story, flat-roof, random ashlar monastery was originally larger and had a mansard roof. It was the center of a religious community started in 1900 by Cistercian monks who had come from Nova Scotia. They acquired 500 acres of land and lived a simple life farming the land. Following a severe fire in 1951, the buildings and land were acquired by the Town of Cumberland. The property is maintained for open space recreation and the buildings are used for education and site maintenance. The monastery building houses the Edward J. Hayden/Cumberland Public Library. A war veterans' memorial is located along side the entry drive from Diamond Hill Road. This is one of Cumberland's most valuable open-space assets. (1895-Bishop Harkins Property)

## DIAMOND HILL ROAD (continued)

- NINE MEN'S MISERY (1676, early 20th century): This stone cairn was probably erected in the early twentieth century by Cistercian monks to commemorate nine soldiers killed in this vicinity by Indians on March 26, 1676, during King Philip's War. The actual massacre and burial sites are not known. The cairn is located on the former Cistercian Monastery property, now owned by the town (see entry above). (1838- "Nine Men's Misery")
- 1707      ELISHA WATERMAN HOUSE (1757): A modest, one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Colonial cottage with an asymmetrical facade and a one-and-one-half-story wing at the rear. It retains its basic form, although the original stone chimney has been removed. (1838-Ephm Lee)
- GARVIN MEMORIAL SCHOOL (early to mid-20th century): A large, one-story, flat-roof, brick and cast-concrete school with a central block and two projecting end pavilions with low gable parapets. Classical Revival detailing includes decorative swags and shields. The central entrance, recessed in the main block, has been remodeled and many of the windows have been replaced. The school was named for Lucius Garvin, the physician for the Ann & Hope Mill and later governor of Rhode Island from 1903 to 1905.
- 2880      HOUSE (c. 1800): A one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal cottage with a five-bay facade containing a central entry and transom at the roofline. A series of additions includes a rear wing and an early twentieth century, one-story, flat-roof, enclosed porch ell to one side. A balustrade which surmounted the porch has been removed. (1838-A. Whipple)
- 2944      HOUSE (1809): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, center-chimney Federal house with a very finely detailed center entrance consisting of paneled pilasters and a heavy, flat entablature surrounding leaded sidelights and a semi-elliptical fanlight. Additions have been made to either end of the building. Its well-landscaped setting includes stone walls, a picket fence with granite posts, and mature trees. (1838-G.O. Thompson?)
- 3145      HOUSE (mid-19th century): A two-story, very shallow hip-roof, Early Victorian house, irregular in plan with twin chimneys, center projecting bay, and a two-story wing. It has 2-over-2 windows under heavy molded caps and a Palladian-type window on the second floor of the center bay. The house is set well back from the main road on a private drive with several outbuildings. The house is now part of Diamond Hill Vineyards. (1855-Turner Haskel?)
- 3170      HOUSE (c. 1800): A one-and-one-half-story Federal cottage with a large stone center chimney, a transom over the central entrance, and a rear wing. The house is set on a relatively large lot with a granite-post fence, stone walls, and apple trees. (1838-A. Metcalf)

## DIAMOND HILL ROAD (continued)

- 3435      JOHN NEWELL HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story Federal house with two large brick chimneys and a fine central doorway with a blind segmental fan, fluted pilasters, and sidelights. This house formerly stood at the edge of a small mill pond north of the Nate Whipple Highway, near Newell's sawmill and machine shop. It was moved to its present location south of the highway and east of Diamond Hill Road in 1927, when the Arnold Mills Reservoir was built. (1838-John Newell)
- 3576      HOUSE (c. 1800): A one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal cottage with a modillion and dentiled cornice, a sidelighted central entry, and a one-story side wing. (1838-?)
- 3580      HOUSE (c. 1870): A two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, flank-gable-roof Early Victorian house with bracketed cornice, center entrance with sidelights, and two chimneys. It has a two-story wing, two bay windows, and a wraparound, bracketed veranda with a polygonal corner belvedere with a conical roof. A picket fence with granite posts surrounds a well-landscaped lot (1838-?; 1895-W. Scott)
- 3625      HOUSE (mid-19th century): A one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, flank-gable roof Greek Revival house with full sidelights, pilasters, corner pilasters, and granite front steps. The building is clad with artificial siding and rests on a granite foundation. A one-story, gabled ell (mid-20th century) is attached to the north elevation.
- 3628      HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, flank-gable roof Colonial/Federal house with a center chimney. The building has an Italianate style door hood, and the windows have been replaced. The house is set at an angle to the road.
- 3650      HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-a-half-story, L-shape, Queen Anne style house with 2/1 windows and clad with asbestos shingles. The front block of the house is flank-gabled, five bays wide, and two bays deep. The entrance to the house is in the center bay, and is Greek Revival in style. The rear ell has two large gable-roofed dormers. An octagonal corner tower with a pyramidal roof marks the corner of the facade.
- 3681      HOUSE (c. 1838): A very simple, one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal cottage with 12-over-12 windows and a center entrance with five-light transom. During much of the nineteenth century it was owned by the Whipple family, who operated a hotel and post office in an adjacent building. (1838-Simon Whipple)
- 3684      HOUSE (late 19th century): A one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable, vernacular house, with a center, brick chimney, a five-bay facade, clad with clapboards and resting on a stone foundation. The entrance is located in the center bay

## DIAMOND HILL ROAD (continued)

and is protected by a wrap-around porch with turned posts and sawn brackets. An round window is centered above the door on the facade, and the remaining windows are 6/6 replacement sash.

- 3720 HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof Federal house with a five-bay facade containing a fine doorway with fanlight, pediment, and pilasters. The house is now sheathed in artificial siding, and the first floor windows have been replaced.
- 3748 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof Italianate style house with a five-bay facade containing a central door with an ornate door hood. The building has two internal chimneys, is clad with clapboard, and rests on a stone foundation. Windows are 1/1 sash with molded hoods. The house is set end to the street. A one-and-a-half-story barn, clad with wood shingle and clapboard, is located to the rear of the house.
- 3777 HOUSE (early 19th century): A two-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof, five bay, Federal/Greek Revival transitional style building, with a central, brick chimney, and a central entrance protected by a full facade-width, hip roof porch. The building is currently used as a crafts and antique store.
- \*3782 G. WHIPPLE COMMERCIAL BLOCK (late 19th century): This Late Victorian country store is a two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, frame building with paired brackets at the roof and storefront cornices, 2-over-2 double hung windows, small attic eaves windows, and four large, six-pane storefront windows serving two shops. The building is well preserved and one of the few remaining examples of its type and period in the town. (1895-G. Whipple)
- 3817 HOUSE (mid-19th century): A one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof, five bay, Greek Revival style house, clad with clapboard, resting on a stone foundation, with a central, brick chimney at the roof ridge. The entrance is located in the center bay of the facade. It is framed by Doric pilasters and sidelights and is protected by a full facade-width, hip roof porch. Windows are 6/6, and two shed-roof dormers are located on the roof. To the rear of the house is a one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable roof, clapboarded structure. It is possible that this structure was moved to this site; its date of construction is not known, although some early elements are visible.
- GRANITE QUARRY (mid- to late 19th century): The quarry is off Diamond Hill Road, near Catamint Hill and northwest of Diamond Hill. In the nineteenth century, large quantities of high-quality granite for building purposes were quarried here, and a small community known as "Red Village" existed. Two houses from the village were moved to 362 and 366 Abbott Run Valley Road in the early twentieth century. Today, the quarry is inactive and a large open area with a steep rock face marks the site. The

## DIAMOND HILL ROAD (continued)

adjacent woods contain numerous granite walls. During World War II, rifles were tested here. (1870-Granite Quarry)

DIAMOND HILL (named c. 1800): A well-known landmark of Cumberland, this rock quartz mass in the northeast part of town contains a great variety of interesting and rare minerals. It has been visited since the early nineteenth century by mineralogists. It was quarried for its quartz, and remains of the crushing plant foundations are visible off Diamond Hill Road. (1838-Diamond Hill)

## DIAMOND HILL VILLAGE

- \* Located in the northeastern corner of town, Diamond Hill is one of Cumberland's rural, nineteenth-century villages, located along Diamond Hill Road. The area was first settled in the early eighteenth century by the Whipple family. It remained essentially a farming area until the early nineteenth century, when a small farming community developed just south of Diamond Hill. In 1838, the linear village consisted of a tavern, a school, and about a dozen houses. A machine shop and sawmill were in operation at a nearby site. In 1851, the area, known as Diamond Hill Plain, contained a hotel, post office, school, store, houses, and the nearby sawmill. The village continued as a local center through the nineteenth century and today still serves that role. The old village, contained primarily between Reservoir Road and Nate Whipple Highway, includes several fine old houses. A fragment of the old village near the intersection of Diamond Hill and Reservoir roads is relatively intact and warrants further study.

## ELDER BALLOU MEETING HOUSE ROAD

SITE OF THE ELDER BALLOU MEETINGHOUSE (1749): The meetinghouse, the first in northern Cumberland, was erected in 1749 by a Baptist congregation organized in 1732. It was first known as the Elder Cook Meetinghouse for its first pastor, but was renamed to honor Elder Abner Ballou, who served as pastor from 1775 to 1806. In the mid-twentieth century it was destroyed by a fire. The site was indicated by a sing until the 1970s and is now overgrown with vegetation. (1838-Ballous Meetinghouse)

R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--CUMBERLAND No. 27 (18th century): This cemetery, opposite the site of the Elder Ballou Meetinghouse, contains many headstones of early settlers of the area, including the Ballou and Cook families. Set on a relatively large, hilly lot behind stone walls, it is visually attractive as well as being important historically, but is in poor repair. (1838-on)

RI HISTORICAL CEMETERY- CUMBERLAND No. 28 (19th/20th century): This cemetery is located above the road cut, held by a mortared stone retaining wall. Two headstones and a few footstones are visible with

## ELDER BALLOU MEETING HOUSE ROAD (continued)

the names Whipple, Crocker, and Smith. The cemetery is heavily overgrown.

IRON MINE HILL (18th century): This hill contained a large mass of magnetic iron ore mined in colonial times. Ore extracted from the hill was said to have been manufactured at Abbott Run into cannon used during the British victory over the French at Louisbourg in 1745 during the French and Indian Wars. In the early twentieth century, the hill was used to quarry large quantities of trap rock for road building. This is the only place in the world where Cumberlandite can be found in its natural state (not relocated by glacier). (1838-Iron Rock Hill)

## ELI STREET

(The following properties are located in Valley Falls:)

10 through  
24 even,  
11 through  
25 odd

MILL WORKERS' HOUSES (late 19th century): A group of eight identical double houses arranged in two rows facing each other. They are one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, wood-frame buildings with paired central entrances and small windows at the roof cornice line. Some have been altered, and a variety of shingle and artificial siding sheathing is present. (1895-Ten houses appear.)

## FAIRHAVEN ROAD

\*\*8

WHIPPLE-JENCKES HOUSE (c. 1750, enlarged c. 1780): A very simple one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney cottage set behind stone walls on a large lot at the corner of Diamond Hill Road and Fairhaven Road. The asymmetrical, four-bay facade and slightly offset chimney testify that it was originally built as a half house and later extended. The house served as the center of a small farm and cottage industries throughout most of its history. An earlier house on the site is said to have been a blockhouse during King Philip's War (1675-76). (1838-J. M. Sheldon)

## FARM DRIVE

53

HOUSE (18th century): A plain one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Colonial house, now covered with artificial siding. A large, frame, early twentieth-century barn stands next to the house. The property was part of the Cumberland Hill Golf Course, which has now been subdivided, and new houses stand close to the house and barn. (1838-Carpenter)

95

HOUSE (c. 1880): A two-and-one-half-story, hip-roof, Late Victorian house with a gable-roof addition at the left side. It is now covered with artificial siding and occupies a lot within a suburban residential subdivision. A wooded tract remains to the northeast. (1895-Manville Co.)



## FLAT STREET

MANVILLE MILL (late 19th century): A one-story, flat-roof, brick mill building with blind segmental-arch bays and a rebuilt north end to accommodate loading bays. This is the last remaining standing structure of the large nineteenth-century textile mill complex at Manville. The rest was destroyed by fire in the 1950s. Foundations and sluiceways are visible at the site (see Manville Hill Road entry below), and associated mill workers' houses survive on Boyle Avenue and Mount Pleasant View Avenue (see entries above and below). New houses have recently been constructed in this area.

## FOUNTAIN STREET

- \*55 SAINT MARY'S RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (now Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church) (1908): Located at the top of a wooded hill with vistas to the west above Manville Hill Road in Cumberland Hill, this is a one-and-one-half-story, red brick structure in the Greek Athonite monastic style. A central tower contains the original bell and is topped with a Coptic-style dome. The sash and stained glass windows are original, as is the icon screen in front of the altar, though the icons themselves are newly painted. A wooden structure to the left of the entrance contains a varied collection of bells. This was the first Eastern Orthodox church built in Rhode Island and was connected with the Manville Mills farther down the hill, where its original parishioners, primarily from Austria and Hungary, worked in the early twentieth century. The first Orthodox Divine Liturgy in Rhode Island was celebrated in one of the mill workers' houses on nearby Mount Pleasant View Avenue (see entry below), and a portion of the present parish land was donated by the Manville mill owners in the 1930s and 1950s. Two wooden parish halls and a Queen Anne-style rectory (c. 1910) also are located on the property.

## FRONT STREET

(The following properties are located in the Ashton Historic District:)

- \*\*\*4-26 LONSDALE COMPANY DOUBLE HOUSES (1867): A group of six identical mill houses. Tall, one-and-one-half story, flank-gable, brick, double houses with four-bay facades. They have paired central entrances with transoms, punched door and window openings with segmental-arch tops, small attic windows under the front and rear eaves and exposed rafters forming eaves brackets. Similar houses are found on Middle Street.
- \*\*\*28-38 LONSDALE COMPANY DOUBLE HOUSES (1867): A group of four identical mill houses. Tall two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, brick tenements with six-bay facades. They have paired end-bay entrances with transoms, punched door and window openings with segmental-arch tops, small attic windows under the front and rear eaves and exposed rafters forming eaves brackets. Similar houses are found on Middle Street.

## FRONT STREET (continued)

- \*\*+ ASHTON MILL (1867): This brick mill is the centerpiece of the Ashton Historic District. The main block is a rectangular structure, 348 feet by 90 feet in size. It was originally three and one-half stories tall with a mansard roof and now is four stories with a flat roof. Its focal point is a five-story, pyramidal-roof tower projecting from the center of the facade. The first four stories of the tower support a belfry with triple arched openings on each side and a heavy bracketed cornice. Continuous granite belt courses around the block and tower form string courses and sills for bricked-in, segmentally arched windows. Original ancillary structures include a one-and-one-half-story, mansard-roof, brick office building and a one-, two-, and three-story, flat-roof, brick power house. Several one- and two-story, early twentieth-century, pier-and-panel brick additions have been added to these buildings. The mill was constructed by the Lonsdale Company to expand its operation at Ashton, replacing an earlier mill on the other side of the Blackstone River in Lincoln. Originally powered by both water and steam engine, it produced cotton textiles. The Ashton Mill was the site of the first large-scale testing of the Sawyer spindle, one of the earliest high-speed spindles developed in the United States. The Lonsdale Company continued textile production here until 1935. In 1941, the mill was purchased by the Owens-Corning Company to manufacture glass fibers. (1870-Lonsdale Company)

(End of properties in the Ashton Historic District.)

## GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGHWAY

- \*\*+ ASHTON VIADUCT (1934-1945): Spanning the Blackstone River at Ashton, this highway bridge has five open-spandrel concrete arches with each arch consisting of two large, thin ribs about 14 feet wide by 40 inches thick (at the base), carrying paired square columns. Floor beams for the slab roadway are extended to support sidewalks on either side. The piers between the arches consist of pairs of tall square-plan towers, one per rib, tied together at the base. The bridge's railings are square baluster type, with occasional jogs forming alcoves off the sidewalks. The Ashton Viaduct was designed by Samuel Engdahl, and the open-spandrel design is relatively uncommon since it was economical only for very long and high crossings. The open-spandrel design is esthetically very pleasing, with five graceful arches soaring above the Blackstone River. The Ashton Viaduct is larger than the earlier Stillwater Viaduct and is representative of the standardization and high level of engineering expertise that characterized the state bridge-building division in the early-twentieth century. It was the largest public works project undertaken in the state's early twentieth-century road improvement program. A portion of the viaduct is located within the bounds of the Ashton Historic District.

## HAMILTON STREET

- 15 HOUSE (c. 1800): This one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Federal cottage has a central chimney and a central entrance with sidelights and a transom. (1838-Jesse Mason)

## HAVEN STREET

(The following buildings are located in Valley Falls:)

- 8 HOUSE (c. 1900): A two-and-one-half-story, cross-gable, Queen Anne house with a conical tower and Colonial Revival entrance porch. It was occupied by the owner of Hindley Manufacturing Company in the early twentieth century and is located in Valley Falls.
- 9 HINDLEY MANUFACTURING CO., INC. (c. 1900): A two-story, low-pitch gable-roof, clapboarded industrial building with 1-over-1 and 6-over-2 windows and two long, abutting parallel sections. It is sited on the railroad in Valley Falls. (1895-not on)

## HEWES STREET

ST. JOHN'S UKRAINIAN CEMETERY; R.I. Historical Cemetery - Cumberland No. 2 (early 20th century): This small cemetery contains approximately 80 burials and is associated with St. John's Ukrainian Church.

## HIGH STREET

(The following buildings are located in Valley Falls:)

- 230 HOUSE (mid-19th century): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, clapboarded Greek Revival cottage in Valley Falls. It has typical features of the style, including a wide cornice band, paneled corner pilasters, and a central entrance with sidelights and a classical surround. (1870-G. Dana?)
- 265 HOUSE (late 19th century): A one-and-a-half-story, end-gabled, two bay, Italianate house. Scrolled brackets support a hip roof over the entrance. A bay window marks the facade.
- 282 HOUSE (late 18th century): A two-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof, five-by-three bay Federal house. The entrance is located in the center bay, and consists of a door flanked by sidelights and pilasters, with a fanlight above. The building has 1/1/ windows and is clad with asbestos shingles.
- 291 HOUSE (18th/early 19th century): Located in Valley Falls, this is a small one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, center-chimney cottage. The

## HIGH STREET (continued)

central entry in the five-bay facade has sidelights and a broad transom. The windows have been replaced with modern sash and the house has been sheathed with artificial siding.

ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY, R.I. Historical Cemetery--Cumberland No. 1 (mid-19th century): This large burial ground in Valley Falls, now surrounded by a chain-link fence, contains numerous graves of many Irish and English residents of Cumberland. It is associated with St. Patrick's Church on Broad Street, Valley Falls (see above). (1870-R. Cath. Cem.)

298-300 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-a-half-story, two-by-three bay, cross-gable-roof Queen Anne double house. The building is clad with artificial siding on its second floor, shingles on the first floor, and rests on a brick foundation. A two-story bay window occupies the first bay of the facade, while a double entrance with a gable-roof porch is located in the second bay. The house has 1/1 replacement windows, and the gable end is marked by shingles in a basket weave pattern and brackets under the eaves.

306 HOUSE (c. 1880): A one-and-one-half-story, cross-gable, clapboard and pattern shingle, Queen Anne house in Valley Falls. It has a side-hall entrance within a turned-post porch ornamented with modillions and iron cresting. (1895-appears)

363 HOUSE (late 19th century): A one-and-a-half-story, two bay, front-gable-roof Queen Anne house. The building is clad with clapboard and patterned wood shingles in the gable end, and rests on a brick foundation. The entrance is reached by an inset corner porch. Windows are topped with bracketed hoods with decorative shingles.

## HILLSIDE ROAD

(The following properties are included in the Arnold Mills Historic District:)

\*\*75 FORMER FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE/COMMUNITY HOUSE AND LIBRARY (1809): A two-and-one-half-story, simple frame structure with a prominent projecting, enclosed entrance porch on the center of one side and a single interior end chimney. Several later additions have been made to the side and rear. Originally constructed as a Quaker meetinghouse with an interior gallery, it served the Society of Friends from 1809 until 1926, when dwindling attendance made it infeasible to retain the building. It was used as a summer house for a time and, in 1942, became the community house. A library wing was added in 1960.

\*\* QUAKER BURYING GROUND, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY -- CUMBERLAND NO. 21 (18th century): Surrounded by a granite-post and iron-rail fence, this small cemetery is located south of the former Quaker Meeting House building. (1838-Friends Meeting H.)

## HINES ROAD

- 56 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, clapboard and pattern shingle, Late Victorian house with a projecting, two-story, gabled central entrance bay fronted by a small porch. There are no outbuildings. (1895-?)
- \*109 HIXON HOMESTEAD/MAPLE SHADE FARM (17th century): This one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney house may date from the seventeenth century, as evidenced by its low ceilings and interior frame construction. It has a five-bay facade and a center entrance in a plain surround. The door and window lintels intersect the eaves line of the flank gable roof. The rear wing, once used for boat building, was moved here from a site adjacent to a pond on the property. The late nineteenth-century barn was built when the land was used as a dairy farm. A former gold mine and several buildings of the Bear Hill Gold Mining Company, which ceased operations in 1935, are located on the large tract of land associated with the house. A possible Indian site exists as well. (1838-Dexter Brown)
- 182 HOUSE (mid-18th century): A one-and-a-half-story, five-by-two bay, gambrel-roof house. The house has undergone many alterations, including the application of brick-face veneer to the facade, 12/12 replacement windows, and a late 20th century gambrel entry portico in the center bay. The house has a brick chimney located on the center roof ridge.

## HOWARD ROAD

- 2 HOUSE (late 18th century): This two-and-a-half-story, Colonial/Federal-style residence is five-bays wide and two-bays deep, with a central, neo-Colonial entrance. A brick chimney rises from the center ridge, and windows are 6/6. A one-and-a-half-story, gable side ell is attached to the eastern elevation. The front of the building is clad with artificial, and the sides and rear are clad with wood shingles.
- \*\* HOWARD ROAD BRIDGE (c. 1886): This 62-foot-long, five-panel, riveted Pratt pony-truss bridge crosses the Abbott Run on Howard Road, where there were a number of small mills in the nineteenth century. Constructed by the Boston Bridge Works, it is one of at least six bridges designed and built by the firm in Cumberland. The bridge is important as one of a small number of surviving nineteenth-century truss bridges in Rhode Island.

## JENKS ROAD

HOUSE (c. 1800): This is the near ruins of a two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal structure with later Greek Revival details at the central entrance. This was the birthplace of Adin Ballou, a philosopher, who published a book in the 1840s on the doctrine of non-resistance. He

## JENKS ROAD (continued)

was also involved with the experiment to establish a practical Christian community at Hopedale, Massachusetts. The building is poorly maintained and severely deteriorating. There are several outbuildings, also in poor condition. (1838-Alfred (?) Ballou)

## KIMBALL STREET

KIMBALL CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY - CUMBERLAND NO. 33 (19th century): This small cemetery contains 65 graves.

## LAWRENCE STREET

(The following properties on this street are located in the Berkeley Mill Village Historic District:)

\*\*5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25, 26, 101, 102, 105, 106, 110, 111, 115, 116, 119, 123

MILL HOUSES (c. 1872): These are six one-and-one-half-story, two-family, brick workers' cottages, six bays by two bays in size, located in Berkeley Mill Village Historic District. They have four segmental-arch window openings flanked by entrances with transoms. Two small, segmental-arch half windows are set just below the eaves on the front and rear facades. Despite being smaller in size, these two-family houses provided more room per family than did the large structures on Woodward Street.

## LIPPITT ESTATE

About 1910, Henry F. Lippitt (1856-1933) purchased roughly 400 acres in a rural area of Cumberland between Angell Road, Scott Road, and Little Pond County Road. Here he built a large, brick Colonial Revival house at the center of his summer estate, known as "Little Pond Farm." The house was destroyed by fire in 1920 and rebuilt; another fire destroyed the second structure, then used as a clubhouse, in 1938. Lippitt Estate began as a summer resort and developed as Cumberland's earliest twentieth-century residential subdivision. Today, it contains small houses dating from the early and mid-twentieth century to the present, within a wooded, hilly setting.

## LITTLE POND COUNTY ROAD

194

RAZEE HOMESTEAD (18th century): This two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof Federal house has a single massive interior end chimney set

behind the gable peak and a three-bay facade with a side-hall entrance at the chimney end. The doorway is capped by a five-light transom and a molded,

#### LITTLE POND COUNTY ROAD (continued)

dentilled cornice. A wing extends to the rear. Though a widely recognized Federal period house form, the three-bay, side-hall type is rare in Cumberland. Joseph Razee, the first family member to settle in this area, purchased about 300 acres before 1720. This house is thought to have been built by his son, Joseph, Jr., It remained in Razee family ownership until at least the 1870s. (1838-Whipple Razee)

235 DEXTER WEATHERHEAD HOUSE (c. 1800): A modest, one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Federal house with a five-bay facade and simple entrance treatment. The house, with attached twentieth-century, one-story ells, is set on a lot with stone walls. (1838-Dexter Weatherhead)

274 WHIPPLE HOUSE (18th century et seq.): A two-and-one-half-story Federal house with a large, brick center chimney, set facing south with its gable end to the road. The house is clad with artificial siding. A large, three-story, mansard-roofed addition is attached, slightly offset, to the street facade. There are fine stone walls and an open fields around the buildings. The earliest part of this house was reportedly built by Eleazar Whipple before the Revolution. At the end of the nineteenth century, it was occupied by two brothers, Pardon and J.A. Whipple, who were farmers. (1838-D. & J. Whipple)

#### LONSDALE HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Blackstone Court, Blackstone Street, Broad Street, Cross Street, and Ann & Hope Way [formerly Mill Street])

\*\*\*+ Lonsdale is one of the best preserved of the Blackstone Valley's many nineteenth-century factory villages. It was the seat of a regionally important textile concern and is representative of the mill village organization that dominated the Blackstone River valley during the nineteenth century.

Lonsdale was established by the Lonsdale Company, which was owned by the prominent Providence mercantile firm of Brown and Ives. Between 1831 and 1834, Brown and Ives acquired land in Lincoln. In 1834, they were granted a charter of incorporation for the Lonsdale Company. The structure of the Lonsdale Company represented an important change in the form of textile investment that had previously characterized the industry. The company was larger in scale, was owned by a corporation of investors, and was managed by superintendents rather than owners.

The first mills and village were located along the west bank of the Blackstone River, in what is today Lincoln. In 1860, the company expanded its operation across the river into Cumberland, erecting a large new brick mill. The Cumberland side of Lonsdale grew rapidly; another mill was added in 1871 and the large Ann & Hope Mill in 1886.

From its beginnings, the Lonsdale Company housed its operatives in company-owned buildings. From the 1840s to the end of the century, the

## LONSDALE HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

Lonsdale Company built a variety of workers' houses and many examples survive. The Lonsdale Company also provided for its employees' institutional and commercial life and built the first school (since replaced), church, and community center.

Lonsdale Village was considered a model mill village in its time because of the consideration given to esthetics and planning of housing units. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Lonsdale Company, including mills in Ashton, Berkeley, and Lonsdale, owned one of the most extensive aggregations of cotton mills in the nation. Today, Lonsdale contains a number of significant and well-preserved properties.

### MAIN STREET

(The following properties are located in the Lonsdale Historic District:)

- \*\*+  
1 through  
12                    LONSDALE MILL HOUSES (c. 1870): A group of six identical one-and-one-half-story mill houses with paired doorways set in the center of the facade. The cornices are bracketed. (#114)
- \*\*+  
13 through  
55                    LONSDALE MILL HOUSES (c. 1870): A group of 18 identical mill houses, all two-and-one-half-story, granite-trimmed, four-family dwellings. They are six bays wide with single entrances at each end of the facade and have bracketed cornices. A group of seven additional identical buildings is located on Blackstone Court. (#115)

(End of properties in the Lonsdale Historic District.)

### MANVILLE HILL ROAD

MANVILLE DAM and SITE OF MANVILLE MILL (1868): This site is located along the Blackstone River at Manville, near Cumberland Hill, where manufacturing was carried on for more than two centuries. Before the Revolutionary War, a sawmill and gristmill operated, and there was also an iron forge and smelting furnace known as Furnace Unity. Unity Forge operated from 1768-1790 under Wilkinson and Lapham. The largest of the four Cumberland blast furnaces, Furnace Unity operated from 1734 to 1783 and made pig iron and hollow ware. Small cannon were manufactured here from about 1741 to 1745. In the early nineteenth century, cotton manufacturing began and a large complex of mills, said to have been the "largest mill under one roof in the world", was eventually erected along and across the river. The mills were destroyed in the mid-twentieth century,



although one structure survives on Flat Street (see entry above) along with the dam, constructed in 1868 of stone blocks 10 feet to 14 feet long and 2

## MANVILLE HILL ROAD (continued)

feet square, and a pair of Late Victorian cast-iron posts marking the entrance to the former complex. Associated mill housing also survives nearby on Boyle and Mount Pleasant View avenues (see entries above and below).

**EPHPHETA HOUSE** (c. 1900; DEMOLISHED): This was a large, two-and-one-half-story, hip-roof, Late Victorian Colonial Revival structure with an irregular plan. It was built as a boarding house for the Manville Mill and occupied a spacious, well-landscaped tract overlooking the Blackstone Valley. Classically inspired detailing included a modillion cornice, pedimented projecting bays with Palladian-type windows, round-arch dormers with tracery, and splayed window lintels with keys. The elevation overlooking the river was symmetrical, with a semi-enclosed porch. The rear, drive elevation had a central angled bay attached to an angled wing. The house had been covered in artificial siding, but the trim had been retained. (1895-not on)

## MARTIN STREET

(The following properties on this street are included in the Berkeley Mill Village Historic District:)

- \*\*9**            **BERKELEY SCHOOL** (c. 1872): This two-story, Italianate style brick schoolhouse was constructed by the Lonsdale Company for the Berkeley mill workers' children. It has a wooden cornice with brackets, simple punched openings with granite sills, and a round window in the gable. A two-story, hip-roof brick addition has simple punched openings and granite sills. The building is now used for industrial purposes.
- \*\*30**            **BERKELEY MILL** (c. 1872): The Berkeley Mill is a very long (300 feet by 90 feet), rectangular, four-story building with a central projecting tower. Windows are 20-over-20 double-hung sash with segmentally arched heads and simple brick drip moldings. The tower has loft openings on each floor and has an open belfry with triple round-arch openings on all sides. Elaborate wrought-iron fire escapes flank the tower on either side. Except for additions on the south side, the mill is little altered. A small, well-detailed railroad passenger station with wide overhanging eaves, hip roof, and large decorative brackets is located nearby. The mill was named by Robert H. Ives in honor of George Berkeley (1685-1753), a bishop of the Church of England and a prominent philosopher who spent time in Rhode Island. It is currently used as office and factory space.

(End of properties in the Berkeley Mill Village Historic District.)

## MAYFLOWER DRIVE

WEATHERHEAD CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY - CUMBERLAND NO. 26 (19th century): This small cemetery contains 12 burials.

## MENDON ROAD

215 OLNEY BALLOU HOUSE (early 19th century): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof cottage with a five-bay facade. The central entrance is within a hip-roof porch on modern wrought-iron supports. A hip-roof ell has been added to the left side and the house is now sheathed in artificial siding. (1838-Olney Ballou)

230 J. WHIPPLE HOUSE (early 19th century): This is a small, one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, shingled cottage with a central entrance in a three-bay facade. Two interior chimneys have been shortened to the level of the roof. It has a fully exposed basement at the rear and is vacant. (1838-Olney Ballou?, 1851-J. Whipple)

807 HOUSE (c. 1880): A one-and-one-half-story, end-gable, clapboard and pattern shingle, Late Victorian Queen Anne house with a polygonal window bay and a turned-post and bracketed porch. Set back from the road on a high rise and essentially unaltered since its construction, the house is typical of modest, vernacular residential architecture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY (late 19th century): Located on the west side of Mendon Road, just south of the commercial center of Berkeley, this burying ground, surrounded by a low wall and planted with pine and hardwood trees, contains the graves of many Irish workers in the Lonsdale Company's Berkeley Mill, dating from the 1860s onward. It is associated with St. Joseph's Church, 1301-1317 Mendon Road, which is listed in the National Register.

(The following properties are included in the Berkeley Mill Village Historic District:)

\*\*955/957/959 COMMERCIAL BLOCK (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, mansard-roof, wood-frame commercial block in the small center of Berkeley. The well-preserved, symmetrical storefront under a bracketed cornice consists of a central, transom-light door leading to the upper floors, flanked by two identical shops. The wood-trimmed shops have large 12-light windows, wood kick panels below the windows and central, recessed entrances with granite steps. The second floor is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and the soffit and mansard in artificial siding. Windows are 2-

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

over-2, double-hung sash on the second floor and in the shallow, shed-roof dormers. Despite the changes to the second floor, this building's intact storefronts make this block a notable example of Late Victorian commercial architecture of a type relatively rare in Cumberland. (1895-J.Cullen?)

\*\*1041-43 WHIPPLE HOUSE (c. 1800): This two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof double house is located in Berkeley Village, on the east side of Mendon Road. It is set with its gable end to, and several hundred feet back from, the road, and was built into a small hill with a fully exposed brick basement on the facade. Its unusual, six-bay facade and a large, off-center brick chimney suggest it was originally smaller and later enlarged, perhaps as mill workers' housing. An addition is at the rear. It was owned by members of the Whipple family throughout the nineteenth century. (1838-Joseph Whipple?)

\*\*1099 FORMER METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (late 19th century): A tall, one-story, end-gable-roof, clapboard and pattern shingle, Late Victorian Carpenter Gothic church in Berkeley, now used as a commercial studio. It has lancet windows, open stickwork in the gable peak, and a square corner tower containing the entrance. A modern display window has been added to facade, replacing grouped lancet windows. The facade and tower are now sheathed in artificial siding, although trim remains. Despite the changes, the building is generally well preserved. It served employees of the Lonsdale Company's Berkeley Mill, and the Reverend Norman Vincent Peale preached here when he was a divinity student at Boston University.

\*\*1102-04,  
1108-10 MILL HOUSES (c. 1872): Two one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, brick mill houses, set end to the street. They have granite trim and two small interior chimneys. The main facade has asymmetrical bays and an off-center entrance porch.

(End of properties in Berkeley Mill Village Historic District.)

1187 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable roof structure, set on a terrace above the street, just north of Berkeley Village. Its entrance is within a hip-roof corner porch.

1211 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, L-plan, clapboard-sheathed Queen Anne house. It has a hip-roof, bracketed porch across part of the front and the ell and a polygonal corner tower with a high, polygonal roof. The house is set on a terrace above the east side of the road, just north of Berkeley Village. (1895-J. Keough?)

1269 HOUSE (late 19th century): On the Berkeley-Ashton line, a two-and-one-half-story, end-gable, clapboard-sheathed dwelling in the bracketed mode

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

with a bracketed and spindlework wrap-around porch and roof brackets. The building is well maintained and essentially unaltered, although a fire escape has been added to the front, and the second story has been sheathed with artificial siding.

1282

HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable, side-hall-plan house with a two-bay facade. The entrance is under a bracketed hood. A contiguous two-story bay window occupies the other facade bay. The building is sheathed in asbestos shingles. It may have been moved to this location in the early twentieth century.

\*\*1301-17

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH COMPLEX (c. 1872, 1888-90; F.E. Page, architect): The complex includes two late nineteenth-century, clapboard-sheathed, wood-frame structures on the east side of Mendon Road. The handsome, asymmetrical, twin-spired Gothic Revival St. Joseph's Church (1888-90) is a tall, end-gable-roof, rectangular mass with a polygonal, hip-roof apse at the northeast end. One-story, shed-roof side aisles continue around the apse as an ambulatory to connect to a projecting, rectangular chapel. The three-story, shorter corner tower has paired lancet windows, battlemented string courses, louver-filled Gothic arches, and is topped by a broach spire. The four-story tower has large, traceried Gothic windows, drip molds, and is surmounted by an octagonal belfry and spire. St. Joseph's Rectory (c. 1872) is two to three stories in height with a modified cruciform plan. It is a well-preserved example of bracketed style domestic architecture, with a wraparound veranda and applied ornament of carved brackets and jigsaw work. The interior has been modified. The relatively plain Parish Hall (c. 1872) has recently been removed and a modern structure has been built at the rear of the property. St. Joseph's Parish, established in 1872 in an earlier church constructed on the present site, was, at that time, the only Roman Catholic church between Valley Falls and Woonsocket. It served an extensive parish centered on the Irish, and later French Canadian and Italian, mill laborers of nearby Ashton and Berkeley, as an important religious and social center. By 1888, the parish's growth necessitated construction of a new church, which replaced the original, although the rectory and parish hall were retained. The present church is one of the finest wooden Late Victorian religious edifices in Rhode Island. It underwent an extensive and sensitive restoration in 1995.

(The following properties are included in the Ashton Historic District:)

\*\*+1325

JOHN BARNES BLOCK (1870s): An unusual, long, rectangular, two-and-one-half-story structure set close to the road with three distinct subsections of varied height. The shortest portion, to the south, has a flaring mansard roof with gabled dormers, while the central and northern portions, each increasingly taller, have flank gable roofs. The building is sheathed with modern vertical board siding on the first floor and clapboards on the upper stories. It was probably originally used for both residential and commercial purposes. In the 1890s, it was owned by John Barnes, an English

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

immigrant who came to Ashton in 1869 to work for the Lonsdale Company, and subsequently went into business for himself as a grocer and dry-goods retailer.

- \*\*+1370-72 HOUSE (c. 1898): Originally a stable to a larger demolished house, this is a one-and-one-half-story, cross-gable-roof house with a pair of entrances under a turned-post porch at the southern end of the facade and a central front gable breaking the eaves.
- \*\*+1378-80,  
1394-96,  
1408-10 LONSDALE COMPANY DOUBLE HOUSES (c. 1867): Three identical two-and-one-half-story, gable-roof, brick dwellings with bracketed eaves, a four-bay facade, and paired entrances with transoms located in the center bays. Windows and doors are set in simple openings with granite sills and lintels. Number 1378-1380 has a modern one-story, artificial-sided ell at the southwest corner; the other two structures have rear ells contemporary with the original construction. These structures differ somewhat from the rest of the company built workers' housing and were probably constructed for employees in supervisory positions. (1870-Lonsdale Company)
- \*\*+1393 PARKER HEATING COMPANY BUILDING (late 19th century, altered mid-20th century): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof structure with a pent roof across the front formed by an extension of the roof of a one-and-one-half-story side ell. It is covered artificial siding, and modern overhead garage doors have been installed in the first-floor facade. The building may have originally been a barn or stable, and was later used as an Odd Fellows Hall.
- \*\*+1403-07 JOHN M. RYAN BLOCK (1875): A large, two-and-one-half-story, mansard-roof structure with commercial space on the first floor and apartments above, now sheathed in artificial siding. Modern artificial windows and doors have been installed in the storefronts, but the original fascia and molded cornice above them, with paired brackets at the ends and flanking a central doorway, are intact. Other original features are the second-story window architraves with molded caps and central rosettes in the lintels and a heavy modillion-trimmed eaves cornice. This structure was built for John M. Ryan, an Irish immigrant who came to Rhode Island about 1850 and opened a dry-goods and grocery store in Lonsdale in 1862. Ryan became a major local property owner and community leader. He served on the Cumberland Town Council and as trustee of the Ashton School District and of Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church and donated the land on which St. Joseph's was constructed just south of the village (see entry below).
- \*\*+1509 SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARISH HOUSE (c. 1860, 1907): A rambling, one-and-one-half-story, artificial siding-sheathed structure covered by a variety of gable, hip, and flat roofs. It has a large-scale gabled hood on brackets over the front door and a hood on brackets over a side door. A portion of the present structure was built by the

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

- Lonsdale Company as a chapel for Episcopal services, reflecting the paternalistic attitude of the mill owners. Extensive additions were made in 1907, and the enlarged building has since been used as a parish hall.
- \*\*+1510      SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1868): The church is a tall, one-and-one-half-story, clapboard-sheathed simple Carpenter Gothic structure, with stained-glass windows and a projecting entrance vestibule. The church society was founded in 1857, and the Lonsdale Company built this church in 1868 to replace an earlier company-built chapel (now used as the parish house; see entry above). The mill owners built the present church after construction of the new mill in 1867. The church and parish house recently underwent a restoration project. (1870-St. John's Church)
- \*\*+      R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--CUMBERLAND NO. 9 (Ballou Cemetery) and NO. 10 (St. John's Cemetery) behind the parish house (early 19th century): Located on a slight rise at the corner of Scott Road across from St. John's Episcopal Church, the one-acre cemetery lot has a two-and-one-half-foot-high stone wall along its perimeter. The cemetery has stones dating from 1838 and contains the graves of many old families in this area. (1870-Cemetery)
- \*\*+1512      FORMER DISTRICT 14 SCHOOLHOUSE, now CUMBERLAND CRIME STOPPERS BUILDING (c. 1868): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof brick structure painted white, with a four-bay facade, a side-hall entrance, a circular window in the front gable, and an ell at the northwest corner. A modern flat-roof portico with wrought-iron supports has been added to the front entrance. A school has stood on this site since the 1830s. The present structure, similar to schoolhouses erected in other Lonsdale Company villages in the early 1870s, was probably built by the mill owners shortly after construction of the brick factory and village, to accommodate the increase in population. In recent years, it has been occupied by a variety of town offices.
- \*\*+1529-31      MRS. CUNNINGHAM DOUBLE HOUSE (c. 1870): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with paired central entrances. A two-story Tuscan-columned front veranda, probably added in the early twentieth century, has been removed. The building is now sheathed with artificial siding.
- \*\*+1537-39      TENEMENT (late 19th century): A large, three-story, flank-gable-roof, multi-family dwelling with entrances on the sides, similar to 4 Scott Road. It is now sheathed in artificial siding and all original trim has been covered or removed.
- \*\*+1541-43      STRUCTURE (late 19th century): An unusual two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed structure with an asymmetrical facade containing a large barn door opening, now blocked up, and an off-center entrance with a hood on jigsaw brackets. It has a deep bracketed cornice

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

across the facade between stories and bracketed eaves. It was apparently used originally for both business and residential purposes.

- \*\*\*+1547 C. GREENE HOUSE (c. 1860s): A standard one-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed, side-hall-plan dwelling with a three-bay facade and a door hood on massive brackets.
- \*\*\*+1549 HOUSE (late 19th century): A tall two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling set well back from the road, with an irregular four-bay facade, a side-hall entrance and a rear ell. It is now sheathed with artificial siding and all original trim has been covered or removed.
- \*\*\*+1555-59 HOUSE (c. 1890s): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with a side-hall entrance under a modern gable-roof entrance porch and a side shed dormer breaking up through the eaves. Some modern windows have been installed, including a bow window on the first-floor facade, and the exterior has been resurfaced with artificial siding, completely obliterating all original trim. The building now contains an office and apartments.
- \*\*\*+1565 J. THOMAS HOUSE (c. 1870): A tall two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, artificial-sheathed structure with a five-bay facade, a central entrance under a hood on massive brackets, a front bay window, and a one-story side entrance porch.
- \*\*\*+1570 HOUSE (c. 1850): A one-and-one-half-story, gable-roof, artificial-sheathed Greek Revival house with a three-bay facade, center entrance, corner pilasters, entablature trim at the eaves, and a long side ell. An asymmetrical veranda extends across part of the facade and down one side to connect to a recessed porch in the ell.
- \*\*\*+1571 ELIZABETH ROGERS HOUSE (c. 1898): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, clapboarded dwelling with a three-bay facade, a center entrance, double windows on the facade, and a front veranda with turned posts and brackets.
- \*\*\*+1575 HOUSE (1890s): A one-and-one-half-story, Queen Anne vernacular dwelling with a two-bay facade; a side-hall entrance; a front veranda with turned posts, post brackets, and eaves brackets; clapboard-sheathed walls; shingled gable ends; barge boards with applied moldings and plaques; and corner brackets at the eaves. It has been altered by the installation of a picture window on the facade under the veranda.
- \*\*\*+1590 A. BARBER HOUSE (1860s): A handsome, one-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof, clapboard-sheathed, side-hall-plan dwelling with a three-bay facade; a doorway framed by sidelights, pilasters, and an entablature; narrow corner pilasters; gable returns; and a long one-story side ell with a flank-gable roof. Behind the house is a one-story, gable- and flat-roof, mid-

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

- twentieth century office and art gallery building which is apparently a converted garage.
- \*\*+1608 O. BARBER HOUSE (c. 1870): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with a five-bay facade and a central entrance framed by sidelights, pilasters, and an entablature. Now sheathed with asbestos shingles, it stands behind a picket fence.
- \*\*+1613 HOUSE (1890s): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof, Queen Anne vernacular two-decker with side-hall entrances under a handsome porch with turned posts and post brackets, a two-story bay window flanking the entrance porch, and a gabled dormer on each side. Its exterior has been re-sheathed with asbestos shingles.
- \*\*+1614-16 J. & A. BARBER DOUBLE HOUSE (late 19th century): A handsome one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, artificial sided dwelling with a six-bay facade containing paired central entrances under hoods on massive brackets. A picket fence has been removed from the top of an existing stone wall.
- \*\*+1621-23 JAMES LEWIS HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling set well back from the street, with a central entrance under a turned-post portico and a side ell. It is now sheathed in artificial siding and all original trim has been covered or removed.
- \*\*+1626 O. BARBER HOUSE (c. 1870): A tall one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, shingle-clad, late Greek Revival dwelling with a five-bay facade, a central entrance framed by pilasters and an entablature and entablature trim at the eaves.
- \*\*+1640 DAVID ROSS HOUSE (c. 1890): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof, Queen Anne vernacular dwelling with a two-bay facade, a side-hall entrance under a portico with a frieze of carved rosettes and eaves brackets, a side pavilion with a gable roof, barge boards with applied moldings and plaques, and corner eaves brackets. It has recently been artificial sided. Although the window frames have been covered, much of the other detailing remains intact.
- \*\*+1666 HOUSE (c. 1930): A one-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof dwelling with a side-hall entrance under a Tuscan-columned porch and a triple window to one side of the entrance. The house is clad with artificial siding.
- \*\*+1675 HOUSE (20th century): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, shingle-clad dwelling with a three-bay facade, a central entrance, and a front shed dormer. It is set on a low hill with basement at grade in front and a basement-level garage addition at an angle off one front corner.
- \*\*+1677 SAMUEL WEATHERHEAD HOUSE (early 19th century): A fine two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, artificial sided, late Federal dwelling



## MENDON ROAD (continued)

with some later alterations. It has a five-bay facade; a central entrance under an early twentieth-century, gable-roof portico with tapered square posts; narrow paneled corner pilasters; gable returns; paired interior chimneys; and a rear ell. Original windows have been replaced with new sash.

(End of properties in the Ashton Historic District.)

- 1762 OLIVER BALLOU HOUSE (18th/early 19th century): Located between Interstate Route 295 and the northbound on-ramp, this is a one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, center-chimney cottage with an asymmetrical four-bay facade. It has a large, unsympathetic addition to the rear. (1838-Oliver Ballou)
- \*\*2199 LEWIS TOWER HOUSE (c. 1825): This two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, L-plan Federal house is set into a small hill and has a one-and-one-half-story, gabled ell at the rear. An original, two-story, hip-roof veranda extends across the front; its second story level continues along the side and ell. The veranda roof slope is integral with those of the main house and ell. There is a central entrance on each story in the five-bay facade beneath the veranda; the second-story entrance has sidelights and decorative trim. The house was probably standing when Lewis Tower purchased a 19-acre farmstead here from Philip Thomas in 1833. (1838-Lewis Tower)
- \*\*2510 LUKE JILLSON HOUSE (c. 1752 et seq.): This excellent example of a Georgian Colonial house is two and one-half stories tall with a flank gable roof and two interior brick chimneys, reflecting a central hall plan. The entrance, centered in a five-bay facade, has fluted pilasters supporting a cushion frieze surmounted by a modillion-trimmed cornice and pediment. A four-story, square, Italianate tower, constructed in the nineteenth century and connecting to a long, one-story addition, is attached to the rear elevation. The interior retains much of its original character, including a fine triple-run staircase. The house is noted primarily for its architecture, which attests to the reputed affluence and prominence of Luke Jillson, about whom little is known. (1838-Philip Thomas)
- 2602 CUMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL (1961 et seq.): A large, brick high school complex surrounded by playing fields.
- BROWN AND BUCKLIN FAMILIES CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--CUMBERLAND NO. 15 (late 18th century): A small family cemetery located at the north end of the Cumberland High School grounds. It contains about two dozen stones dating back to at least 1777 and is enclosed by a stone wall and low stone footings, which may have supported a fence.
- 2715 EZRA BLAKE HOUSE (c. 1800): A simple, center-chimney Federal house with a central doorway and leaded transom light in a five-bay facade. The

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

house has a one-story side ell and is set on a small lot. It was owned by members of the Blake family throughout the nineteenth century. (1838-Ezra Blake)

SITE OF TOWN POUND (c. 1750): The old animal enclosure, at the southeast corner of the Mendon Road and Pound Road intersection south of Cumberland Hill, was established about 1750. It has been abandoned for some time and today is indicated only by parts of the now collapsed stone walls. Two granite entry posts, visible in 1990, have been removed or destroyed. Its location reflects the concentration of population in this area of Cumberland during the eighteenth century. (1838-Town Pound)

- 2799 ANGELL-CARPENTER HOUSE (c. 1800): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, center-chimney Federal cottage with a central entrance with sidelights in a five-bay facade. Early owners were the Angell family and, from about 1850 to 1890, the Carpenter family. (1838-Gideon Angell)
- 2807 HOUSE (18th/early 19th century): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable cottage with an asymmetrical facade, grouped windows to one side of the sidelighted entry, and a small twentieth-century shed-roof dormer in the roof above the entrance.
- 2876 JAMES GREENE HOUSE (c. 1800): This is a small, one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Federal cottage with a central doorway with transom lights in the five-bay facade and a single off-center gable dormer. The setting has been altered by a condominium development, Maplewoods Farm. James Greene owned the house until the mid-nineteenth century. (1838-James Greene)
- 3030 DEXTER CLARK HOUSE (c. 1890): A three-story, mansard-roof, L-plan, Late Victorian house, with bracketed trim at the roof cornice, dormers, and door hoods. The entrance is within a porch set into the angle of the two wings. A late nineteenth-century carriage house is set at the rear of the spacious lot planted with mature beech, pine, and maple trees. Maplewoods Farm, a condominium development, has been constructed near the house. (1895-Dexter Clark)
- 3191 HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, five-bay Federal house with a fine pedimented central entrance, semi-round transom, modillion course, and fluted pilasters. A one-story lateral addition has a simple post porch. (1838-Alex Ballou?)
- 3231 HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, hip-roof, five-bay Federal house with two large, internal brick chimneys set to the rear. A full-width, bracketed-post porch shields the central entrance with sidelights. Additions have been made to the right side and across the back. (1838-Anna Ballou?)

MENDON ROAD (continued)

- \*\*3261** BURLINGAME-NOON HOUSE (c. 1800-1815, 1835, 1840): The original structure was a simple, one-and-one-half-story, five-room-plan, center-chimney Federal cottage, constructed in the first decades of the nineteenth century. In the middle of the century, it was enlarged into a two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Greek Revival house. It has paneled corner pilasters and a trabeated central entrance with sidelights and pilasters in a five-bay facade. The house has had few changes since the mid-nineteenth century and is notable for its architecture, including original Federal-period interior trim, which reflects transformations and adaptation in Cumberland's early history. (1838-Lyman Burlingame)
- 3273 HOUSE (early to mid-19th century et seq.): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable house with small interior chimneys and a steep-gabled, central front projection containing a triple-arch Italianate window over a door with sidelights. A hip-roof porch is attached to the right. Its form suggests that this may be a late Federal vernacular house, altered by addition of the projecting entrance bay during the Early Victorian era and of the window sash and side porch in the later nineteenth century. (1838-Abner Ballou?; 1870-H. Burlingame?)
- 3329-31 HIGHLAND HOUSE (?) (1843): This is a two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, nine-bay-long, Greek Revival building at the north corner of Mendon Road and Nate Whipple Highway in Cumberland Hill. It is probably the Highland House, built by Francis Brown in 1843 and used as a summer boarding house. A porch on plain, round posts extends across the front and south side. It has had several alterations, including artificial siding. Brown served as president of the Town Council and in the General Assembly. (1838-?; 1862-F. Brown)
- 3383 JAMES MEIRS HOUSE (c. 1885; DEMOLISHED): This one-and-one-half-story, steep-pitch flank-gable, ornate, Late Victorian Queen Anne cottage, located in the village of Cumberland Hill, had a projecting gabled frontispiece containing an enclosed one-story entrance vestibule with a bracketed and basketwork-decorated doorhood set within an elaborate spindlework porch. A simpler spindlework porch covered the front of the small, lateral kitchen ell. The main block had an unusual false center chimney of wood, with a decorated top. According to oral tradition, Meirs, originally from Plymouth, England, was a blacksmith and operated a shop across the road. (1895-J. Meirs)
- 3415 DARIUS COOK HOUSE (c. 1800?, c. 1860): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, center-chimney house with a pedimented, projecting central entrance bay; a full-width, hip-roof porch on replacement wrought iron supports; and an Italianate flared gable window above the porch. This may be a Federal house, shown on the 1838 map as belonging to George Arnold, which was later altered. Darius Cook, who owned the property throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, was prominent in local business

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

- and politics. (See entry for 3425 Mendon Road). The building is now in commercial use. (1838-George Arnold (?); 1862-D. Cook)
- 3425 DARIUS COOK HOUSE AND STORE (?) (c. 1860): A one-and-one-half-story, end-gable, Early Victorian house. The asymmetrical four-bay facade incorporates an off-center entrance with sidelights under a bracketed hood which connects to a recessed, bracketed corner porch. The facade arrangement and wide form suggests it may have been constructed as a three-bay Greek Revival house and later extended, perhaps to accommodate a store. Darius Cook, a farmer born in 1826, ran a grocery store in Cumberland Hill for about twenty years, was president of the Town Council for five years, and served in the Rhode Island legislature. (1862-Store; D. Cook)
- 3468 HOUSE (c. 1890): A one-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof, frame house in Cumberland Hill with paired roof brackets and an entrance at the right side within a small, flat-roof porch. (1895-Mrs. C.E. Spellman)
- 3475 HOUSE (early 20th century): A one-and-three-quarter-story, flank-gable-roof house with two gable roof dormers breaking through the roof cornice, a full-width porch. A balustrade which formerly surmounted the porch has been removed, and the porch roof has been changed from flat to a gabled pitch. A house at 3493 Mendon Road is very similar in appearance.
- CUMBERLAND HILL SCHOOL (1902, 1914): Renamed in 1998 to honor the late John McLaughlin, this is a two-story, shingle, brick, and cast-concrete schoolhouse on a small, paved lot at the south corner of Mendon and West Wrentham Roads. It was originally erected as a one-story, frame schoolhouse on land donated by Orlando R. Vose. In 1914, the building was raised and a brick first floor was inserted. A school has stood here since the mid-nineteenth century. The building is currently privately owned, vacant, and boarded.
- 3449 ORNANDO REMINGTON VOSE'S FIRST HOUSE (c. 1888): An L-plan, one-and-one-half-story, end-gable, Late Victorian farmhouse on the north corner of Mendon and West Wrentham roads. It has bracketed trim, a two-bay facade with a gabled lintel above the gable-peak window, and an enclosed porch along the side ell. The house was the first built by Vose when he moved to Cumberland Hill in 1888. By 1895, he built a second house up the road at 3533 Mendon Road. He went on to establish several businesses in the area and was one of Cumberland Hill's most prominent residents at the turn of the century. (See entries below.) (1895-O.R. Vose)
- 3469 VOSE FLORISTS (c. 1900): A one-and-one-half-story, hip-roof, novelty-shingled bungalow with a small central hip-roof dormer, housing an early twentieth-century florist business. Artificial siding has recently been added to the c. 1950 glass-block and plate glass facade, but the large attached neon sign from that period remains.

## MENDON ROAD (continued)

- 3533      ORNANDO REMINGTON VOSE'S SECOND HOUSE (c. 1890): Located at the northern edge of Cumberland Hill Village, this is a substantial, two-and-one-half-story, plain and pattern shingle, Queen Anne/Shingle Style house with a massive flank-gable roof incorporating a wraparound porch. It has a polygonal corner tower and pedimented gable dormer intersecting the roof line, end gable overhangs, decorative interior chimneys, and a variety of windows. Orlando Remington Vose (1834-1910) moved to Cumberland Hill in 1888 and built the house at 3449 Mendon Road. Originally a farmer, he also was involved in real estate development in the Cumberland Hill area. The family also started the Vose Hardware and Vose Florists businesses. Construction of this house, the largest of its period in the area, reflects the success of Vose's enterprises. (1895-O.R. Vose)
- 3745      HOUSE (mid-19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, shingled house with a two-story lateral ell. The five-bay facade has a central entrance under an off-center Tuscan porch and a single bay window to the right of the entrance. The house is located north of Cumberland Hill. (1895-O.J. or Stephen W. Ballou)
- 3871      HOUSE (early 19th century): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, center-chimney cottage with a small side ell. It is sheathed in clapboard and has several rambling additions. It is located north of Cumberland Hill. (1838-Lemuel Capron?)
- 4061      HOUSE (early 19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof house with a central entrance under an artificial hood in the five-bay facade. The structure is sheathed in artificial siding and has had all of its original windows replaced. It is located north of Cumberland Hill. (1838-Seth Capron?)

## MIDDLE STREET

(The following properties are included in the Ashton Historic District:)

- \*\* + 8 / 1 0 ;      LONSDALE COMPANY DOUBLE HOUSES (1867): A group of six  
9/11; 15/17;      identical, tall one-and-one-half-story, gable-roof, brick double houses with  
12-22 even;      four-bay facades, paired central entrances with transoms, punched  
19/21; 23/25      segmental-arch door and window openings, small windows under the  
                                 eaves, and exposed rafters forming eaves brackets. Similar buildings are  
                                 found on Front Street. (1870-Lonsdale Company)
- \*\* + 2 7 / 2 9 ;      LONSDALE COMPANY DOUBLE HOUSES (1867): A group of four  
31/33; 35/37;      identical, tall two-and-one-half-story, gable-roof, brick tenements with six-  
39/41                      bay facades, paired end-bay entrances with transoms, punched segmental-  
                                 arch door and window openings, small windows under the eaves, and  
                                 exposed rafters forming eaves brackets. Number 47-51 is derelict. Similar

buildings are found on Front Street. (1870-Lonsdale Company)

## MIDDLE STREET (continued)

- \*\* + 2 8 - 3 8  
even      LONSDALE COMPANY ROW HOUSE (1867): A long, tall one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof brick structure different in form from the other housing types on Middle Street, but identical in material, scale, and detailing. It has transom-topped entrances, punched segmental-arch door and window openings, small windows under the eaves and exposed rafters forming eaves brackets. It has an 18-bay facade composed of a three-bay, side-hall entrance modular unit repeated six times.
- \*\*+43/45      LONSDALE COMPANY TENEMENT (1867): A large, tall two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, brick structure different in form from the other housing types on Middle Street, but identical in material, scale, and detailing. It has transom-topped entrances, punched segmental-arch door and window openings, small windows under the eaves and exposed rafters forming eaves brackets. It has an 18-bay facade with four irregularly placed entrances.

(End of properties in the Ashton Historic District.)

## MILL STREET

(The following properties are located in Valley Falls:)

- \*12-16      FORMER VALLEY FALLS POST OFFICE (c. 1890): A well-preserved, two-story, flat-roof brick building with corbeled cornice and paired segmentally arched windows and wooden storefronts with cast-iron Ionic pilasters. The building was built as a commercial/residential building. It was used as a post office and later the Valley Falls Library. It is located near the corner of Broad Street and the Town Hall. (1895-Post Office)
- 60      PROVIDENCE & WORCESTER RAILROAD STATION (c. 1895): A two-story, Late Victorian, wood-frame railroad station, this building was originally constructed by the Providence & Worcester Railroad to serve Valley Falls and is now used as a railroad office. The structure has been clad with vertical panels of artificial siding on the walls and under the eaves, covering the building's most distinctive feature, its wide, bracketed roof overhang. (1895-appears)

## MOUNT PLEASANT VIEW AVENUE

- 12/14; 20/22;  
27/29; 28/30;  
32/34; 41/43;  
48/50; 55/57;  
60/62; 63/65;      MILL HOUSES (c. 1890, c. 1910): Along a quiet side street on the hill above Manville and below Cumberland Hill are approximately twenty one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, Late Victorian, duplex mill houses associated with the mills in Manville, which stood until the 1950s. The houses are sited on a hill above the Blackstone Valley and are generally

## MOUNT PLEASANT VIEW AVENUE (continued)

68/70; 71/73; well preserved. Originally all were covered with wood clapboards. The  
78/80; 86/88; earlier type has two identical four-bay sections with the entry located one  
1 1 3 / 1 1 5 ; bay in from the center of the structure and two small, square, second-story  
1 1 9 / 1 2 1 ; windows at the roofline. The later type has paired center entries, and some  
1 2 3 / 1 2 5 ; have long shed dormers breaking the roof line. A group of three similar  
127/129 mill houses stands nearby on Boyle Avenue (see above). The formerly  
wooded hillside surrounding these buildings now contains new single  
family and townhouse residences. (1895-Houses are shown on the east side  
of the street.)

## NATE WHIPPLE HIGHWAY

390 STEPHEN S. STAPLES HOUSE (c. 1800): A simple, one-and-one-half-  
story, flank-gable, center-chimney house with a central doorway and transom  
lights and an enclosed porch on the west elevation. The house is located in  
an isolated rural section of Nate Whipple Highway, west of the intersection  
with Little Pond County Road. (1838-Stephen Staples)

(The following properties are included in the Arnold Mills Historic District:)

- \*\* ARNOLD MILLS CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--  
CUMBERLAND NO. 23 (mid-19th century): This burial ground, often  
referred to as the "New Cemetery" in its early days, was established not  
long after the construction of the Methodist Church (see entry below).
- \*\* EVERGREEN CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--  
CUMBERLAND NO. 22: This cemetery, with its border of evergreens on  
the east side and stone wall on the west, is an extension of the Arnold Mills  
Cemetery.
- \*\*696 ARNOLD MILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1827): A two-  
story, Federal style church with 12-over-12 double-hung windows, a gable  
fanlight, and two-part tower with louvered octagonal belfry. The church  
was dedicated in 1827 and was "open and free to all denominations". In  
1832, it became a Methodist meetinghouse and in 1846 the second floor  
was filled in. In 1853, the parsonage was built, and the horse sheds were  
replaced in 1957 with a new ell. (1838-Methodist Meeting House)
- \*\* ARNOLD MILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARISH HOUSE  
(early 20th century): A two-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof, five-bay  
structure, clad with clapboard and resting on a granite foundation. The  
entrance is in the center bay and is protected by a half-round hood. A mid-  
twentieth-century, one-and-a-half-story side ell is attached to the south  
elevation, with an attached, shed-roof porch.
- \*\* FORMER ARNOLD MILLS FREIGHT STATION (c.1877, moved 1933):  
Built by the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Railroad, this small frame  
structure stands to the rear of the church on a dirt lane. It was moved to its

## NATE WHIPPLE HIGHWAY (continued)

present location when the railroad discontinued. It is well maintained and is used for a variety of church functions.

- \*\*702** HOUSE (early 1800s): This modest, one-story, flank-gable, clapboard structure was owned in the nineteenth century by the Metcalfs. It has a central chimney and an entrance at each end of the facade, and probably was erected as a duplex.
- \*\*705** HENRY A. BISHOP HOUSE (1882): This plain, shingled, two-and-one-half-story, end-gable structure has a large bay window added to the front and the original posts of a small entrance porch are replaced with wrought iron posts. A one-story rear wing is said to have been a part of the Jacob Metcalf House, left behind when the front portion was moved across the street in 1882 (see entry above).
- \*\*710** JACOB METCALF HOUSE (late 18th century, moved 1882, moved 1920s): This much-altered four-bay, two-story, flank-gable structure was the home of Jacob Metcalf (1818-1867), a son of Ebenezer Metcalf, Jr., in the mid-nineteenth century. Originally located on the site of the Henry A. Bishop House on the south side of Nate Whipple Highway, nearly opposite the east end of Sneece Pond Road, the house was moved across the street in 1882 when the Bishop House was built (see entry below). It was moved again in the 1920s when Arnold Mills Reservoir was constructed.
- \*\*715** WILLIAM A. WALCOTT HOUSE (1838): A substantial, side-hall-plan, two-story, end-gable Greek Revival structure, built for Walcott, a local merchant. A large gable fanlight, divided by mullions into three parts, and the paneled treatment of the pilasters used at the corners of the house give this structure an appearance of considerable richness. A one-and-one-half-story wing, now trimmed in Greek Revival detailing, is said to predate the 1838 front portion.
- \*\*735** CAPTAIN JOHN WALCOTT HOUSE (1720): A two-and-one-half-story Colonial house with a large brick center chimney; narrow window openings with molded caps; and a handsome entry with sidelights and a heavy, molded flat entablature. A one-story lateral wing and piazzas were added in 1898. The old Fog Mill, which manufactured wrought-iron nails at an early date, was behind the house. Directly behind the house is a second dwelling, located at 5 Ridgeland Road, which is also in the Arnold Mills Historic District (see entry below). (1838-Levi P. Cheever)

(End of properties in the Arnold Mills Historic District.)



## OLD ANGELL ROAD

(The following properties are located in the Ashton Historic District:)

- \*\*+2 HOUSE (early 20th century): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with side-hall entrances, and full-length side shed dormers, one extended out partially over the porch. It is now sheathed with asphalt shingles.
- \*\*+6 HOUSE (early 20th century): A two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof two-decker with side-hall entrances and a two-story bay window to one side of the entrance. It is now covered in artificial siding and all original trim has been covered or removed.

(End of properties in the Ashton Historic District.)

## OLD WEST WRENTHAM ROAD

(The following properties are included in the Old West Wrentham Road Historic District:)

- \*+7 DARIUS COOK HOUSE (c. 1795): A large two-and-one-half-story Federal house with stone center chimney and two-and-one-half-story ell. The entrance is very similar to that on the Cyrus Cook House (see above) and consists of a flat entablature with half sidelights and paneled pilasters. Local tradition holds that the original one-story house was raised up and a new first story added below. The house sits on a large, well-landscaped lot. (1838-Darius Cook)
- \*+9 NATHAN DARLING HOUSE (18th century, c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story, Federal house with 6-over-6 double-hung windows and twin stone chimneys offset from center. The chimney location and the five unequally spaced bays suggest an original three-bay-facade configuration with a later, late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century, two-bay extension. (1838-Nathan Darling)
- \*+12 CYRUS COOK HOUSE/ORCHARD HOUSE (1810): A two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney, slate roofed, Federal house with several additions at both sides and rear and 6-over-6 double-hung windows. The house has a handsome doorway with flat entablature, paneled pilasters, sidelights, rope molding, and multi-light rectangular transom. (1838-Davis Cook)

(End of properties in the Old West Wrentham Road Historic District.)

## OLD WEST WRENTHAM ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

- \*+ A narrow, winding road flanked by fine stone walls with one small area containing three well-preserved Federal period houses. An upgraded section of West Wrentham Road bypasses this section of road making it

## OLD WEST WRENTHAM ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

little traveled and secluded. The historic buildings are clustered at the southern end of the old section of road.

### PLANTATION STREET

COOK-CARPENTER CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY NO. 34 (19th century): This small cemetery contains 16 burials.

### POUND ROAD

STONE WALLS AND POUND ROAD (early 19th century): A section of winding Pound Road, lined with highly distinctive stone walls about three feet wide and stately old elms, comprises a fine rural roadscape. In the early twentieth century, the Pound Road area attracted summer colony development. (1838-road on)

- 144 HOUSE (mid-to-late 18th century): A one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof, five-bay, Greek Revival/Italianate transitional style house, clad with clapboards and resting on a granite foundation. Windows are 2/2 with entablatures and lintels. The facade of the house is also marked by a wide cornice and a Neo-Classical, pedimented entry in the center bay. A bracketed bay window is located to the south of the entrance. Two one-story ells are attached to the west elevation. An early-twentieth-century, shingled shed is located to the rear of the house.
- 210 HOUSE (c. 1800): A one-and-one-half-story Federal house with a large brick center chimney and a central doorway in a five-bay facade. A set of transom lights were removed when a new door and surround were recently installed. A small side wing connects to a recently constructed end-gable garage. The house occupies a rural setting, surrounded by woods with stone walls. (1838-Samuel Howey)
- 528 KWAN UM ZEN SCHOOL (PROVIDENCE ZEN CENTER) (early 20th century?, c. 1980): A complex of connected structures, including a two-story, hip-roof main hall, set back from the road, formerly behind an oriental gateway. The grounds include open fields, woods, a meditation garden, and a wooden pagoda constructed in the 1980s. The property was formerly the summer residence of Thomas P. McCoy, mayor of Pawtucket.

### RALCO WAY

(The following properties are located in Valley Falls:)

PAWTUCKET WATER WORKS PUMPING STATION NO. 3 (1888 PARTIALLY DEMOLISHED 1998): This two-story, flat-roof, brick masonry, Gothic Revival building, sits on the banks of the outflow of

## RALCO WAY (continued)

Happy Hollow Pond in the Valley Falls neighborhood. The building is constructed of brick and rests on a foundation of massive granite blocks. A tapered brick smokestack (demolished) was attached to the eastern elevation.

ABBOTT RUN RAILROAD BRIDGE (1874): A single-barrel-vaulted, granite-ashlar span, built to carry a double track of the New England Railroad over Abbott Run at its confluence with the Blackstone River in Valley Falls. The tracks are laid on an earth-fill bed, some 10 feet above the masonry. It was part of a branch of the New York & New England Railroad from Valley Falls to Franklin, Massachusetts, completed in 1877. It now carries a single track and is still used.

## RAWSON ROAD

- 6 HOUSE (c. 1870): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Early Victorian cottage with a central entrance with a bracketed hood, full side lights, and molded caps over the windows. A group of frame outbuildings and chicken coops are located behind the house. It was owned by D.O. Cargill in 1895. (1870-appears)
- 9 HOUSE (early 20th century): A two-story, shingled, gambrel-roof house with the second story within the roof. It has a rough-cast concrete block foundation and paired doors under a central, hip-roof entry porch.
- 12 H. C. RAWSON HOUSE (c. 1880): A two-and-one-half-story Late Victorian house with a five-bay facade and a full, shed-roof porch across the front. A one-and-one-half-story ell extends to the left and another at the rear. There is a water tower and a late nineteenth-century frame barn behind the house. (1895-H. C. Rawson)
- 17 HOUSE (early 20th century): A two-story, cross-gambrel-roof, shingled house, with a gable-roof barn, possibly constructed in the early twentieth century, to the rear, and a corn crib. An early-twentieth-century, one-story, front-gable-roof work shop is located to the west of the house.
- 18 HOUSE (mid-20th century): A sprawling, one-story, wood-shingled house on the site of the old mill on Abbott Run, just upstream from Rawson Road. The mill trench passes directly underneath the right (eastern) side of the house. The picturesque setting includes the stone-lined mill trench, woods, and open fields to the east.
- \*\* RAWSON ROAD BRIDGE (c. 1886): A five-panel, riveted pony Pratt truss bridge spanning Abbott Run, with lattice railings and chamfered cast-iron posts. At 62 feet long and 20.5 feet wide, this is the longer of two bridges constructed here by the Boston Bridge Workds. It is one of a small number of nineteenth-century truss bridges in Rhode Island.

## RAWSON ROAD (continued)

- \*\* RAWSON ROAD BRIDGE (c. 1886; over a mill race on Abbott Run): A 24 feet long by 20.5 feet wide bridge consisting of three parallel plate girders, 5 inches by 20 inches in section, spanning granite-block abutments, and a single floor beam carrying stringers for the plank deck. Like the adjacent bridge, this was built by the Boston Bridge Works.

## RAWSON ROAD/ABBOTT RUN HISTORIC DISTRICT

- \* A collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century domestic and agricultural buildings and the site of a nineteenth-century manufacturing operation along Abbott Run. A sawmill, a gristmill and the William Hawkins factory, later Rawson's Mill, which manufactured cotton cloth, were built along the brook. In 1895, the community also had a railroad station and a post office and was known as Abbott Run. It included an agricultural area with a school and farms extending along Abbott Run Valley Road from north of Rawson Road south to Howard Road. This section is now altered by residential subdivision development (see Abbott Run Valley Road entries). All historic non-residential buildings on Rawson Road are gone and only the residential/agricultural properties and the bridges, clustered at the west end of Rawson Road near Abbott Run Valley Road, survive, retaining a reasonably well-preserved, turn-of-the-century rural setting.

## RESERVOIR ROAD

- DIAMOND HILL CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY--CUMBERLAND NO. 24 AND NO. 25 (mid-19th century): A large burying ground, set back from the road, containing the graves of early settlers, including members of the Cook and Whipple families. It is still in use today. (1870-Cemetery)
- \*\*41 JOHN COLE FARM (c. 1770): An excellently preserved early agricultural complex centered on a one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Colonial house which faces south. The original, c. 1770, five-bay section has a center entrance with transom. A two-bay addition was made to the east end c. 1795-1810. The farm buildings include several of wood-frame, board-and-batten construction: a smokehouse, a corn crib, a piggery, a wood shed, a privy, and a well house. A two-and-one-half-story barn which stood on the property has been DEMOLISHED. John Cole purchased approximately 100 acres and built the house in 1770; the property remained in Cole family ownership until 1924. Although the land is now reduced to 4.3 acres, this family farmstead, with its interrelated buildings within a setting of roads, fences, and fields, represents an important stage in the development of Rhode Island agriculture. (1838-James Case)

## RHODES STREET

- 12            RUFUS HAWKINS HOUSE (early 19th century): Located at the corner of Burnt Swamp Road and Rhodes Street, this is a one-and-one-half-story Early Victorian structure with a large, central gable dormer flanked by two smaller gable dormers and a semi-enclosed shed-roof porch across the front. It has two small interior chimneys, 2-over-2 windows, and a diamond-shaped window with tinted glass in the gable end. A nineteenth- or early twentieth-century addition extends to the rear. Although the farmland behind the house has recently been subdivided, across Burnt Swamp Road is a well-preserved, small, wood-shingled, gable-roof, side-entrance barn, with open fields and stone walls behind it. (1838-Rufus Hawkins)
- 32            EVANS FARM (mid-19th century): Until recently, the Evans Farm was a working farm with a farmhouse, attached outbuildings, and a large barn and silo. The land is now subdivided and new single-family houses stand between the barn and the house and in the surrounding fields. The house is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, flank-gable-roof dwelling with a center entrance and single kneewall window. The house has been altered with artificial siding and the original flat entablature has been replaced with a pseudo-Colonial surround. The center chimney remains and a modern end chimney has been added. The large gable-roof, shingled barn and a smaller shingled barn remain, but the silo has been removed. (1851-R. Crowninshield?)

## RIDGELAND ROAD

(The following property on this street is included in the Arnold Mills Historic District:)

- \*\*4            WALCOTT HOUSE (18th century): A two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Colonial house with a central entry in a five-bay facade. It is located behind the Captain John Walcott House within a residential subdivision and is barely visible from the road. (1838-appears)

## SCHOOL STREET

(The following property is located in Valley Falls:)

- 31            FORMER VALLEY FALLS SCHOOL (19th century): A large, two-and-one-half-story, three- by seven-bay, artificial-sheathed school with a gable roof and gable dormers. A lower, two-story ell extends to the rear. Set on a corner lot, gable end to the street, in a residential neighborhood east of Broad Street in Valley Falls, this prominent building retains basic form, although the windows have been replaced. A schoolhouse stood on this site as early as 1870. The present structure is now in residential use. (1870-S.H.)

## SCOTT ROAD

(The following properties are included in the Ashton Historic District:)

- **\*\*+2** HOUSE (early 20th century): A small, one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with front and rear shed dormers breaking up through the eaves, an asymmetrical facade, a front porch with turned posts, and artificial siding.
  
- \*\*+4** J. ROACH TENEMENT (c. 1890s): A three-story, flank-gable-roof, multi-unit residential structure with entrances on the sides and overhanging eaves. The original windows have been replaced with sliding casements and the exterior has been resheathed with vertical-board siding on the first story and artificial siding on the upper stories, leaving none of the original trim.
  
- \*\*+4 (rear)** HOUSE (late 19th century): A small, two-story, flank-gable-roof structure with one- and two-story, shed-roof projections in the front and a variety of dark-stained vertical-board and white clapboard siding. It was probably originally a barn or other outbuilding for number 4, later converted to a dwelling.
  
- \*\*+6/8** TENEMENT (c. 1905): A large, two-and-one-half-story, multi-unit residential structure with a flank gable roof containing a central front gable and a pair of two-story end porches on the facade with a pair of two-story bay windows centered between them. The exterior is now covered with asphalt shingles.
  
- \*\*+7** M. MALOY HOUSE (1870s): A tall two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with a central entrance under a shed hood on jigsaw braces and an asymmetrical four-bay facade containing double and single windows. It is now covered with asbestos shingles.
  
- \*\*+9** MRS. M. MCNALLY HOUSE (c. 1880): A tall, two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with a five-bay facade; a central entrance under a door hood carried on massive brackets; small paired eaves and cornice brackets; and an early twentieth-century side porch with square piers on fieldstone pedestals. The exterior is now covered with asbestos shingles.
  
- \*\*+12** HOUSE (late 19th century): A one-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof vernacular dwelling with a turned-post entrance porch now partly filled in, turned to face a right-of-way running off Scott Road. It is now sheathed with artificial siding which covers the original window frames and corner boards.
  
- \*\*+16** M. KEOUGH HOUSE (c. 1875): A handsome, tall, two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with five-bay facade, a central entrance under a hood on massive brackets. The house is clad with artificial siding. It is set above the street on a terrace with a stuccoed retaining wall.
  
- \*\*+18** J. MCGRANE TENEMENT (late 19th century): A large, tall two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof multi-family dwelling with a four-bay facade

## SCOTT ROAD (continued)

containing double and single windows and entrances placed at the rear. The building is clad with artificial siding.

- \*\*+19 MRS. MALLOY HOUSE (c. 1870): A two-story, flank-gable-roof, side-hall-plan dwelling with a three-bay facade, a slightly shorter two-story ell, and a front veranda with turned posts. It is now sheathed in artificial siding and all original trim has been covered or removed.
- \*\*+20 T. SHEA HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-story, L-shaped dwelling with intersecting gable roofs and shallow window hoods on small brackets. The house is clad with artificial siding.
- \*\*+31A&B MRS. WILD DOUBLE HOUSE (c. 1875-80): A handsome, one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with a mirror-image facade containing a pair of bay windows set between a pair of front entrances with transoms and molded caps. There are small windows under the front and rear eaves, extended rafters forming eaves brackets, and ornamental jigsaw screens in the gable peaks.
- \*\*+39 W. WILD HOUSE (late 19th century): A tall two-and-one-half-story, end-gable-roof, side-hall-plan two-decker with an off-center, two-story bay window on the facade. It has been altered by the addition of artificial brick veneer and artificial siding, leaving no original trim.
- \*\*+45 W. HOLDEN HOUSE (c. 1875-80): A handsome, tall two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with a five-bay facade; a central entrance under a door hood on massive brackets; bracketed window hoods with a sawtooth pattern; and a one-story, flank-gable-roof, twentieth-century addition on the southeast corner. It is set behind a white picket fence.

(End of properties in the Ashton Historic District.)

- 60 HOUSE (late 19th century): A two-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof Italianate-style dwelling with a five-bay facade and a center brick chimney. The house has 2/2 windows with a round-top window in the gable ends. The entrance is in the center bay and consists of a plain door and frame with a transom overhead. A bay window is located next to the entrance with segmental arched openings. The bay and entrance are protected by a full-facade porch supported by paneled piers. The house is marked by bracketed cornice, eaves, and window hoods. The brackets are further ornamented with carved stars and oak leaf motifs.
- 160 HOUSE (late 18th century): A one-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof dwelling with a five-bay facade, a center brick chimney, and two side ells: a one-story and a one-and-a-half-story. The house has 6/6 replacement windows, is clad with wood clapboard, and rests on a stone foundation. The entrance is in the center bay and consists of a projecting, gable-roof portico with a wooden fanlight and keystone over the door, flanked by

## SCOTT ROAD (continued)

- Tuscan pilasters. The property slopes away from the house and is enclosed by low stone walls.
- 181 BASCOMB FARM (early 20th century): A two-story, end-gable-roof, two-bay facade house with a single brick chimney, asbestos shingles, and resting on a stone foundation. The house has a combination of 1/1 and 2/2 replacement windows. A replacement door is located under a large shed-roof hood. The house has a few mid-to-late 20th century barns and outbuildings, all in various stages of repair. A mid-nineteenth century, one-and-a-half-story, end-gable stone barn constructed of fieldstone with a granite block facade is located to the east of the house. The property is accessed from Scott Road by a long driveway which passes through woods, swamps, and abandoned pastureland.
- 225 HOUSE (mid-19th century): A two-and-one-half-story, Early Victorian bracketed house, with a steep flank-gable roof and a small brick center chimney. The two-bay facade has paired windows on the upper story and, on the first story, two spaced windows and a bracketed side-hall entrance porch. There is a bay window on the side elevation and a large addition at the rear. (1851-L. Scott?)
- 275 MILTON SMITH HOUSE (c. 1830): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Greek Revival house with interior chimneys and a central, south-facing entry with transom lights. The house is trimmed with corner pilasters and has second-story windows tucked up under the roof line. There are several outbuildings behind the house and across the road, including a two-and-one-half-story, shingled, L-plan barn with a gable roof. The property occupies a rural, wooded setting, crossed by stone walls. (1838-Milton Smith)
- 283 HOUSE (c. 1800): A simple, one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, shingled Federal house with an off-center chimney and a wing at the left side. A barn is associated with the property. (1838-Albert Roger)
- 349 HOUSE (early 20th century): A one-and-a-half story, flank-gable-roof house, with a long one-story, end-gable side block. The house is clad with wooden shingles and rests on a cobblestone foundation. Windows consist of multi-light casements. Two cobblestone chimneys rise from either end of the main block. The house is set on the side of a low hill, and the front entrance is reached by a flight of stone steps from a circular driveway below. A one-story, gable-roof, wood shingled garage is located between the driveway and Scott Road. The property is at the intersection of Scott Road and Theater Road, which is marked by large, cobblestone gate posts.
- 361 GATEPOSTS (early 20th century): Located at the edge of Scott Road is a stone wall with two large, cobblestone gate posts, as at 349 Scott Road, which possibly mark the former entrance to the Lippitt estate. The house located at this property is a late-twentieth-century structure.



## SNEECH POND ROAD

(The following properties are included in the Arnold Mills Historic District:)

- \*\* SITE OF THE METCALF MACHINE SHOP (1825, burned 1987): The Metcalf Machine Shop was originally a long, rectangular, two-and-one-half-story, clapboard building set above the dam and falls. Originally Joseph and Ebenezer Metcalf made machinery for cotton mills, and the building was used as a machine shop throughout the nineteenth century. In more recent times it was used to store grain, as a blacksmith shop and as a wagon shop.
  
- \*\* MILL DAM AND FOUNDATIONS (1734, 1875): This area contains the site of the Arnold saw and grist mills and the extant mill dam built in 1875. The sawmill was built about 1734 at the west end of the dam and closed in 1862. No remains are now visible. The gristmill, built about 1747 at the east end of the dam, stood until 1962. The stone foundation walls and mill race are still in existence.
  
- \*\* ARNOLD MILLS BRIDGE (1886): A five-panel, riveted pony Pratt truss with a wooden sidewalk carried on angle outriggers, this bridge spans Abbott Run and was one of at least six bridges in Cumberland built by the Boston Bridge Works.
  
- \*\*302 HOUSE (late 18th century): A two-and-a-half-story, flank-gable-roof, Federal-style house. The house is clad with wood shingles, rests on a stone foundation, and has a central brick chimney. The entrance is located in the center bay and consists of a flat head, Federal-style entrance with 4-pane sidelights, partially obscured by the addition of a projecting, late-twentieth century, gable-roof portico with Doric columns. Windows are 6/6.
  
- \*\*304 FORMER WALCOTT GENERAL STORE AND DOCTOR'S OFFICE (c.1819-24): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable structure with an end-gable shed at its right-hand end. Now a residence, the building was used in its early years by Dr. Halsey Walcott as a doctor's office and by him and his brother, William A. Walcott, as a general store. The door into the former office at the left side has been replaced by a window. This remained in use as a general store under the Perkinses and William Howe into the twentieth century.
  
- \*\*306 EDWIN ARNOLD HOUSE (mid-18th century): Erected for a blacksmith between 1837 and 1850, this is a handsome, one-and-one-half-story, clapboard, flank-gable, Greek Revival structure with corner pilasters and cornice returns.
  
- \*\*310 MACKENZIE HOUSE (late 18th century, remodeled 1913): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable, center-chimney dwelling, probably originally a Federal house, it was extensively remodeled in 1913. Colonial Revival modifications include an open veranda extending around three sides and a projecting, central entrance pavilion. Neil Mackenzie (1863-1931), a Nova Scotia-born blacksmith, came to Cumberland in 1885, when Diamond Hill

## SNEECH POND ROAD (continued)

Reservoir was being built. In 1896, he bought this house, along with the former machine shop from the Metcalfs.

- \*\*312** DR. ADDISON KNIGHT HOUSE (c. 1844-46): A one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable frame dwelling, this house possesses a handsome entrance and Doric porch across the front. It is a fine Greek Revival structure, of a type not common in Rhode Island. The heavy picket fence is said to date from the time of construction of the house. The house was built for Dr. Addison Knight and sold in 1846 to Louisa Taft, whose husband Mowry was then part owner of the textile machinery factory. The property remained in Taft family ownership until at least 1900.
- \*\*314** HOUSE (c. 1800): A one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, central-chimney, frame structure, with large additions in the back, this house possesses a Greek Revival front entry with sidelights and a small, evidently original shed dormer centrally positioned over it. The house was purchased by Gustavus A. Alexander in 1837, and was the residence of Margaret Stearn in the first half of the 19th century. It is now owned by the Pawtucket Water Supply Board and leased to its present occupants.
- \*\*315** AMOS ARNOLD HOUSE (mid-18th century): A one-and-one-half-story, gambrel-roof house built between 1745, when Arnold purchased the sawmill and mill privilege, and 1773, when he gave his son Rufus an undivided half interest in the house. Sold to Joseph Metcalf by the Rufus Arnold heirs in 1818-19, the structure remained in Metcalf ownership until 1896. The exterior, which had been faced with shingles, was clapboarded in the 1930s. Many of the windows evidently date from the mid-nineteenth century, when the house was made over into a duplex (it is now a single family dwelling). A triangular chimney stack with fireplaces running diagonally across the corners of the two south rooms remains. A modest, flank-gable Late Victorian barn with shingled walls and a small cupola is associated with the house.
- \*\*322** FORMER GRAIN STORAGE BUILDING (c.1910): A well-preserved one-story, wood-frame grain storage shed set gable end to the road. It has been sensitively rehabilitated and houses an antique store and soda fountain.

(End of properties in the Arnold Mills Historic District.)

WEEDEN CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY-CUMBERLAND NO. 16 (19th century): This small cemetery consists of a crypt with eight burials.

STAPLES FAMILY CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY - CUMBERLAND NO. 17 (19th century): This small cemetery contains 18 burials.

## SNEECH POND ROAD (continued)

PICKERING AND STAPLES CEMETERY, R.I. HISTORICAL CEMETERY NO. 18 (19th century): This small cemetery contains 25 burials.

## STAPLES ROAD

COPPERMINE HILL MINE SITES (early 19th century): Two early mining sites are found on Copper Mine Hill. Located north of the road and east of Sneece Pond, a copper mine site was an abortive attempt to extract copper from chalcopyrite disseminated in magnetite. Located south of the road and east of Sneece Pond was a copperas (iron sulfate) mine. Copperas, found in the host rock magnetite, was a valuable farm product used in dyeing, tanning, and as a wood preservative and disinfectant. It was also mined for processing in local forges and blast furnaces. (1838 - Copper Mine, Copperas Mine)

## SUMNER BROWN ROAD

- 15 MOUNT SAINT RITA CONVENT AND HEALTH CENTER (early and mid-20th century): Located on a high ridge north of Diamond Hill and overlooking Lake Miscoe in the northeast corner of Cumberland, this property occupies a large tract of wooded and open land on both sides of the road with vistas to the west. The compound includes a number of dispersed buildings. Mercy Lodge, on the north side of the road at 6 Sumner Brown Road, is a large, early twentieth century, one-and-one-half-story, hip-roof bungalow, sheathed in artificial siding. The Health Center, constructed in the early twentieth century, is a three-story, flat-roof, brick and limestone hospital building with classically inspired trim, including a roof balustrade and classical pediments supported on second-story limestone columns. A two-story porch with monumental wood columns is attached to the north end. A two-story brick chapel (c. 1950) is attached at a right angle to the center of the main block. Other buildings on the property include an administration building (c. 1960s) and Mercymount Country Day School (c. 1960s).
- 26 HOUSE (18th century, 1710?): A very plain, one-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Colonial cottage. The original three-bay section contains an unadorned central entry and brick chimney; a later two-bay addition creates an asymmetrical facade. The side elevation windows have splayed lintels, and a wing extends at the rear. The house is located on a country road in the isolated northeast corner of town, north of Diamond Hill. (1851-W.R. Haskell)

## TITUS STREET

(The following properties are located in Valley Falls:)

- 33-35, 37-39      MILL WORKERS' HOUSES (c. 1895): Two similar, large, two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame, double houses with gambrel roofs, shed dormers, and two interior brick chimneys. The gambrel ends are slightly set back, creating a short pent roof between the upper two stories. The entrances are grouped under a steep-pitched hood with solid curved supports, at the center of the seven-bay facade. Number 33-35 is relatively intact, although its has been sided with artificial and has had its 6/6 windows replaced; number 37-39 has 2/2 windows, is clad with asphalt shingles, and has lost its door hood. They were most likely constructed as housing for the Valley Falls Mill at the turn of the century.

## TORREY ROAD

- 2                      TINGLEY HOUSE (c. 1800): A two-and-one-half-story Federal house with an off-center doorway and a one-and-one-half-story wing. This house was moved here recently when the Diamond Hill Reservoir across the road was enlarged. (1838-C. Tingley?)

## TOWER HILL ROAD

(The following properties are located in the Tower Hill Road Historic District:)

- +                      BEACON POLE HILL (c. 1775): A bald summit on the north side of Tower Hill Road with an elevation of 556 feet, this is the highest elevation in Cumberland and is also known as Tower Hill. During the Revolution, there was an 80-foot beacon pole with an iron kettle in which tar could be burned to warn of the coming of the British. It was one of a series of four such signal beacon sites in Rhode Island. Recent inspection shows that a cross with the letter "N" carved in the rock of one of the exposed areas and traces of a dark substance, possibly tar, are nearby. This may indicate the location of the beacon, although the evidence is not conclusive. (1838-Beacon Pole Hill)

TOWER MINE (early 19th century): Located south of the summit of Beacon Pole Hill and south of Tower Hill Road, the Tower Mine was probably a source of copper ore. (1838-Tower Mine).

- \*\*+68                BALLOU-WEATHERHEAD HOUSE (1748-1799): A one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Colonial dwelling expanded in the Federal period, with a broad gable roof, a simple entry in the asymmetrical side-gable facade, a central entry at the gable end and a side wing. The house contains high-quality joinery and trim, likely executed by one of two housewrights associated with the property. (1838-Welcome Weatherhead)

## TOWER HILL ROAD (continued)

- +140 FOLLETT HOUSE (18th century): A two-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Colonial house with a pedimented center entry. It is said to have been built by Enoch Tower and was the residence of the Follett family in the nineteenth century. (1838-Comfort Follett)
- \*+161 MILLER HOUSE (c. 1797); A five-bay, center-chimney, two-and-one-half-story Federal house with well-detailed woodwork on both the exterior and interior. The fine broken-gable pediment entrance has fluted pilasters with elaborate capitals, a semi-circular fanlight with curved muntins, and an elaborate three-dimensional carved bird ornament. The house was probably built by a woodcarver who may have been a member of the Tower family and is the finest example of Federal architecture in the town. In 1906, when the house was restored, a large ell was added to the rear of the house. The Miller House stands on a 300-acre tract which preserves much of the original, wooded setting. (1838-Jonathan Miller)
- +107 HOUSE (18th century): A one-and-one-half-story, center-chimney Colonial house with a central doorway with sidelights and a wing at the right side. Nearby is a fine, shingled, side-entrance barn. (1838-Wm. Smith)
- + SCHOOLHOUSE SITE (19th century): This is the site of a schoolhouse, destroyed by fire in the 1930s.
- +175 HOUSE (c. 1890): A one-and-three-quarter-story, cross-gable, clapboard-sheathed house with a Tuscan veranda across the front and wrapping to one side. The house is ornamented with decorative shingles.
- +150 HOUSE (c. 1850): A small, one-and-one-half-story, gable-roof, center-chimney house with dormers. A full-width porch has been added to the side facing the street.
- + FENNER GRANT HOUSE (mid- to late 18th century): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable-roof, shingled Colonial house. It has an off-center chimney and an off-center entrance with sidelights in an asymmetrical, five-bay facade. The low-pitch, pedimented molding caps above the windows and entrance are probably a later addition. (1838-Fenner Grant)

(End of properties in the Tower Hill Historic District.)

## TOWER HILL ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

- \*+ Tower Hill Road is an approximately two-mile-long, winding, narrow back road, which runs east-west through the northern part of Cumberland. It is relatively little altered by improvements and mostly passes through a forested and hilly landscape, with stone walls present in a few places. The best preserved section of Tower Hill Road, containing a small number of

## TOWER HILL ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT (continued)

historic houses and farms, has been designated a local historic district.  
(1838-road on)

## VALLEY FALLS

\* Valley Falls, at the southern end of Cumberland near the confluence of the Blackstone River and Abbott Run, was an area of dispersed agricultural settlement in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. After 1800, with the establishment of two cotton textile mills, the first in the town, at Robin Hollow and Happy Hollow, the community began to grow. The completion of two railroad lines through Valley Falls in 1848 and 1877 provided important transportation improvements. The village's proximity to the urban center of Providence and shipping on the lower Blackstone River and Narragansett Bay also played a role in its development. The primary north-south streets--Broad Street and High Street--as well as several short roads connecting the two, were laid out by the early nineteenth century.

By the 1830s, the village had approximately two dozen buildings, including the Haven Tavern on High Street. The workers' housing for the Abbott Run Cotton Company lined the north side of Mill Street. The Valley Falls Company had constructed a dam and a large mill complex on both sides of the Blackstone River in Cumberland and Central Falls. The Valley Falls Company became a major property owner and the largest employer by the mid-nineteenth century. In 1868, the political and institutional center of Cumberland shifted from Cumberland Hill south to Valley Falls.

In the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, Valley Falls expanded into a large, densely developed, urbanized center with a new Town Hall (1894), other public buildings, churches, commercial buildings, and blocks of mill workers' housing. The area's prominence also attracted a small number of the town's more wealthy residents to construct houses here. Today, Valley Falls clearly reflects this later growth pattern. In the mid- and late twentieth century, the area has been subject to typical urban trends. Several key buildings, such as the Valley Falls Mill, as well as lesser buildings have been lost. New infill construction and alterations to individual buildings, such as window replacement and siding, have not always been sympathetic to the historical and architectural character of the area. Nevertheless, a strong sense of the historic Valley Falls village remains and sections of the village, may be National Register eligible. Recent park improvements at the site of the Valley Falls Mills have greatly enhanced the southern entrance to the village.

## VICTORY STREET

(See Lawrence Street, in Berkeley Mill Village Historic District)

## WEST WRENTHAM ROAD

- 3 HOUSE (c. 1900): Located behind the Cumberland Hill School on West Wrentham Road, this is a modest, one-and-one-half-story, cross-gable-roof, clapboard and pattern-shingle Queen Anne house with an entrance under a turned-post porch. The building has been sided on the first story. (1895-not on)
- \*8 GRANTS MILL (c. 1818): An excellently preserved, one-and-one-half-story, frame, T-plan, early nineteenth-century saw and grist mill located on the north branch of Abbott Run. The main portion of the mill is one story with a flank-gable roof and has wall panels that open for ventilation. The entrance and paired 12-light windows are in the gable end. The one-and-one-half-story ell spans the raceway, which is constructed of drylaid field stone. The mill was built about 1818 by Joseph Grant. An early eighteenth-century nail factory used to be located nearby. Grants Mill is the only surviving mill of the many that existed from this period in Cumberland, and one of a handful in Rhode Island. (1838-Saw, Corn, Shingle Mill)
- 250 HOUSE AND FARM (c. 1920): A two-and-one-half-story, Four-Square house, set on an ashlar foundation, with a flared hip roof, exposed rafter ends, novelty shingles, and replacement 1/1 windows. The central entry is in a small projecting, enclosed porch, and a small one-story ell extends to the side. Adjacent to the house is a one-and-one-half-story, flared-gambrel-roof barn with a concrete block first floor and asphalt shingles in the gambrel ends, an overhead garage door, and a small gambrel-roof extension. The property is primarily notable for its setting in a vast expanse of open fields, which extend from Elder Ballou Meeting House Road north to the back of lots on Pine Swamp Road, and from West Wrentham Road west to a wooded area on the Cumberland/Woonsocket line.
- 333 HOUSE (late 18th century): A two-and-one-half-story, flank-gable Georgian Colonial house with a small brick center chimney and a small wing at the right side. The central pedimented doorway extends to the second-story window above and has simple pilasters. The house sits at the intersection of West Wrentham Road and Swamp Road, facing west, behind a granite ashlar retaining wall. (1838-Olney Ballou)

## WOODWARD STREET

(The following properties on this street are included in the Berkeley Mill Village Historic District:)

**\*\*3,4,7,8,  
11,12,16,  
19,20,21,24**      **DOUBLE MILL HOUSES (late 19th century):** A well-preserved group of two-story, multi-family brick dwellings with bracketed eaves, segmental-arch window openings, granite sills, and transoms over the doorways.

**DOUBLE MILL HOUSES (late 19th century):** A well-preserved group of two-story, multi-family brick dwellings with bracketed eaves, segmental-arch window openings, granite sills, and transoms over the doorways.



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**THE TOWN OF CUMBERLAND**  
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The Honorable Francis A. Gaschen  
Mayor

Michael A. Phillips  
Planning and Community Development Director



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**THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION  
AND HERITAGE COMMISSION**

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Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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