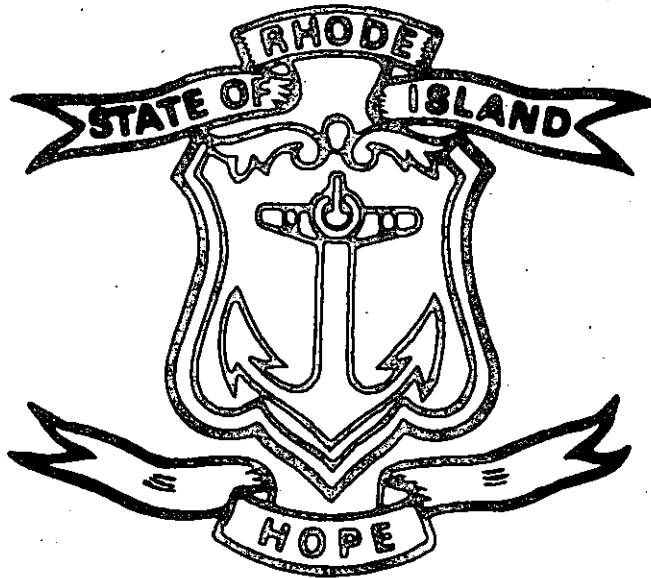


SPECIAL REPORT

EXETER

Preliminary Report



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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PRELIMINARY SURVEY REPORT
TOWN OF EXETER

December, 1976

This document is a copy of the original survey published in 1976.
It has not been corrected or updated.

Since the original publication:

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

For up-to-date information, please contact:

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
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Providence, RI 02903

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

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

Preface

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

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

information. The significance of each property is determined in a preliminary fashion and properties are designated as being in one of three categories: properties already on or approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; properties recommended at the staff level for nomination to the Register; and other significant properties, some of which, with further study and review, may be determined to be eligible for the Register. Properties of unimportant cultural significance are not included. Archeological sites are covered in separate but coordinated preliminary surveys and are mentioned only incidentally in these studies.

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

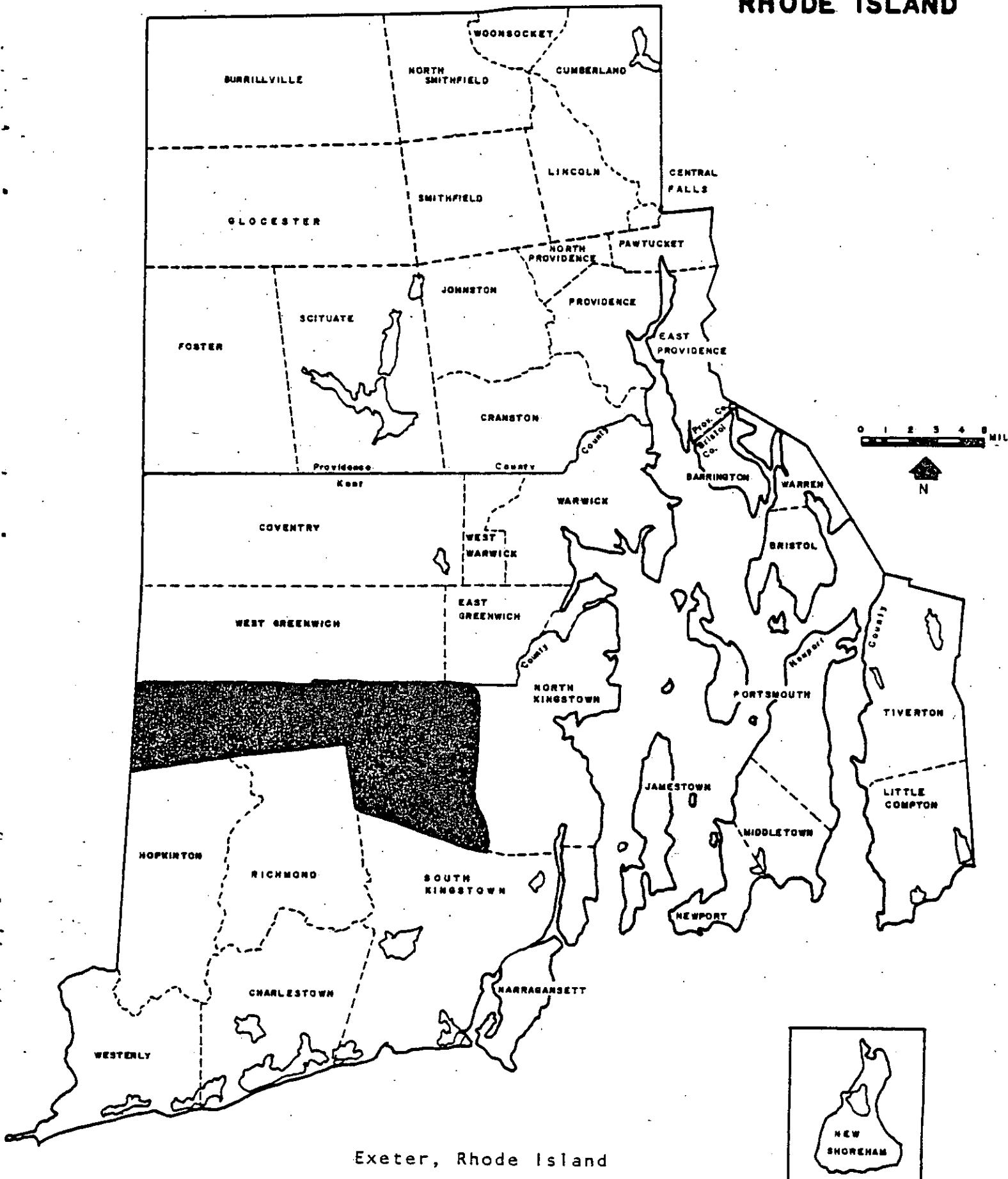
Upon completion of the survey, finished maps are developed and a brief report written. The result is a preliminary document--useful in the interim before a full-scale intensive cultural resource survey of the community has been completed. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission intends to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

The following study covers the historical and architectural resources of Exeter. It provides the basic information needed so that cultural resources can begin to be properly considered in making future planning decisions at all levels. The report

includes a brief account of Exeter's developmental history together with a preliminary inventory of properties of historical and architectural importance in the town. The inventory numbers are keyed to a small-scale locational map bound with the publication. For more precise information on the location of properties, reference should be made to the large, preliminary-broadbrush, cultural-resource survey map prepared by the state Historical Preservation Commission and drawn at a scale of one inch to one thousand feet.

The Commission would like to thank all the Exeter officials and residents who assisted in the conduct of the preliminary survey and in the publication of this report.

RHODE ISLAND



Exeter, Rhode Island

EXETER

Exeter is in the northern part of Washington County, bounded by the towns of West Greenwich and East Greenwich on the north, North Kingstown on the east, South Kingstown, Richmond and Hopkinton on the south and the state of Connecticut on the west. Exeter, deriving its name from Exeter, England, was set off from North Kingstown in 1742. The first town meeting was held in the home of Stephen Austin on Austin Farm Road.

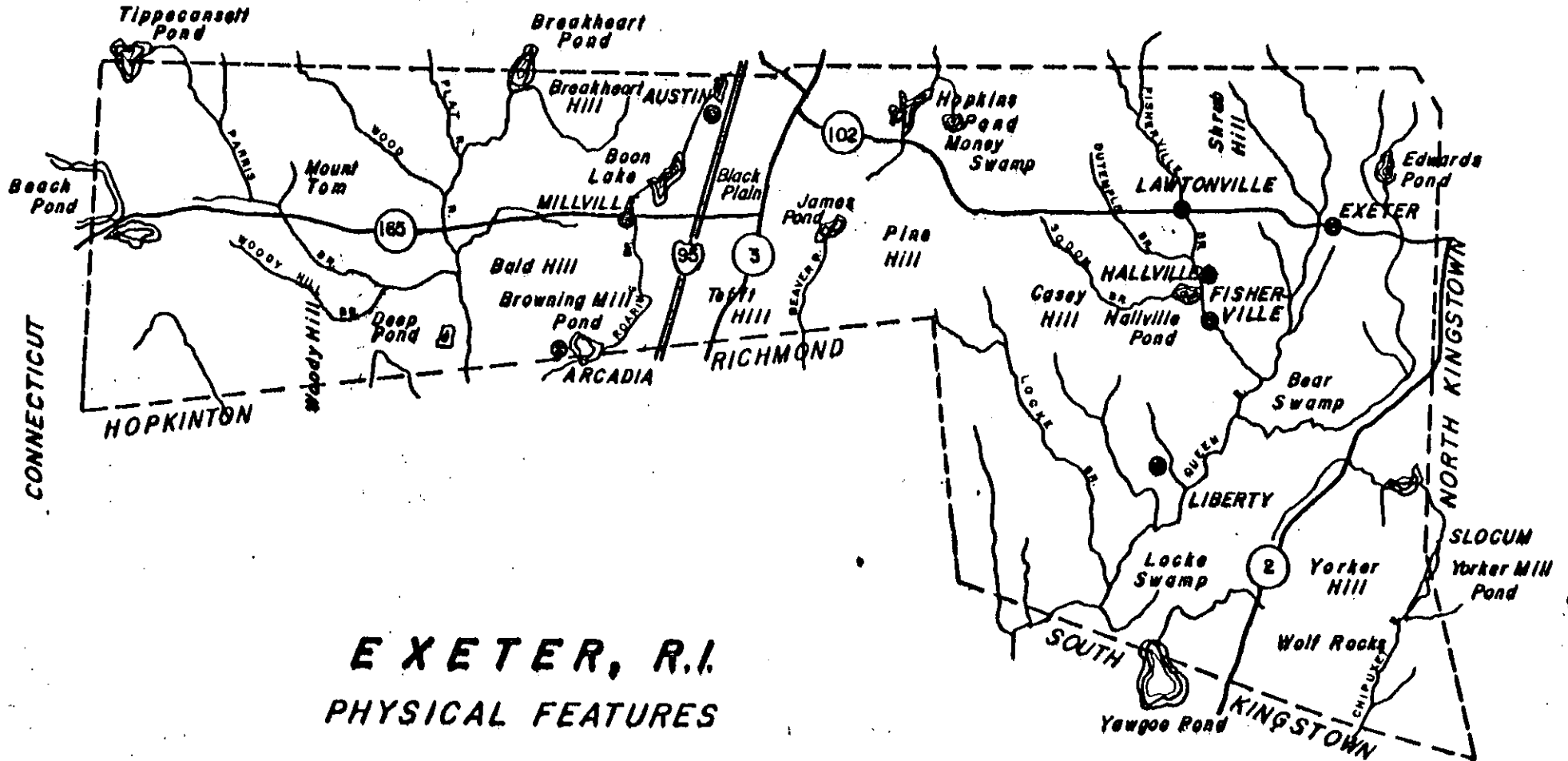
The town's topography is very irregular and the land is drained by the Queen's River in the eastern portions and by the Wood River and its tributaries in the western areas. Many fresh water ponds dot the town, the most important being Beach Pond, a state park in the extremely western section, and Deep or Boon Pond, centrally located. Exeter is still sparsely populated, with only 3245 people (1970 census) scattered over 58 square miles. This population is concentrated in the area east of Nooseneck Hill Road (State Route 3) and south of Ten Rod Road (State Highways 102 and 165), two major highways that divide the town into quadrants. The more rugged western portion of town is forested, and much of it is state owned.

Ten Rod Road retains evidences of its past importance as the Colonial highway linking the farms of Connecticut with the port of Wickford in neighboring North Kingstown. Ten Rod Road gets its name from its original 165-foot width, unusual

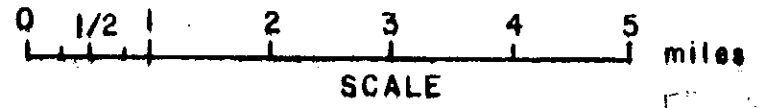


WEST GREENWICH

EAST GREENWICH



EXETER, R.I.
PHYSICAL FEATURES



in this rural town; it was laid out straight and broad in the early eighteenth century to accommodate drovers taking livestock to market. Another road of considerable historical importance is the 1815 New London Turnpike (29),* an early "improved" highway, which runs across the town in a generally north-south line. Both roads are included in the cultural inventory and their historical importance should be recognized in planning for Exeter's future development.

The earliest settlers of Exeter kept to the central and western sections of town, but Exeter Hollow, now Exeter Village (50), became an important community in the eastern section, an area initially referred to as the "vacant lands." William Green built a sawmill, a nail factory and a triphammer there, utilizing the water power provided by the Queen's River. In 1846, a cotton mill was constructed by C. Green near Edwards Pond, but the mill burned in 1874 and was not replaced; the only above-ground remains today are a series of exposed foundations. Exeter Hollow had a school, a store and post office (c. 1850), eight to ten houses and a tannery just north of the village. Today the schoolhouse still stands, along with many of the original houses, some altered, and a later Italianate style residence.

Buildings and sites of significance west of Exeter Village, on or near Ten Rod Road, include the Chestnut Hill Baptist Church, 1838, (53), the Manton Free Library (55), the Hall

*The numbers in parentheses refer to the Inventory and to the location map which are at the end of the report.



CHESTNUT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 1838; Greek Revival; Ten Rod Road. (Map #53.)



SHELDON HOUSE, 1788; Colonial; Austin Farm Road. (Map #15.)

School House (56) (now being restored by the Exeter Beautification Committee), a former town pound (59) and the Gardiner Place (58) (near the intersection of Ten Rod Road and Widow Sweet's Road).

Queen's Fort (2), a mound-shaped rocky hillock, long identified as an Indian fortress, in the northeastern corner of town at the North Kingstown boundary, is of major significance and should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Wolf Rocks (75) on Yankee Hill are also of interest for their Indian history, but no traces of the fort called Wilkey Fort have been located in the survey. Other properties that should be considered for nomination to the Register are the Crandall Farm, 1804, (5), on Ten Rod Road; the Bailey Farm Complex (6) and the Danforth Estate (7), both off Victory Highway; and the c. 1770 Judge Crandall House (8) on Woody Hill Road.

The Austin Farm Road District (1), which has been approved for the National Register, is a fine, open, rural landscape bounded by second-growth forests and focusing on a man-made pond. Within the district are a series of scattered, yet interesting, structures dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Another district, which is recommended for nomination to the National Register, is the Lawtonville Historic District (4) along Ten Rod Road and Hallville Road. It includes Lawton's Mill, a large and very fine early twentieth-century house, and several small eighteenth century-dwellings, all located in a picturesque rolling landscape.



RURAL LANDSCAPE; Lawtonville Historic District; off Hallville Road. (Map #4.)



LAWTON MILL, early 19th century; Lawtonville Historic District; off Hallville Road. (Map #4.)

Hallville was also a locally important mill village. A gristmill was built here in the late eighteenth century and a series of textile mills were put into operation in the early nineteenth century. They continued in use until the 1870s, when they were destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. Little remains of the mill complex except a house (20) at the site of Allen's Mill, but there are two early nineteenth-century houses (21, 22) of merit along Hallville Road.

The Beers Atlas of 1870 identifies a sawmill and a blacksmith shop on Mooney Swamp Road, but no remains were found in the survey. There is an interesting farm complex (28) on Sheffield Hill Road, at Locke Brook, and a number of lesser residences which should be recognized, notably the Sherman House (34).

The original "Town House" was constructed at Ten Rod Road and Gardner Road. Nothing remains of this structure, but the Old Town House (60), built across the highway from the site of the original in 1878, is a typical example of its style and period. The Liberty Baptist Church (24), 1856, a Greek Revival building with later Victorian changes and a twentieth-century addition, is also of significance, as is the Hoxie House (19) on Glen Rock Road.

In the southeastern part of town, the Babcock Woolen Mill (Dorset Mills) (37) with the mill owner's residence and out-buildings at Yorker Mill Pond near Slocum are of considerable importance. Other noteworthy properties included are the

Potter House (45), the Dawley House (44) and the Tillinghast House (43), all on South County Trail, and the Lawton House (41), the Reynolds House (39), the Arnold House (42) and especially the Peckham House (40) on Slocumville Road. There are a good Late Victorian house (11), two earlier Gardner houses (9, 10) on Allentown Road and a large number of lesser nineteenth-century houses in the eastern portion of Exeter.

Properties surveyed in the western part of town are predominantly late eighteenth-century or early nineteenth-century farmhouses. Included in this group are the c. 1790 house (13), listed as being owned by A. Straight on the Beers map, and the one-and-a-half-story, late eighteenth-century Sheldon House (15) on Austin Farm Road. Millville (61) was probably the most important village in the western section of town. A cotton mill was built about 1830 to manufacture cheap "Negro cloth," but no mill buildings have survived. The Greek Revival, West Exeter Baptist Church (62), is a handsome building and there is a scattering of interesting houses in the area, including the Bates House (16) on Bates Schoolhouse Road.

In Fisherville (23), a short distance downstream from Hallville, along Sodom Brook, there once was a textile mill and a small settlement. Today, the ruins of the Fisherville Factory (23A) and two, late nineteenth-century residences remain. Along Mail Road (28) there is an interesting concentration of houses, a farm and good stone walls. The Pearl Rose Farm (48) on Sunderland Road, the Horn Heap Marker (51), which marked the northwestern boundary of the Pettaquamscutt Purchase, and the Sherman



DUTEMPLE HOUSE, early 19th century; Federal; Ten Rod Road. (Map #57.)



EXETER TOWN POUND: Ten Rod Road. (Map #59;)

House (66) are noteworthy. Two areas of interest for their natural vegetation, rock outcroppings and scenic values are the School Land Road area (32) and the Tefft Hill Trail (49).

In the western section of town the Lillibridge House, now called Johnnycake Acres (3), on Summit Road, should be considered for the National Register. There are two houses of interest at the intersection of Woody Hill Road and Skunk Hill Road, a Greek Revival house (Cedar Valley Farm) (70) and an early nineteenth-century house (36), as well as the renovated one-room Woody Hill School (71). There are also ruins of a gristmill (18) and exceptional stone walls (17) along both sides of Escoheag Hill Road north of Ten Rod Road.

Taken together, all the historically significant properties identified in the initial survey reflect Exeter's history -- its eighteenth- and nineteenth-century development as a remote community, economically dependent on family farms and small manufacturing enterprises that dotted the town's numerous streams; its economic decline in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; and, more recently, its gain of families seeking their own home in the suburbs. The fact that certain sorts of properties are not found in the inventory is, of course, also a reflection of this rural community's heritage -- the lack of major Victorian structures, for example, is an indication of the lack of economic activity in Exeter during the late nineteenth century.

Following is a list of those properties in Exeter which the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission considers to be

of importance to the town's historical legacy and to be worthy of preservation. Future planning decisions affecting these properties should take into consideration their cultural significance.



STONE WALL AND WOOD RAIL FENCE: Lawtonville Historic District; off Hallville Road. (Map #4.)

Exeter: Preliminary Inventory of Cultural Resources

This list should be seen as an annotated key to the preliminary survey map of Exeter. The numbers in the list refer to numbers found on the accompanying map* at the back of this report (e.g., 2 - Queens Fort). Material in the inventory is presented in three categories: properties which are or have been approved for the National Register, properties recommended for National Register consideration and other properties of cultural significance. In these three categories, historic districts and areas are listed first, then streets are presented in alphabetical order. Dates and names which appear in parenthesis refer to their identification of the D. G. Beers Rhode Island Atlas of 1870.

I. On or Approved for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

AUSTIN FARM ROAD

1. Austin Farm Road Historic District. An area along Austin Farm Road which has some open, rolling farm land with fine stone walls, a small stream, a small pond contained by an earthen dam, an old burying ground and several structures. A gristmill was operating along the stream in the 19th century. Today's most important structures are:
 - A. Austin Farm. The old Austin Farm and homestead; a 2½-story, early 19th-century dwelling, overlooking the pond, with a fine wood-shingle barn and silo just behind the house. (1870-E. Austin.)
 - B. House. A 1½-story, 18th-century, gambrel-roof house. (1870-E. Austin)
 - C. The (former) Christian Union Chapel, 1892. A 1-story cobblestone structure.
 - D. The (former) School Number 5. A 1-story, frame structure in poor condition. (1870 - S. H.)

STONY LANE

2. Queen's Fort. A small, rocky, tree-covered hillock with natural declivities and retreats. The fort is named for the Indian squaw sachem, Matantuck, or Quaiapen. The hilltop was supposedly fortified by

*A more detailed map, at a scale of 1":1000' which locates places and outlines districts more precisely, is available.

Indians at one time but was never the scene of any warfare and was abandoned in 1676 after the Narragansets were defeated in King Philip's War. It was also known as Wilkin's Fort (on 1855 H. F. Walling map of Rhode Island).

II. Recommended for Nomination to the National Register

SUMMIT ROAD

3. Johnnycake Acres. A 1½-story, 18th-century, center-chimney house with a fine barn. The house is well sited with a sweeping view to the west. The Old Lillibridge cemetery is nearby (1870 - S. Lillibridge.)

TEN ROD ROAD

4. Lawtonville Historic District. A relatively large area along Ten Rod Road, extending some distance south along Hallville Road, centered about a complex with houses, a mill and farm outbuildings, in a fine rural/natural environment. About 1795 a "snuff manufactory" was established here. In 1825 it was renovated and changed into a cotton factory. Burned and rebuilt, it manufactured warps, then became a sawmill and gristmill. Thomas A. Lawton formerly kept a hotel there, and there was a store at one time. Noteworthy are:
 - A. Lawton's Mill. A 2-story wood-frame structure along the road and next to Fisherville Brook, which powered the mill. A raceway from a small pond runs alongside the mill. (1870 - S. Mill, T. Lawton Estate).
 - B. House. A 2-story, 18th-century, center-chimney gambrel-roof dwelling. (1870 - T. Lawton Estate.)
 - C. House. A 3-story, early 20th-century, complex house near a pond, on a well landscaped setting.
 - D. House. A 2-story, wood-shingle cottage with a center stone chimney. It is located near a pond.
 - E. Farmscape. Located south of Ten Rod Road, mostly along Hallville Road, there are large, rocky pastures bounded with stone walls which, for most of their length, are capped with a split rail fence.

OLD TEN ROD ROAD

5. Crandall Farm, 1804. A 1½-story center-chimney house, recently restored. It is located on top of a small hill and is surrounded by fine stone walls. A very well-preserved section of the old Ten Rod Road, bounded by stone walls, runs in front of the house. (1870 - J. Crandall.)

VICTORY HIGHWAY

6. Bailey Farm. A farm complex consisting of a grouping of several residences and outbuildings -- corn crib, barn, sheds, garage -- along a small brook which exits from nearby Hopkins (Bailey) Pond. There are mill sites about 1200 feet downstream from the present buildings. In 1855, the place was known as Hopkins Mills. Most noteworthy is:
 - A. House. A 1½-story, 18th-century building, with a large brick chimney and later additions which form a large "L" plan building, facing a small, grassy plot with large trees; Hopkins Pond is behind the house.
7. Danforth Estate (Wee Hoose Farm). A large estate, predominantly in woods, centered on a 1½-story, 18th-century house with a large, stone, center chimney. Two two-story gambrel-roof additions are attached at right angles at both ends of the old house, comprising a large complex. (1870 - J. D. Lillibridge.)

WOODY HILL ROAD

8. Judge Crandall House (Letfern), c. 1770. A large estate centered about a 2½-story center-chimney house with a 1½-story ell at a right angle (which may be the oldest section); there are several outbuildings, including an 1860 barn. Set back from the present road, the house was recently restored. The setting is slightly rolling terrain with stone walls and a small pond. An old section of Woody Hill Road, south of the house, is well preserved. A cemetery, said to contain graves of slaves, is nearby. (1870 - P. W. James.)

III. Other Districts, Structures and Sites of Architectural and Historical Significance

ALLENTOWN ROAD

9. Gardiner Homestead (Baptist Camps of Rhode Island), c. 1700. A 2½-story center-chimney house. There is a fine wood-shingle chapel nearby. (1870 - J. T. Gardner.)
10. House. A 2½-story, early 18th-century house with a central-hall plan. (1870 - J. W. Gardner.)
11. House. A 2½-story, Late Victorian dwelling with extensive and open rolling farm landscape behind.

12. Town Farm/Reynolds Monument. A collection of about six old, wood-shingled farm buildings set in open, rolling landscape. The Reynolds monument is nearby. (1870 - J. Hendrick.)

AUSTIN FARM ROAD

13. House. A 1½-story, center-chimney late 18th-century house with an ell. (1870 - A. Straight.)
14. House. A 1½-story, center-chimney, 18th-century house. (1870 - H. or S. Austin.)
15. House, 1788. A 1½-story, center-chimney house with wing at the rear. (1870 - B. Sheldon.)

BATES SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD

16. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century house with an ell. (1870 - P. Bates.)

ESCOHEAG HILL ROAD

17. Dry Stone Walls. For a distance of several hundred yards, the road is lined with good dry stone walls which exemplify the abundance of stone walls found throughout much of western Exeter. Most are built of fieldstone and average two-and-a-half to three feet in height. These stone walls are still common along older roads and on most of the older farms.
18. Site of Grist Mill (Hazard's and/or Pratt's). Along Parris Brook, in west Exeter, near Escoheag Hill Road, are ruins of 19th-century mills. A mill was established there at an early date, and a shingle mill, saw-mill and gristmill operated throughout the 19th century. (1870 - G. Mill.)

GLEN ROCK ROAD

19. House. A 1½-story early 19th-century center-chimney building with good rural landscape, including three outstanding, four feet high stone walls and many old trees. (1870 - J. Hoxie.)

HALLVILLE ROAD

20. House. A 1½-story early 19th-century house with a center chimney and barn; it is near the site of a former mill (1855 - C. Allen's mill) and a small hamlet known locally as "Sodom" in the mid-19th century. The house is set far back off the road. (1870 - S. Sherman.)

21. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house in a setting of stone walls and fields. (1870 - J. C. Dawley.)
22. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house set back from the road. (1870 - N. Hathaway.)

LIBERTY ROAD

23. Fisherville Historic District. Former mill village along Sodom Brook which flourished for about forty years in the mid-19th century. A mill was established there in 1833; warps, jeans and check flannels were manufactured. In 1873, the mill burned and was never rebuilt. Today the area includes:
 - A. Ruins of Fisherville Factory. Foundations, south-east of the road are still visible; parts are well preserved, including the old mill trench. (1870 - Cotton Mill, T. A. & C. A. Hall.)
 - B. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house, set back from the road across from a former mill. (1870 - ?)
 - C. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century structure set into a slight hill along the road. It is now vacant. (1870 - Mrs. M. Brown.)
24. Liberty Baptist Church, 1856. A 1-story structure with square tower in front. Recent additions are at the left side. (1870 - Baptist Church.)

MAIL ROAD

25. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house, set back from the road; there are good out-buildings. (1870 - ?)
26. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house. (1870 - S. Tisdale?)
27. House. A 1½-story, gambrel-roof, early 19th-century house with a stone ell, set in fine landscaping. (1870 - N. Hendrick.)
28. Mail Road District. A small area along Mill Road with open, rural landscape. The site of a 19th-century gristmill (Wilcox's Gristmill in 1855). The district is centered around:
 - A. Wermac Farm. A 2½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house and farm complex; fields and pasture set in a broad valley with Locke Brook flowing through. (1870 - W. Palmer.)

- B. Philmoney, c. 1930. A 2½-story, complex stone house and several outbuildings. This well landscaped large estate with fine stone walls, fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs was built as a summer residence.
- C. Stone Walls. Topped with a split rail fence located along a short section of Mail Road, with fields behind.

NEW LONDON TURNPIKE

- 29. New London Turnpike Historic Road. An old turnpike, built about 1815 in a southwesterly direction through central Exeter, connecting Providence with New London, Connecticut, where people went by stage to get the steamboat to New York City. About 1830, travel declined when New York and Providence had a scheduled line, but the road continued in use after this, although it was never prosperous. The road today is still unpaved, runs in a relatively straight line, and has about half dozen houses along its length through Exeter.
- 30. House. A 1½-story, center-chimney, early 19th-century structure. (1870 - J. Money.)
- 31. Pine Hill Farm (Whitford Farm). A 1½-story early 19th-century house with a large gambrel-roof barn and silos; it is a working farm. (1870 - Mrs. Hendricks.)

PARDON JOSLIN ROAD

- 32. Pardon Joslin Homestead. A 1½-story, frame, early 19th-century house with a brick center chimney; recent additions at one side and rear. (1870 - P. T. Joslin.)

SCHOOL LAND ROAD

- 33. School Land Road Natural Area. This dirt road winds through a forested landscape made up largely of oak trees and is notable for an abundance of laurel, found in the woods and along the road, providing a good natural setting. There is, also, a short area of stone wall.

SHEFFIELD ROAD

- 34. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney residence surrounded by fields and stone walls. (1870 - S. Sherman.)
- 35. House. A 2½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house. It is part of a large, interesting, farm complex with large stone walls (some six feet high) and

several barns and sheds. Locke Brook flows through the fields. (1870 - D. L. Money.)

SKUNK HILL ROAD

36. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house surrounded by large maple trees. (1870 - N. B. Lewis.)

SLOCUM ROAD

37. Yawgoo Mill (Dorset Mills). Manufacturing started here in 1846; the mill burned in 1861 and was rebuilt with 20th-century additions. It is located along Yorker Mill Pond. (1870 - Woolen Mill, E. & H. Babcock.)
38. House. A 1½-story, Early Victorian mill house near Yawgoo mill and pond. (1870 - E. & H. Babcock.)

SLOCUMVILLE ROAD

39. House. A 2-story Greek Revival/Early Victorian structure with a fine wood-shingle barn, a stone wall and open fields. (1870 - J. C. Reynolds.)
40. House. A 1½-story, Greek Revival/Early Victorian dwelling with several fine wood-shingle outbuildings. (1870 - Mrs. H. Peckham.)
41. House. A 2½-story, 18th-century, center-chimney house that is vacant. (1870 - S. Lawton.)

SOUTH COUNTY TRAIL

42. House. A 1½-story, 18th-century, center-chimney, gambrel-roof house on Schartner farm. (1870 - J. B. Arnold.)
43. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house. (1870 - P. Tillinghast.)
44. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century house; there are several large trees nearby. (1870 - W. H. Dawley.)
45. Potter Homestead, 1782. A 1½-story, center-chimney house, with an ell, set far back from road. (1870 - William C. Potter.)

SUMMIT ROAD

46. House. A 1½-story, 18th-century, center-chimney house at the west end of Arcadia Village. (1870 - S. Richmond.)

47. Pratt Homestead. A 1½-story, center-chimney house, in poor condition, with several deteriorating out-buildings, set in the middle of a large, open tract of land. (1870 - A. Pratt.)

SUNDERLAND ROAD

48. Pearl Rose Farm. A 1½- and 2½-story, Late Victorian/early 20th-century, complex house capped with a square cupola; there are several outbuildings and farm land behind. (1870 - N. Franklin.)

TEFFT HILL TRAIL

49. Tefft Hill Trail Natural District. A dirt road of relatively recent date which winds up and down through a pleasant wooded area and numerous boulders and rock masses. Some cultural relics exist, including stone walls and several small, square water holes dating from the CCC days of the 1930s.

TEN ROD ROAD

50. Exeter Village Historic District. A small settlement in the northeast part of town, formerly containing mills (including cotton mills), a school, church and stores. Today, the mills are gone, as are the schools and church, and the village is predominantly residential. Most noteworthy remains are:
- A. Stone Markers. Three upright, inscribed, flat-surfaced granite rocks, erected as memorials to the Narragansett Indians on Exeter Hill and dedicated October 28, 1923, by the R. I. Historical Association. They are inscribed "Miantonomi," "Aspanansuck Village-1620" and "Wawaloam, Sunck-Squaw" and mark the site of the ancient village of Aspanansuck. Wawaloam was the wife of Miantonomi.
 - B. Exeter Hill School (Schoolhouse No. 8), 1840. A 1-story structure now used as a residence. (1870 - S. H.)
51. Horn Heap Marker. An iron marker on an iron post, erected in 1932 to mark the northwest corner of the Pettaquamscutt Purchase. On January 20, 1675, five men purchased a tract of land from the Indians, which was later enlarged to include an area of about one hundred square miles. The marker derives its name from a pair of antlers crowning a pile of stones that mark the site.

52. House. A late 18th- or early 19th-century, 1½-story, center-chimney house. (1870 - Mrs. A. Lawton.)
53. Chestnut Hill Baptist Church, 1838. A 1-story, Greek Revival church with a square belfry. The church was founded in 1750. The original building was erected and the burying ground next to the church was set aside in 1753. This structure replaced a church built in 1816. (1870 - Baptist Church.)
54. Exeter Grange. A 2-story early 20th-century structure.
55. Exeter Town Hall/Manton Free Library. A 1-story, early 20th-century structure with a recent addition.
56. Hall School. A 1-story, early 19th-century structure now being restored by the Exeter Beautification Committee.
57. Dutemple House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century house with an ell; next door is Anderson's Woodworking shop. Nathan Dutemple settled here in 1838 and established a thriving business; he carried on an extensive trade for forty-nine years (to 1887), after which his son Edward, manufactured carriages. (1870 - N. Dutemple.)
58. Gardiner Place (Hillside Farm). A 2½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney farmhouse with an ell; it is the center of a complex of farm outbuildings. It is set far back from the road on a broad hilly tract of land in fine rural setting. (1870 - R. T. Gardner.)
59. Town Pound. A rectangular, stone-walled enclosure, now unused; there, stray animals were penned up.
60. Old Town House, 1878. One of a number of town houses. This plain, Late Victorian building is now vacant.
61. Millville Historic District. An area along Ten Rod Road which, in the late 19th century, was a "small manufacturing village" with a few houses, two factories, a blacksmith and carriage shop and a grocery store. There were two mills at two different sites; the lower mill built in 1832, the upper one, a cotton mill, erected in 1840. Today, the mills are gone and the only extant structures are:
 - A. House. A 2½-story, early 19th-century house, formerly a store, with a changed exterior.
 - B. House. A 1½- and 2½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney, former mill house built into a

small hill. A well preserved section of Old Ten Rod Road runs in front. (1870 - D. L. Aldrich.)

62. West Exeter Baptist Church (West Greenville Branch Baptist Church), 1858. A Greek Revival/Early Victorian, 1-story, frame structure with a dual entry in front. (1870 - Baptist Church.)
63. House, 1750. A 1½-story, central-chimney house. (1870 - D. Congdon.)
64. Wilcox House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century house with a central-hall plan and an ell. (1870 - A. C. Wilcox.)

TRIPPS CORNER ROAD

65. Whitford House, 1797. A 1½-story house with a stone, center-chimney. There is a more recent wing and an old, wood-shingle barn. Across the road is the Whitford burying ground. (1870 - A. Whitford.)
66. Sherman House. A 2-story, early 19th-century house with a "saltbox" profile. The house is set in the midst of rocky fields and stone walls. Locke Brooke flows through the property. It may be the site of an 1828 sawmill of John S. Sherman, which operated until 1854, and, later (1859), a rake factory. Another rake factory was not far downstream (1855 - Sherman's Rake Mfg.; 1870 - G. J. Sherman.) In 1895, a grist-mill and shingle mill were located across the road from the house.
67. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century house with an ell. (1870 - J. P. Arnold.)

VICTORY HIGHWAY

68. House. A 2½-story, early 19th-century house set far back from the road on a large tract of land. There are stone walls and a cemetery on the property. The property is contiguous to the Bailey Farm (6) and across the highway from the Danforth Estate (7). (1870 - J. D. Lillibridge.)

WIDOW SWEETS ROAD

69. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century house with an ell. (1870 - T. R. Joslin.)

WOODY HILL ROAD

70. Cedar Valley Farm. A 1½-story, Greek Revival, center-chimney house with several additions at the rear. There is a fine, gambrel-roof, wood-shingle barn across the road. (1870 - J. Lewis.)
71. Woody Hill School (School #1). A 1-story, frame, Greek Revival structure with two entries in the gable end. The building has been recently restored. (1870 - S. H.)
72. Lewis Homestead. A 1½-story, Greek Revival, center-chimney house set back from the road. It is surrounded by fields and stone walls. (1870 - M. D. Lewis.)
73. Dexter Place. an 18th-century 1½-story, stone center-chimney house with a central doorway in a 5-bay facade that faces south. An ell at the rear has an attached shed. There are several other outbuildings, including a large barn. Nearby is the site of a late 18th- or early 19th-century sawmill. (1870 - E. Barber, S. Mill.)
74. House. A 1½-story, early 19th-century, center-chimney house. (1870 - J. H. Barber.)

WOLF ROCKS ROAD

75. Wolf Rocks. A group of glacial boulders where wolves were said to have lived in Colonial times.

Addenda

SLOCUM ROAD

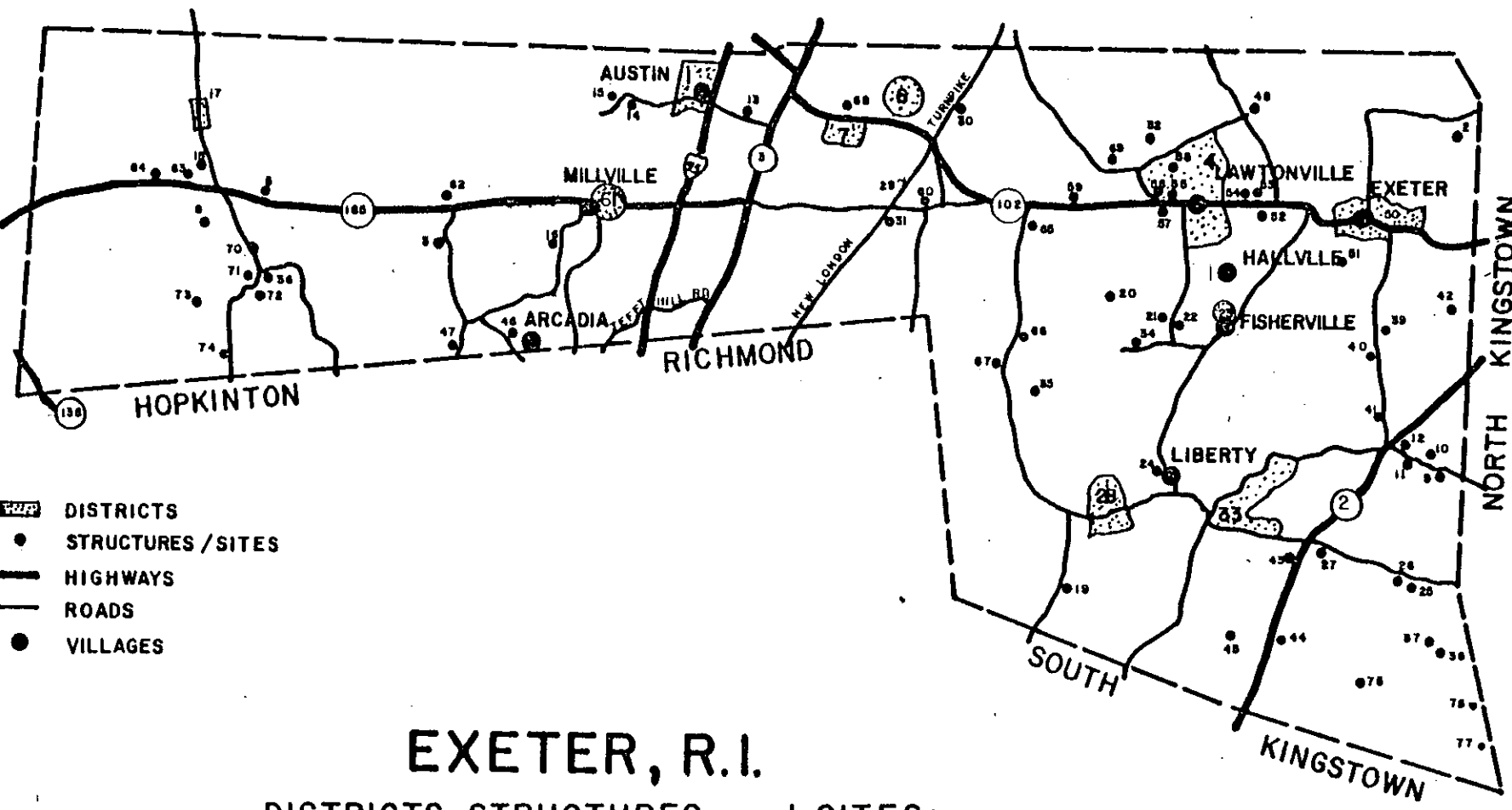
76. House. A 1½-story, Greek Revival house with a central doorway. (1870 - J. R. Sherman Est.)
77. House. A 1½-story, center-chimney, 18th- early 19th-century house, with a central doorway. (1870 - D. Northrup?)



WEST GREENWICH

EAST GREENWICH

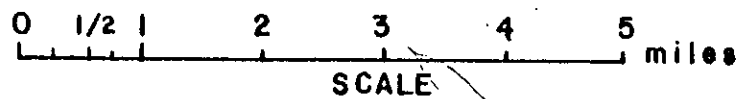
CONNECTICUT



- DISTRICTS
- STRUCTURES/SITES
- HIGHWAYS
- ROADS
- VILLAGES

EXETER, R.I.

DISTRICTS, STRUCTURES, and SITES



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